Western Justice Center is dedicated to building a more civil, peaceful society where differences are valued. We design and implement creative programs that change the way people think about and respond to differences and conflict. Our programs raise awareness, build skills and increase the possibility of just communities and schools.
Dear Friend of Western Justice Center,

In 2015, Western Justice Center (WJC) trained educators and students from 204 schools. Hundreds of community members also participated in WJC programs. Children, teens and adults learned to address bias and collaboratively resolve conflict. They developed a greater awareness and acceptance of differences. They gained life-long skills that move from school to home to the community.

This report highlights our shared commitment to creating safe and welcoming schools and communities. WJC programs include:

- ABCs of Conflict
- Peer Mediation Invitational
- Acting for Social Change ENCOMPASS Class
- School Tools
- Compassion Plays
- Creating Bias-Free Classrooms
- Haven social network

Skim these pages and take note of the students, educators and community members who benefitted from these programs.

We look forward to our continued work with you.

Sincerely,

Hon. Dorothy L. Shubin
Los Angeles County Superior Court
Chair, WJC Board of Directors

Glenn D. Pomerantz, Esq.
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP
President
When I visit schools that have participated in Western Justice Center programs, I can see the new tools being implemented, as well as seeing that the students are encouraged and emboldened by the new skills learned.

– Jason Harper, Conflict Resolution Trainer
ABCs of Conflict taught me how to redefine conflict as a learning opportunity...I used the program materials to train students and teachers on restorative justice community-building circles as a school-wide initiative.

– Jennifer, Middle School Teacher

ABCS OF CONFLICT. 38 educators – teachers, administrators, counselors, social workers and health care professionals - from 27 K-12 schools in Los Angeles County participated in two interactive, five-day, 30-hour training sessions about the fundamentals of conflict resolution. They learned ways to integrate conflict resolution education into their classrooms and how to start and sustain a student peer mediation program at their school or youth organization.

Student actors from the Acting for Social Change ENCOMPASS Class staged realistic bullying scenes for educators to experience effective ways to intervene. Thanks to generous donors, the training is offered free to educator participants, 85% of which teach at schools with low-income populations.

WJC also provided site-specific ABCs of Conflict for more than 50 teachers and staff of Village Charter Elementary, Holmes Avenue Elementary and Holy Family Elementary schools.

The annual PEER MEDIATION INVITATIONAL celebrated 125 fourth through 12th grade peer mediators from 21 Los Angeles County schools. The Invitational (open to any LA County school - public, charter and private - with a peer mediation program) took place at WJC headquarters and in the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Students sharpened mediation skills with the help of more than two-dozen skilled community and professional mediators who volunteered their time and expertise. The students and their educator coaches also met with and learned from peers from other schools.

Each educator will teach several students; each student mediator will counsel on average two peers. That impact is extensive. It’s also long-lasting.
The Acting for Social Change ENCOMPASS CLASS is a popular service-learning class for juniors and seniors at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. The class engages students in a life-changing exploration of race, gender and sexual orientation and prepares them to use their skills as artists to help create safe and inclusive schools.

In 2015, ENCOMPASS Class students participated as disputants in the Peer Mediation Invitational; acted out classroom scenes about conflict and bullying in Creating Bias-Free Classrooms and ABCs of Conflict; and created videos for Haven social network and School Tools.

SCHOOL TOOLS – schooltools.info – is an online conflict resolution education resource created especially for K-12 educators. The site features our original video-based conflict resolution training – lesson plans, articles and links that provide a step-by-step guide. The continuously updated resource library is a one-stop shop for information about conflict resolution in schools, bullying, restorative justice, improving school climate and social emotional learning.

School Tools is available 24/7 to anyone with Internet access, giving WJC the potential to reach a worldwide community. Visitors from all 50 states and more than 100 countries have visited the site since its launch last year.

Before taking this class, I never really thought that my words could impact the way my classmates treated students from marginalized communities. This class taught me that words have power and when I use them with compassion and integrity, change is possible.

