



Summer 2013

Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center Educator Newsletter

## Calendar

Sept 2	State Holiday
Sept 17	Constitution Day
Sept 25	MSC Public Hearing*
Oct 8–10	MSC Oral Arguments*
Nov 5–7	MSC Oral Arguments*
Nov 11	State Holiday
Nov 28–29	State Holidays
Dec 10–12	MSC Oral Arguments*

\* Proceedings of the Michigan Supreme Court are [streamed live](#) from the One Court of Justice website. An [archive](#) of past arguments is also available.

## Oral Arguments Streamed Live

As part of its commitment to making courts accessible to the public, the Michigan Supreme Court now streams its [oral arguments and other hearings](#) live on the internet.

The oral arguments [schedule](#) for each month, with links to a summary of each case, is available shortly before the date.



## School Tours, 2013–14

### Openings Still Available!

Is a tour of the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center on your calendar for 2013–14? Tours are free and available Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., except state holidays. Openings are still available, but they are going fast!

Curriculum connections include:

- Michigan Studies
- Government and Civics
- Core Democratic Values
- Constitution Day

If you would like to see the Michigan Supreme Court courtroom during your visit, you must request this specifically when making a tour reservation. Additional time is required. Because of the Court's schedule, courtroom visits cannot be guaranteed. Ask your scheduler for details.

Make your reservations today by calling 517-373-7171.

## Constitution Day

Join the Learning Center in celebrating the signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787. Constitution Day festivities will be held at the Learning Center on **September 17**. Activities will include themed tours, free curriculum materials, and special guest speakers.

Tours are available for all grade levels.

See page 2 for more resources related to the Constitution.



You received this newsletter because you are subscribed to *Justitia*, the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center newsletter for educators. If you no longer wish to receive these newsletters, please email [LearningCenter-eNews@courts.mi.gov](mailto:LearningCenter-eNews@courts.mi.gov) to unsubscribe.

Best of the Web  
**CLOSE READING**  
**THE UNITED**  
**STATES**  
**CONSTITUTION**



#### Elementary

Teaching Democracy: What Is the Purpose of the Preamble?

Cal Humanities and the California History-Social Science Project

[http://chssp.ucdavis.edu/programs/teaching-democracy/copy\\_of\\_teaching-democracy/td-brouhard-lesson](http://chssp.ucdavis.edu/programs/teaching-democracy/copy_of_teaching-democracy/td-brouhard-lesson)

Gouverneur Morris

Bill of Rights Institute

<http://billofrightsinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/7-Morris-FCII.pdf>

#### Middle School

Preamble – *Words We Live By*: Your Annotated Guide to the Constitution

Engage NY

<http://www.oercommons.org/courses/close-reading-exemplar-words-we-live-by-grade-8/view>

#### High School

ELA Reading Informational Text (see pages 48–49)

Illinois State Board of Education

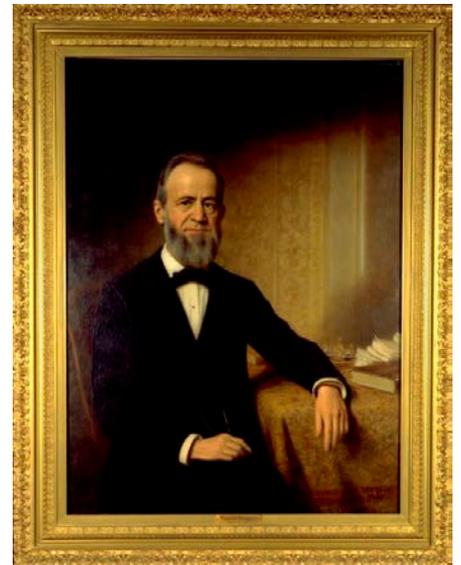
[http://www.isbe.net/common\\_core/pdf/ela-teach-strat-read-text-6-12.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/common_core/pdf/ela-teach-strat-read-text-6-12.pdf)

## Constitutional Scholar: Justice Thomas M. Cooley

[Justice Thomas M. Cooley](#) – Michigan Supreme Court Justice (served 1864–1885), law professor, and constitutional scholar – was arguably one of the most influential legal minds in the U.S. during the later nineteenth century. His time on the Michigan Supreme Court is considered a golden age.

In 1859, Justice Cooley became one of the first professors in the law department at the University of Michigan, where he taught a variety of subjects, including constitutional law. His students included many future leaders such as U.S. Supreme Court justices [William Day](#) and [George Sutherland](#), as well as the famous defense attorney, [Clarence Darrow](#).

Justice Cooley wrote one of the most widely used legal texts in the United States, a volume known as [Constitutional Limitations](#). First published in 1868, this work shaped constitutional interpretation by courts nationwide. It went through many editions in his lifetime and continues to be cited by state and federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court.



*Portrait courtesy the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society. For more information about Justice Cooley, see the society's website for his [biography](#), a [legal vignette](#), a [memoriam](#), a [portrait presentation](#), and two lesson plans ([high school](#) and [middle school](#)).*

***[T]he constitution does not derive its force from the convention which framed, but from the people who ratified it[.]***

– Justice Thomas M. Cooley, *Constitutional Limitations*