

# Young People and the Law: Thompson Coe, Allstate Staff Counsel and Street Law Bring the Practice of Law to High School Students

**April 18, 2014, Dallas, TX** - Thompson, Coe, Cousins & Irons, L.L.P. partnered with Allstate Staff Counsel (G. Patrick Collins & Associates) and Street Law, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to educating diverse youth about law, democracy and human rights, to administer an introduction-to-law program for an AP U.S. Government class at Richardson High School in the Richardson Independent School District (RISD).



The students spent the day at the Dallas office of Thompson Coe where they attended two workshops focused on different areas of law - social host liability and torts. These workshops allowed the students to experience different aspects of practicing law, an investigation and a mini-trial (hearing), while developing other vital legal skills such as persuasion and critical thinking. They were also instrumental in encouraging confidence and team-building.

Almost as important as the curriculum was the visit to the firm office. It provided opportunities for the students to network with legal professionals and get a preview of real life as an attorney. As the students toured the office you could tell how impactful it was in giving them a reference point for materializing their dream of a future in the legal field.



Overall the Street Law program was beneficial to everyone involved. The students had the opportunity to spend time away from their traditional curriculum to learn about the practice of law and what it means to be an attorney, and gain skills and experiences they can apply to improving their futures. The attorneys gained a lot through the experience of teaching young people about the law, and giving back to the community.

