



NEWS RELEASE

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Media contacts at end/ Photos by request

**Brown County Junior High School Wins We The People State Finals**

INDIANAPOLIS - More than 700 teens and pre-teens versed in the U.S. Constitution descended on Plainfield, Ind., to compete in the *We The People* State Finals December 17-18 at Plainfield High School, 20 minutes west of downtown Indianapolis. The teams from these schools scored highest by the panels of professional judges:

First Place: Brown County Junior High School, Nashville

Second Place: Forest Ridge Academy, Schererville

Third Place: St. Richards Episcopal School, Indianapolis

“Indiana students always amaze us with the energy and dedication they give to the study of civics,” said Charles R. Dunlap, executive director of the Indiana Bar Foundation (Foundation). “The state finals competition brings the best of the state together to showcase their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution. Most adults who witness this competition leave inspired by the students.”

Fall 2011, the Foundation released the [Indiana Civic Health Index](#) which showed Indiana ranked 43<sup>rd</sup> in voter registration and 48<sup>th</sup> in voting. The *We The People* educational model has been shown to increase civic participation, including voting rates, for students as they become adults.

The high school competition will occur Sunday, December 18 from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. More details may be found on the Foundation’s web site [www.inbf.org/](http://www.inbf.org/).

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*About We The People*

*We The People* is an educational model that teaches students in fifth, eighth and twelfth grades about the U.S. Constitution. After a semester of study about American history and constitutional philosophy, as well as current events and applicable court cases, students testify in mock congressional hearings before panels of volunteer judges from the legal community. Teams mastering their subjects compete in competitions throughout Indiana’s nine congressional districts and finally at on state competition with representative teams from each district. The civic education model is one of the most effective for creating model citizens who vote at high rates than their peers. For research or more on the program, visit [www.inbf.org/](http://www.inbf.org/).

*About the Indiana Bar Foundation*

The Foundation is dedicated to increasing access to justice and appreciation for the rule of law. It gathers and directs resources toward three main areas: assisting people who have difficulty accessing the justice system, providing civic education for Hoosiers of all ages and improving Indiana’s Judicial System and the legal profession.