Graduate and Law School Civics: Educating Tomorrow’s Leaders and Professors

The Jack Miller Center for Teaching America’s Founding Principles and History advances the study and teaching of America’s history, its political institutions, and the central principles and ideas of the American and Western traditions. In higher education, the Center supports campus-based programs and postdoctoral fellowships, and it conducts conferences for college educators, including its flagship Summer Institute, an intensive program to support the careers of junior scholars of American political thought. Over the past 15 years it has developed a network of more than 900 educators at more than 300 colleges and universities. These faculty taught about one million college students by the end of 2019.

To help teachers meet new statewide high school civics requirements in Illinois, the Center supports teacher education in partnership with the University of Chicago’s Graham School, Lake Forest College, and the Newberry Library. It is expanding such efforts into New York City, Philadelphia, Virginia, and Wisconsin. The affiliated Jack Miller Freedom Initiative is developing strategies to facilitate collaboration among organizations interested in revitalizing K–12 civics education.

The Institute for Humane Studies provides educational, research, and career development programs for graduate students and faculty members within the classical liberal intellectual tradition, reflecting the political and economic freedoms of our constitutional order. IHS also offers fellowships and research grants to the most promising graduate students.

With more than 200 law school chapters and more than 100 Lawyers Chapters, The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies brings discussion and debate about core constitutional and legal issues to law students, faculty members, local attorneys, and business and policy leaders through events both on and off campus. Many student and faculty members enter top leadership roles later in their careers. Fifteen specialized Practice Groups focus on expertise in particular areas of law, such as free speech & election law. Seven specialized projects include the Article I Initiative, which facilitates dialogue around the constitutional role of Congress; the State Attorneys General Guide, which educates the public on the key role of attorneys general in interpreting and enforcing the law; and No. 86, named for Federalist 86, addressing how key constitutional and legal concepts are taught in law schools.

On the West Coast, the Stanford Constitutional Law Center brings America’s top law students into contact with top thinkers about the actual history and text of the U.S. Constitution. It has focused on the separation and scope of constitutional powers, the democratic constitutional structure, and the First Amendment. Postgraduate fellows spend 1 to 3 years deepening their understanding of the Constitution and usually land academic jobs at law schools. On the East Coast, the Georgetown Center for the Constitution focuses on originalism in interpreting the Constitution, especially through the Originalism Summer Seminar.

The Jack Miller Center for Teaching America’s Founding Principles and History
Bala Cynwyd, PA
Annual expenditures: $3.7 million
President: Michael Andrews
484.436.2060
jackmillercenter.org

The Institute for Humane Studies
Arlington, VA
Annual expenditures (all programs): $19 million
President and CEO: Emily Chamlee-Wright
703.993.4880
theihs.org
Defending and Educating about the First Amendment

The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) defends the constitutional rights of college students and faculty members regardless of viewpoint. It also teaches high school and college students and educators about our first freedoms, files lawsuits and briefs in key cases, and engages college administrators and state actors to reform policies to protect fundamental rights.

The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty is the leading appellate nonprofit law firm defending the First Amendment freedoms of individuals and groups across the religious spectrum. Becket’s subject matter expertise and successful representation have helped establish key legal precedents at the federal appeals courts. Becket’s legal internship program and clinical partnerships with Stanford and Harvard law schools put students to work immediately on active cases, supplementing core constitutional education for top law students.

The Alliance Defending Freedom is a large network of advocates for religious liberty, free speech, and related issues, engaging more than 3,000 allied attorneys and hundreds of likeminded organizations.

The alliance litigates and funds lawsuits to defend constitutional rights in court and engages in a wide range of public advocacy for those freedoms in the culture. Through its Center for Academic Freedom, ADF defends free speech and religious liberty at public universities. ADF also hosts training programs focused on constitutional issues, notably the Blackstone Legal Fellowship, which provides more than 150 law students per year with a nine-week summer leadership program, and the Young Lawyers Academy, which equips recent law school graduates and early-career lawyers to advocate for constitutional rights.

Lawsuits and public advocacy at the Institute for Justice (IJ) focus on economic liberty, educational choice, private property, and the First Amendment. IJ also provides educational resources in these areas, including a Clinic on Entrepreneurship and First Amendment resources on topics such as donor privacy and occupational speech, to advance understanding of constitutional and other legal rights. The First Liberty Institute, a national legal organization dedicated to religious liberty, also produces a Religious Liberty Protection Kit for Students and Teachers and other resources that teach citizens about protecting their First Amendment freedoms.