



Quick Links

[Tour Overview \(3 min.\)](#)

[Virtual Tour \(7 min.\)](#)

[GLCEs at the Learning Centers](#)

[Lessons and Resources](#)

[Learning Center Brochure](#)

[Hall of Justice Brochure](#)

Calendar

September

4 Court Holiday

18 [Constitution Day at the Learning Center](#)

20 [MSC Public Hearing](#)

October

10–12 [MSC Oral Arguments](#)

November

7–9 [MSC Oral Arguments](#)

10 Court Holiday

23–24 Court Holiday

Celebrate Constitution Day!



Join the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center's celebration of Constitution Day, **September 18**. Limited openings are available.

Tours will highlight the U.S. Constitution and include guest speakers and free curriculum materials. Limited openings are available. Call 517-373-7171 to schedule your tour today.

Additional resources appear on the [Constitutions](#) page of the Learning Center website and on the next page.

School Tours, 2017–2018

Have you scheduled your tours for the school year yet? Popular days and times at the [Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center](#) are still available, but are going fast. Free, guided tours may be reserved for Mondays–Fridays, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., except state holidays.

During a school tour many [Grade Level Content Expectations](#) can be fulfilled for all grade levels. Themes include:

- Michigan Studies
- Government and Civics
- Constitution Day

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 staff for details when scheduling.

School Tours

Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Call 517-373-7171 today!



About Constitution Day

On September 17, 1787, delegates signed the U.S. Constitution. To commemorate this historical event, federal law requires schools that receive federal funding and all federal agencies to hold programs about the Constitution on or near that date.

An Independent Judiciary

Although the framers left many details to Congress, the [U.S. Constitution](#) provides an important framework for the federal judicial branch of government:

- An independent judiciary, separate from the executive and legislative branches ([Article III](#)).
- A Supreme Court and other federal courts and their jurisdiction ([Article III](#)).
- A process by which the President appoints judges with the advice and consent of the Senate ([Article II](#)).
- Protections for judges from retaliation for unpopular decisions – Judges hold office during good behavior, can only be removed through legislative impeachment, and cannot have their salaries reduced as long as they hold office ([Article I](#), [Article III](#)).

In much the same way, the [Michigan Constitution](#) provides a framework for the state's judiciary in [Article VI](#). It includes:

- An independent judiciary with power vested in one court of justice, composed of a Supreme Court, a Court of Appeals, a Circuit Court, a Probate Court, and other lower courts. Jurisdictions are also defined.
- Judicial qualifications, elections, and a process of appointments in the event of judicial vacancies.
- Judicial salaries with protection against decreases and a process for handling cases of judicial misconduct.

For more about the state and federal judiciaries, see:

Federal Judicial Center – [History](#)

Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society – [History](#)

Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center – [MI Courts](#)



Best of Justitia

Each year, the summer issue of [Justitia](#) features resources for Constitution Day. The best of these ideas have been compiled into a special [Constitution Day edition](#). You will find:

- Classroom constitution
- Close reading lessons
- Constitution text and images
- Fast facts
- Primary sources with lessons
- Vocabulary
- Videos
- Visualizing data with word clouds, charts, tables, and graphs