– Isaac, ENCOMPASS Class Student
What are the seeds of prejudice? HORIZON LINE explores bias-motivated behavior through the eyes of Danny Curtis – a young white man on a path of escalating destruction – and the people in his life who influence his choices, for better and for worse.

Tradition or travesty? KICK examines racial stereotyping and the American Indian mascot issue through the eyes of Grace Greene, one of the few Native American students at Newman High School.

Who “belongs” in this country and who doesn’t? WHEELS looks at immigration, xenophobia and the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship as Salvadoran-American teen Oscar makes his way through the DMV.

COMPASSION PLAYS is a touring theatrical program that sparks transformative conversation among audience-participants about prejudice, intergroup conflict and personal responsibility. The program combines high-quality professional theatre (three 35-40 minute, single actor, 9-12 character plays) with expertly facilitated discussion to make a lasting impact in a single session.

In 2015, more than 1,000 people – from teachers at Arcadia Unified School District to students to lawyers and judges seeking continuing legal education credits to participants in the Museum of Tolerance “Tools for Tolerance” program – participated as audience members in a Compassion Plays program.

Twelve summer interns – current students and alums of our ENCOMPASS Class – created more than 20 original videos that reinforce concepts explored in the Compassion Plays program. Videos included Jellybeans, which uses the candies’ varied colors, flavors and packaging to demonstrate the difference between race, culture and nationality; and Carly’s Cooking Show, which uses a comedic approach to address different aspects of identity. You can watch both videos (and many more!) on School Tools at schooltools.info.
I learned how to approach situations of bullying, in any setting, with safe tactics used to handle a situation. I was constantly reassured that my voice and my experiences were valid, giving me enough confidence in my intentions to take action and learn to support those around me.

– Belissa, High School Student

More than 98% of the teachers in the Creating Bias-Free Classrooms program said they were more confident about addressing bullying as a result of the training. One participant spoke for many when she said, “this was the best piece of professional development I have ever been part of.”

HAVEN social network - havensocialnetwork.org - is an online community and resource for high school students and educators working to create schools that are safe and inclusive. The site includes a discussion board, resource library and, for registered users, an interactive conflict resolution training course. Student-produced videos address topics that include reducing prejudice, mediating conflicts among and with peers, understanding gender identity and more than 25 resources that address bullying.

100 Teach for America participants and 278 K-12 teachers from 97 Orange County schools participated in CREATING BIAS-FREE CLASSROOMS, a unique professional development program that uses interactive theatre to train educators to create safer classrooms for students who are targeted by bias. The program featured sessions on handling bias related to race, gender/gender expression and sexual orientation.

Students from the ENCOMPASS Class took their knowledge about the causes and effects of bullying and put it into action. They created “real-life” scenarios for educators in Creating Bias-Free Classrooms and ABCs of Conflict to test strategies for dealing with bullying and bias in the classroom.
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Thank you, too, to all our wonderful volunteers!
# 2015 FINANCIALS

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With comparative totals for the year ended December 31, 2014

Please visit our website at westernjustice.org for our most recent IRS Form 990 and audited financial statements.
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Conflict and bias permeate our society. They are problems for everyone in every community. Your generous support means WJC can address those problems. In 2015, WJC programs trained more than 2,000 K-12 students and teachers and members of the community to collaboratively resolve conflict and to recognize and combat bias in themselves and others. They, in turn, reached countless others.

Students from the ENCOMPASS Class created short videos to address different forms of bias. The videos are posted on School Tools (schooltools.info). Take a look at Sticks and Stones: each video showcases a prejudicial term and examines the term’s origin, popular use and negative impact.

Sports and mascots can be loaded topics. The Compassion Plays program, Kick, tackled them head on through Grace, a Native American student on her school’s track team. In the discussion that followed the play, many audience members said they hadn’t considered the power of mascots to convey positive or negative racial and ethnic ideas. They also considered ways to change their own attitudes and behaviors.

