



The 3Rs – Rights • Responsibilities • Realities is an unprecedented program of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association undertaken by members of the Cleveland legal community, in partnership with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) and East Cleveland City Schools to personally connect with high school students to address fundamental issues facing the students and, ultimately, our city and region. Using a real-world curriculum focused on the U.S. Constitution, **The 3Rs Program** calls upon teams of volunteers to go to 10th grade social studies classes to work with small groups of students to accomplish the following goals:

- Improve understanding of and respect for the rule of law and our Constitution;
- Improve passage of the Ohio Graduation Test;
- Provide practical career counseling to focus students on their potential beyond high school; and
- Improve the “pipeline” of minorities flowing into legal careers in the region.

More than ever, Cleveland and East Cleveland public school students need the personal involvement of the community to help the students maximize their potential both now and post-high school. The success of these students and the success of our region are mutually dependent. The Cleveland legal community is well-positioned to make a profound impact by volunteering to serve in the schools.

Student performances on Ohio Graduation Tests have been improving each year. In 2009, the third year of **The 3Rs**, the social studies passage rate for tenth graders taking the Ohio Graduation Test increased again in the Cleveland schools by 7.5 percent. Shaw High School has also reported large gains in social studies passage rates for the 10th graders in classes served by 3Rs volunteers. Although this is great news, there is much work yet to be done. **The 3Rs** curriculum and personal, small-group focus will continue to help improve these test results.

The 3Rs curriculum related to Constitutional issues is also designed to give the students a greater appreciation of and respect for our legal system and the rule of law. Through the small-group discussion format, **The 3Rs** will help build understanding and positive attitudes about the law and our justice system, preparing students to be more informed and responsible citizens.

Volunteers will help with career counseling and post-high school educational planning. **The 3Rs** will illuminate career and professional options, and provide essential information about how to obtain financial aid, how to prepare for college testing and how to create a practical roadmap for success.

For the 2009-10 school year, we are recruiting over 500 volunteers, including 100 law students, to create teams that will be matched with 10th grade social studies classes. Each team will visit its assigned class once each month for a 40-minute class period (90 minutes in East Cleveland), with the schedule set at the beginning of the school year. All program curriculum materials, training and support will be provided to volunteers. The program is designed to be very “user-friendly.”

The 3Rs Program was successfully launched in 2006 and has been very positively received by the students and teachers – and volunteers. The program has received much positive attention in the media and among many school districts and bar associations across the U.S., some of which are looking to **The 3Rs** as a model for similar programs in other cities. Since its inaugural year, the 3Rs has won several community outreach and diversity awards, including most recently the First Annual Raymond Pace and Sadie T. M. Alexander Award for Excellence in Pipeline Diversity from the American Bar Association Presidential Advisory Council on Diversity in the Profession in 2009.¹

The 3Rs has the support and involvement of key players in the legal community, including The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, NEOACCA, the Cuyahoga County prosecutor’s office, the courts, law firms, in-house corporate counsel, government attorneys, bar associations, and the local law schools. With your support, we will have a major positive effect on the students and our community. Please register by contacting Jessica Paine, Assistant Director of Sections and Community Programs, by emailing jpaine@clemetrobar.org or calling (216) 696-3525 x4462.

The 3Rs Program is an initiative of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association in partnership with the Cleveland Metropolitan and East Cleveland School Districts. Funding is provided by the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation.

¹ Other awards include the Ohio State Bar Foundation 2008 Outstanding Program Award, the LexisNexis National Community Outreach Award (2007), and the American Bar Association Partnership Award (2007).