



CLASS ACTION

A HIGH SCHOOL ALCOHOL USE PREVENTION CURRICULUM

High School Students in Minneapolis Public Schools Need You

And you are uniquely qualified to help

WHAT LAWYERS ARE SAYING:

"Volunteering was a lot of fun. I would definitely like to do it again. The students seemed very interested in the material and my experience as a lawyer. They were also very attentive and active in the discussion."

—Matthew Bandt, Esq., Jardine, Logan & O'Brien, P.L.L.P.





Make a Difference

In Spring of 2006, the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) implemented an innovative new curriculum in all of its high schools called *Class Action*. This curriculum was developed by the University of Minnesota and is published by Hazelden to educate high school students about the dangers of underage drinking. The lawyers, judges, and law students who volunteered their time in the classroom helped make this program a huge success. MPS is now implementing phase two of the curriculum, and we need your professional expertise to make this program a continued success.

What Is *Class Action*?

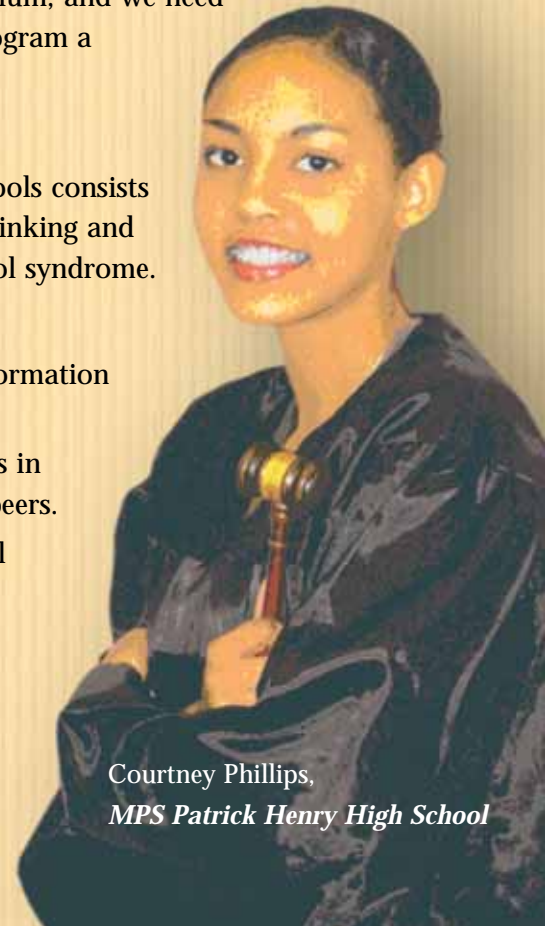
Class Action in the Minneapolis Public Schools consists of four hypothetical legal cases involving drinking and driving, date rape, violence, and fetal alcohol syndrome.

Here's how it works:

-  Casebooks and audiotapes provide information on each case.
-  A workbook guides student legal teams in preparing a case for a "jury" of their peers.
-  When it is their turn to serve on a legal team, students must complete certain activities to prepare their case for trial, such as interviewing expert witnesses.
-  The entire class then conducts a mock trial.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED? PLEASE CONTACT:

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Courtney Phillips,
MPS Patrick Henry High School


WHAT TEACHERS ARE SAYING:


"These kids need adults, especially of color, to model hard work and to show them how to make dreams come true. They need to know that they are important enough that 'real' lawyers will come to speak to them."


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Volunteer in a Classroom Near You

 **Law students** can help by working with high school students during class as they prepare their parts of the case.

 **Attorneys and judges** can talk about trial procedures, what court is like, and legal careers.

 **Law firms, corporations, and other organizations** can sponsor the program by making a donation. These

contributions support additions to the curriculum such as field trips to court, guest speakers, and robes and gavels for the mock trials.



Preventing Alcohol Abuse. Teaching Law. Inspiring Future Lawyers.

Your involvement makes a big difference. In Minneapolis Public Schools, 73% of students are of color and 68% are impoverished. Your interaction with these students may be the only positive exposure they will have to the legal profession. You can be an important role model at a critical time in teens' lives, especially if you are a professional of color or are in recovery from chemical dependency.

Brief Time Commitment

Class Action is implemented in eight to ten weekly sessions. **We need your help for one class period (60-90 minutes).** (Of course, we encourage you to volunteer for more than one class.)

Orientation Provided

We provide you with all the information you need, including a training brochure.

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING:

"We got to act out a court case that related to something in our lives [underage drinking]. It was fun to pretend to be lawyers, but still learn some important life lessons. In my personal opinion, the *Class Action* project cannot get any better."

Class Action is funded in Minneapolis Public Schools by a federal Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative grant and supported by the Hazelden Foundation with a generous donation by the Conley Family Foundation, Achieve!Minneapolis, the Minneapolis Health Education Department, the Minnesota State Bar Association, and the Twin Cities legal community.

Jerry Sweezy,

MPS Patrick Henry High School

