

Constitution Day

**Celebrate the
U.S. Constitution**



September 17

A Webcast Hosted By

**Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly
of the
Michigan Supreme Court**

For More Information, Contact:

Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center
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Program Overview

Federal law requires that all schools receiving federal funding teach about the U.S. Constitution on or near September 17, the date the Constitution was signed in 1787. This program, led by Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly of the Michigan Supreme Court, is designed for an elementary age audience to observe Constitution Day. The program is available online through the Michigan Judicial Institute (MJI):

MJI Online Courses (Scroll down to Constitution Day.)

<http://ustools.you-niversity.com/youtools/companies/mji/archivesLayout2.html>.

During the program, Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly:

- Introduces herself and the role of the judicial branch of government in Michigan.
- Discusses the need for rules and laws in the lives of students.
- Overviews the Constitution, which is the “law of the land.”
- Reads the book, *The U.S. Constitution* by Norman Pearl.
- Answers questions about why the Constitution is important.

The program is about 14 minutes in length.

Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs)

This program is designed for use with elementary students, grades K–5. It addresses the following Social Studies GLCEs:

Kindergarten: K – C2.0.2, K – C5.0.1

Grade One: 1 – C1.0.1, 1 – C1.0.2, 1 – C5.0.1, 1 – C5.0.2

Grade Two: 2 – C1.0.1, 2 – C5.0.1, 2 – C5.0.2

Grade Three: 3 – C1.0.1, 3 – C3.0.3, 3 – C3.0.5, 3 – C5.0.1

Grade Four: 4 – C2.0.1, 4 – C2.0.2, 4 – C3.0.3, 4 – C3.0.4, 4 – C3.0.5, 4 – C5.0.1, 4 – C5.0.2

Grade Five: 5 – U3.3.3, 5 – U3.3.7, 5 – U3.3.8

Technical Requirements

To view the webcast, you will need:

- Internet access with appropriate bandwidth.
- A sound card/speakers.
- Popups enabled for the you-niversity.com web site.

To test your computer, go to the web address below and follow the two-step process as indicated.

<http://webcast.you-niversity.com/youtools/wizard/live/default.asp>

Sequence of Activities

1. Introduce students to the Constitution as a law that is very important to everyone in the United States. The Constitution is so important that students across the country celebrate Constitution Day, September 17.
2. View the webcast with students. You may wish to have copies of the book, *The U.S. Constitution* by Norman Pearl, in your classroom, so students are able to see the all the illustrations clearly.
3. Review what the students learned during the program. Discuss why the Constitution is important to the lives of students in the class.

Recommended Resources for Constitution Day

Books

- Catrow, David, *We the Kids: The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States*, Dial Books for Young Readers, New York, 2002.
- Fritz, Jean, *Shhh! We're Writing the Constitution*, G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1987.
- Pearl, Norman, *The U.S. Constitution*, Picture Window Books, Mankato, MN, 2007.
- Sobel, Syl, *The U. S. Constitution and You*, Barron's Educational Series, Inc., New York, 2001.
- Taylor-Butler, Christine, *The Constitution*, Children's Press, New York, 2008.

On the Web

Center For Civic Education, Constitution Day
http://www.civiced.org/index.php?page=constitution_day
Lessons for various grade levels.

MJI Online Courses (Scroll down to Constitution Day)
<http://ustools.you-niversity.com/youtools/companies/mji/archivesLayout2.html>.
Constitution Day webcast with Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly of the Michigan Supreme Court.

National Archives, Charters of Freedom Exhibit
<http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/charters.html>
Online exhibit that includes photos and transcripts of the Constitution.

National Constitution Center, Constitution Day
<http://constitutioncenter.org/ConstitutionDay/>
Database of lessons and activities for celebrating Constitution Day.

Scholastic News Online, Celebrate Constitution Day
<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/collection.jsp?id=391>
Articles and activities related to the Constitution.

Michigan Supreme Court



Front row (l-r):
Justice Michael F. Cavanagh,
Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly,
Justice Elizabeth A. Weaver.

Back row (l-r):
Justice Stephen J. Markman,
Justice Maura D. Corrigan,
Justice Robert P. Young, Jr.,
Justice Diane M. Hathaway.

For more information about the Michigan Supreme Court, visit the One Court of Justice web site at <http://courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/>.

Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly



Before taking the bench, Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly was a courtroom attorney for 17 years in Michigan. In 1988, she was elected to the Michigan Court of Appeals for a six-year term and re-elected in 1994. She was elected to the Michigan Supreme Court for an eight-year term in 1996, and re-elected in 2004 for an eight-year term which expires January 1, 2013. She is the fifth woman to serve as Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court.

Chief Justice Kelly was raised in Detroit and graduated from Mackenzie High School. She earned a B.A. degree from Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. After a year's graduate study at LaSorbonne, University of Paris, France, she received her master's degree from Middlebury College in Vermont. She taught French language and literature in the Grosse Pointe Public Schools, at Albion College, and Eastern Michigan University before attending law school at Wayne State University. She was awarded a law degree with honors and serves the law school now on its Board of Visitors.

For more information, see <http://courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/AboutCourt/biography.htm>.