I learned specific and useful strategies with which to confront and ultimately overcome prejudice.

-- Kai, High School Student
Western Justice Center is unique – in its programs and in its conception. Judge Dorothy W. Nelson of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals founded WJC to promote collaborative conflict resolution. She also envisioned WJC, headquartered in Pasadena’s historic 1929 Maxwell House, at the heart of a non-profit campus. This model would provide WJC a sustainable funding source from those tenants. WJC incorporated as a non-profit in 1991. Steadily, over several years, with substantial support from members of the Board, foundations and generous individuals like you, WJC renovated four buildings adjacent to the U.S. Court of Appeals. Today, those buildings are vibrant with the work of non-profits, including:

**55 South Grand Avenue:**
- the Maxwell House
- Western Justice Center
- National Hispanic Media Coalition

**65 South Grand Avenue**
- Audrey Hepburn Children's Fund
- FairWarning
- The Gamble House/USC
- League of Women Voters Pasadena
- Pasadena Arts Council

**75 South Grand Avenue**
- American Foundation for Tibetan Cultural Preservation
- California Art Club
- Jericho Road Pasadena
- The Laurel Foundation, Inc.
- Leadership Pasadena
- National Urea Cycle Disorders Foundation
- Tools for Peace
- United Nations Association, Pasadena/Foothill Chapter

**85 South Grand Avenue**
- California State Summer School Arts Foundation
- GRACE (Gather, Respect, Advocate, Change, Engage)**
WJC is privileged to have celebrated, since 1998, a remarkable group of Justice Awards honorees for their exemplary commitment to the pursuit of a more peaceful and just society.

Your generous donations and sponsorships set a record – more than $500,000 to support WJC’s work to create inclusive and welcoming schools and communities.

WJC proudly recognized three leaders:

**SHEILA KUEHL, LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR:** Champions of Justice are tireless advocates of peace, seeking to better lives through a more just society.

**GIRARDI | KEESE:** Defenders of Justice are law firms distinguished by their support for alternative dispute resolution, public service and community involvement.

**CITY NATIONAL BANK:** Advocates of Justice are corporations, or corporate executives, with a record of improving the communities in which they do business by supporting programs that create safer environments for living, learning and thriving.

**PETRI HAWKINS BYRD** (“BYRD”), Bailiff on television’s Judge Judy, generously returned for his third season as emcee.

Rick Kraemer and the staff of Executive Presentations again provided their communications expertise with signage and photography as a gift to WJC.
Dear Champion of WJC,

IMPACT! That’s our favorite word at Western Justice Center (WJC) and I hope it’s yours, too. As you’ve seen in the preceding pages, your support makes possible a range of programs with impact – on young people, the people who work with them and countless others in their communities.

With you, WJC is a powerhouse, integrating the performing and visual arts with conflict resolution and prevention to create dynamic on-site and online training.

Students, teachers and community members learn about bias and bullying and how to address those issues; they become more aware and accepting of differences. These are life-long skills and attitudes, crucial for success today and for creating a more civil, just and peaceful future.

Your impact goes deep and wide! THANK YOU!

Hon. Judith C. Chirlin (LASC-Ret.)
Executive Director
Thank you for saying **yes** to creating more just and peaceful schools and communities.

Visit [westernjustice.org](http://westernjustice.org) to learn about the good work you make possible.

**Your support is crucial.**

---

**Make a tax-deductible gift:**

You can do it online at [westernjustice.org](http://westernjustice.org)

or send it by mail to:

Western Justice Center

55 South Grand Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91105

(626) 584-7494 • info@westernjustice.org

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**Volunteer**

**Tell a Friend about WJC!**

**Sign Up for WJC e-News at westernjustice.org**

**Consider naming Western Justice Center in your estate plans.**

If you have already done that, please let us know!

---

**Have a question?**

Call or email Andrea Carroll, Director of Development, at andrea@westernjustice.org or (626) 584-7494, ext. 18.