



Sunburst, A Publication of the California Council for the Social Studies

Like us on Facebook

Dear Member,

This issue of Sunburst features a NEW column titled, **Just Comment**, some great curriculum and professional development resources, and a specific call to action. As a leading History-Social Studies organization we're committed to keeping you apprised of new, relevant information, and when necessary will seek your input and action to support advocacy efforts.

An Introduction to Judge Karnow and his NEW column, *Just Comment*



The California Courts have a long legacy of educational outreach through a variety of programs that provide opportunities for students to gain a deeper knowledge and appreciation for the court system. Programs such as Mock Trial, On My Honor, and Courtroom to Classroom are a few examples designed to bridge the gap between the real world and public education. As an extension of this outreach, CCSS is proud to **welcome Judge Karnow** to our organization as an advocate of the courts and K-12 education.

Curtis E. A. Karnow is a judge with the **Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco**. He graduated from Harvard College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He has worked as a federal prosecutor, and in law firms where he specialized in antitrust, intellectual property and internet law. Judge Karnow has lectured in law schools across the United States, and teaches a wide variety of courses to new and experienced judges. He is the author of many articles and books including "How The Courts Work: A Plain English Explanation of The American Legal System," written with his wife, a middle school teacher.

With his vast knowledge, experience and commitment to education, Judge Karnow is eager to support educators in developing a better understanding of the structure of state and local governments, the relationship between federal and state systems, and the laws surrounding the legal system so that we're able to reinforce those very same civic ideals and principles with our students. How will he do this? Well, several times throughout the year, Judge Karnow will write a column in Sunburst designed to answer the many unknown and intriguing aspects about the courts via his column titled, **Just Comment**.

Just Comment, will address the laws surrounding the legal system, citizen rights and responsibilities, and provide **links to classroom resources and ideas**. We hope you will find value in our new column, and feel compelled and inspired to [write in](#) with your thoughts, reactions, and suggestions for future issues. Remember, while Judge Karnow is open to your questions, he is not at liberty to discuss any current or pending case, no matter which court it resides, and he will not, under any circumstances, provide legal advice. We look forward to **Judge Karnow's debut article, Why Juries?**, in our November-December Sunburst issue.

President's Message



CCSS President, Avi Black



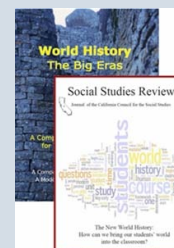
Under the Dome

Read the latest [Legislative Update](#)



Fred Jones, CCSS
Legislative Analyst

Did you receive your copy?



If not, it may be because

Senate Bill 300 - Why Not History?

Recently Senate Bill 300 (Hancock) passed approving the update of K-12 science standards, providing for the appointment of a group of science experts and teachers who will recommend comprehensive academic standards reflecting current scientific knowledge and discoveries. This is great news! As educators we are pleased that the updating of the science standards will move forward thus enabling California students an opportunity to acquire the science, technology, knowledge and skills necessary to succeed and compete in the 21st Century.

However, perhaps the **most interesting aspect of this legislation**, was notice of what was missing. While SB 300 originally included the updating of the K-12 **history-social science** framework, it was **eliminated from the bill** completely, without explanation. As this news is shared, more and more educators are taking notice and asking important questions. Why was SB 300 amended to eliminate all references to history-social science? How will such a void in the legislation impact classroom learning and student achievement? How will this set-back impact the current timeline for a history-social science textbook adoption? Will our discipline have common core standards? At this point, there seem to be more questions than answers and only time will tell.

As a leading history-social studies professional organization, CCSS questions the purpose of eliminating such a valuable process for ensuring our teachers and students have access to updated frameworks and standards. While we look forward to more legislative action concerning this issue in the coming year, we will continue to focus on **building awareness, capacity, and advocacy** around this issue. We invite you to visit our [CCSS discussion forum](#) and join the conversation.

Community Outreach has Gone Digital!



