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DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY  
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50 Walnut Street, Room 4015  
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Fourth & Cooper Streets, Room 1050  
Camden, New Jersey 08101

**TRENTON OFFICE**  
Clarkson S. Fisher U.S. Courthouse  
402 East State Street, Room 2020  
Trenton, New Jersey 08608

**NOTICE TO THE BAR  
JUNE 2, 2025**

**The Federal Courts, Civics & You Learning Center Website**

The District of New Jersey is pleased to announce the launch of The Federal Courts, Civics & You Learning Center website. As part of the District Court's vision to engage its community through civic educational initiatives, The Federal Courts, Civics & You Learning Center website aims to increase civic knowledge, promote active citizenship, and provide accessible resources for educators and students. As the website states, "The mission of The Federal Courts, Civics, and You Learning Center is to teach New Jerseyans, especially students of all ages, the skills necessary to be engaged, civic-minded members of our society through knowledge of our government and the role of the Federal Judiciary." ([Source](#))

On December 31, 2019, Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., issued his 2019 Year-End Report on the Judiciary in which he stated that "civic education, like all education, is a continuing enterprise and conversation." Roberts added, "By virtue of their judicial responsibilities, judges are necessarily engaged in civics education." ([Source](#)) The Honorable Renée Marie Bumb, who has served as a United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey since 2006 and was appointed Chief Judge in 2023, recognizes the responsibility of the Federal Judiciary to educate the public of the essential role and function of judges and the courts; "Civics education is a cornerstone of a responsible citizenry. The more educated the public is about our system of government, the greater the trust and confidence in the judiciary. The District of New Jersey believes in doing our part to promote civic engagement and transparency, to ensure that the judiciary remains accessible and understood by all citizens."

The Federal Courts, Civics & You Learning Center website highlights numerous civic programs offered by the District of New Jersey. For example, members of the public can witness naturalization ceremonies in historic ceremonial courtrooms, participate in mock trials, and even meet judges and other members of the federal judiciary and its agencies. Groups are invited to visit any of the three courthouses for individualized tours or to observe live court proceedings. For educators, the website serves as a "hub" of resource materials for Grades K-12, complementing the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Social Studies. Students can access civic-related content and activities, such as animated videos detailing the difference between the federal and state courts.

Honorable Peter G. Sheridan, U.S.D.J. (Ret.) has long been a proponent of civics education. Judge Sheridan has worked alongside the District Court to inform and inspire youth, stating; "The Federal Courts, Civics & You Learning Center website will serve as a resource for the public to gain knowledge about the U.S. Constitution and the federal court system. Our goal is to encourage visitors of all ages to deepen their understanding of the government's role in society and to recognize how this knowledge can empower them to contribute meaningfully to their communities."

The Federal Courts, Civics & You Learning Center website is one component of this District of New Jersey's two-part initiative to foster civics education. The second component is a physical facility with interactive exhibits concerning various subjects, including the rule of law, individual rights, checks and balances, voting, and personal freedoms. Preparations for the physical facility, which will be located in the Trenton Courthouse in approximately two years, are still in its early stages. Committee members are hard at work developing plans for design space, exhibits, and educational programs to be offered to visitors.

In the meantime, please visit and share The Federal Courts, Civics & You Learning Center website at <https://civicsandyounj.org/>. The District of New Jersey extends its sincerest thanks to the members of the Civics Learning Center's Advisory Board for their contributions and continued support of the Court's educational outreach initiatives.