

# ***Florida Supreme Court Teachers' Institute***

## **Application**



**April 18-22, 2010**

*A Florida courts training seminar for secondary public and private school teachers*

*Sponsored by  
The Florida Supreme Court  
Chief Justice Peggy A. Quince*

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55% of Florida citizens surveyed could not name even one of the branches of government

Only 34% of those surveyed claimed to be at least generally familiar with Florida's court system

Nearly 40% of the survey respondents wanted more information about Florida courts and procedures

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Are you surprised by these results of a statewide public opinion research project completed by the Florida Judicial Management Council? The Florida Supreme Court was. The Court responded by implementing the Justice Teaching Institute, now called the Florida Supreme Court Teachers' Institute, for secondary public and private school teachers. The 2010 Florida Supreme Court Teachers Institute will be held April 18-22, 2010 at the Supreme Court Building in Tallahassee.

This Institute offers an up-close examination of the workings of the judicial branch of government. Through meetings with Supreme Court Justices and other judges, interactive activities, simulations, and group discussions, participants will explore the concept of justice, debate topical legal issues, and develop techniques and strategies for teaching students and other educators about the nature, history, organization, and process of the Florida justice system.

**Application Deadline: March 5, 2010**



### **What is the Florida Supreme Court Teachers' Institute (FSCTI)?**



FSCTI is a law-related education program sponsored by the Florida Supreme Court, with The Florida Bar, The Florida Bar Foundation, and the Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc. also providing support. Participants experience a wide range of sessions with Supreme Court Justices and other judges and participate in many interactive activities. As participants encounter relevant examples of the justice system in action, they will be better equipped to convey information to the classroom so that students will see the importance of the judicial process. For additional information, visit our web site at: <http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/education/index.shtml>

### **Who Can Apply?**

Any secondary level teacher (grades 6 - 12) in Florida may apply. Twenty-five secondary level public and private school teachers, chosen from numerous applicants by a selection committee, participate each year.

### **What are the Program Highlights?**

Participants will enjoy an opening exercise with the Chief Justice, a tour of the Supreme Court, mock oral arguments, interactive activities, and an opportunity to network with educators from around the state who are interested in the justice system. Participants are honored with certificates recognizing them as Florida Supreme Court Institute Fellows, signed by Chief Justice Peggy A. Quince.



### **What is the Participant's Cost?**

In accordance with state guidelines, the Institute covers related travel expenses incurred by participants and the cost of a substitute teacher.

### **Will Participants Receive In-Service Credit?**

TEC credits for the Institute may be available. Please check with your school district.

### **Following the Institute, Participants will be Better Equipped to:**

- ⇒ Teach others with confidence about the nature, history, structure, function, and processes of the courts and judiciary;
- ⇒ Implement strategies for effectively teaching legal concepts and systems;
- ⇒ Utilize technology to teach law-related subjects;
- ⇒ Identify legal research resources available to assist in preparing and presenting law-related lessons and activities; and
- ⇒ Apply constitutional knowledge and principles to judicial decision making.



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**2010 FSCIT Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Full Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Full School Address \_\_\_\_\_

Public/Private School \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Judicial Circuit \_\_\_\_\_

Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years experience as a teacher \_\_\_\_\_

**(we encourage new as well as experienced teachers to apply and participate)**

Grade (s) you currently teach \_\_\_\_\_ Number of students impacted per year \_\_\_\_\_

Subject( s) you currently teach \_\_\_\_\_

Composition of student population \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have access to the Internet at school? \_\_\_\_\_ At home? \_\_\_\_\_

**(Internet access has no bearing on the selection process, but will help us plan future activities)**

What is Required of FSCIT Participants? FSCIT Fellows (participants) must agree to facilitate training for 10 other teachers in their school or district after attending the Institute or develop a courts unit for classroom use.

If selected, do you agree to these requirements?  Yes  No

Application Process: Your application should be submitted by U.S. Mail (not facsimile or electronic transmission), postmarked by March 5, 2010 to: Cathy Brockmeier, Florida Supreme Court Institute, Supreme Court Building, 500 South Duval Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1900. An incomplete application will not be considered. Please include the following:

- √ Completed application form
- √ Resume, including an indication of any teaching awards or honors you have received
- √ A personal statement (limit one page) explaining why you would like to participate in this Institute and how you will incorporate Institute information into classes you teach
- √ A letter from your principal, head of school, or local administrator (additional letters will not be considered) supporting your participation in the Institute and committing to support your post-Institute responsibilities

Background Survey: Completion of the following is optional, however, the Florida Supreme Court Institute encourages participation by teachers who will interact with students of diverse backgrounds or who are themselves members of a minority group.

Gender:  Male  Female Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Race/Ethnicity (check one):  White  Black  Hispanic  Native American  
 Asian or Pacific Islander Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Needs:**

If you are a person who needs a special accommodation, you are entitled to receive assistance. Please list your special needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you need any specific dietary requirements? Please list: \_\_\_\_\_

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Florida Supreme Court Teachers' Institute  
Florida Supreme Court  
500 South Duval Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1925

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### **Comments from Florida Supreme Court Teachers' Institute Participants**

*"The most beneficial result for me personally was MOTIVATION...to return to school and spearhead some education efforts both at school and with the judges and bar association."*

*"I feel a real and personal connection to government after participating in this institute."*

*"The most informative seminar I have ever attended."*

*"What a unique opportunity for a classroom teacher."*

*"I have a newfound respect and understanding of our justice system."*

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Applications from previous FSCTI Fellows will not be considered. Please encourage other teachers to apply. For more information about the Supreme Court of Florida, State Courts System, and the Florida Supreme Court Teachers Institute, visit our web site at <http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/education/index.shtml>. For any program questions, please call The Florida Law Related Education Association at (850) 386-8223.

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