The Autry Museum is now offering **FREE digitized downloads** of their Community Outreach Kits that provide object/project based and personal-story teaching tools that include artifact images, photographs and lesson plans in both English and Spanish. By digitizing these popular Community Outreach Kits they are now universally available to teachers, students and the public regardless of location.

Community Stories Outreach kits, little museums in a box, tell the stories of real people of the West. These outreach kits have been available for rental for many years now, but Southern California's tremendous sprawl often makes it impossible for teachers to drive to the Autry and access these kits. The new digitized kits help address this limitation. For more information about these kits, and free Professional Development Webinars, please see the [attached flyer](#).

Don't Miss Out on the Best Conference Rates

California Council for the Social Studies
The 51st Annual Conference
March 2-4, 2012



The 2012 CCSS Annual Conference will take place March 2-4, at the Hyatt Regency Orange County in Garden Grove, CA. This year's theme is "**Social Studies to the Core!**" [Register today!](#) Advance Registration rates are good through February 17th. CCSS Members - \$150.00; Membership + Registration - \$210.00; Non-members - \$225.00; Retired Members - \$75.00; Students (including membership) pay only \$100.00. View the amazing line-up of speakers, sessions, and special events via access to our [pre-conference program](#).

CCSS Benefits and More!!!

It's as easy as 1-2-3 to access your membership profile and access all of the benefits of your CCSS membership. It's all right at your fingertips. Simply login to our website at <http://www.ccss.org/> and take advantage of all your CCSS benefits. Renew your membership online...Download and view the latest Social Studies Review Journal....or Stay connected with History-Social Science professionals by browsing through our online directory. You can do all this and more by simply logging in. **Forgot you Password? Not to worry.** Just type in your email address when prompted and you will be emailed information on how to create your password. Once logged in, click on the "View Profile" link to access the membership renewal information.

you're not a member or need to renew your membership. [Join us](#) to begin receiving your copy of the Social Studies Review.

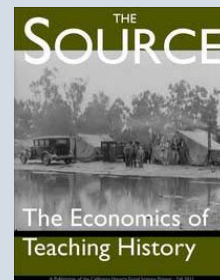
Nominate an Outstanding History Educator Today!

[Click here](#)

to view a number of award categories and complete the nomination process.

Remember the deadline to submit your nomination packet is November 15, 2011.

Featured Reading



[The Source](#),

authored by the California History-Social Science Project, focuses on the Economics of Teaching History.

CCSS Membership

[Join Us!](#)

[Renew your CCSS Membership](#)

[Learn More About Us](#)

[Find Your Local Affiliate](#)

Questions, comments, and/or submissions, please contact:

Geography Awareness Week, Nov. 13-19



If you're a teacher of history, social studies, or literacy, you're also keenly aware that **you're a teacher of geography!** Geographic literacy is one of the most important aspects of teaching history as time and place are critical concepts toward developing a deeper understanding of historical events. A common misconception about geography is that it's limited to landscape facts, rivers, landmarks and capitals, when in fact geography is all of this and much, much more. **Excellent geography instruction** is provided within the context of historical and human events and involves observations and study of cultures, including migration, movement, transportation and settlement. This year Geography Awareness Week will be celebrated during November 13-19. The theme is "**The Adventure in Your Community.**" Visit the newly revised and updated [National Geographic's Education Page](#) for access to free resources and classroom activities for all grade levels.

Exercise your Vote!



November 8 is Election Day! Don't forget the vital role you play in local elections held throughout California. Many communities throughout the state will have regularly-scheduled or special elections to select local leaders. Remember, voting is a right, as well as a responsibility. Check [Smartvoter.org](#) for your contests and ballot measures and check out their listing of [websites](#) for official election information along with a selection of non-partisan resources.

Together, we will continue the effort to provide quality history/social studies education for our students.

Sincerely,

California Council for the Social Studies

Sunburst Editor
Laurie Mosier



October Issue- Guest Contributors

*Judge Curtis Karnow,
Superior Court of
California, San Francisco*

*Margaret "Peg" Hill,
CCSS Publications Lead*

*Julie Weaver,
CCSS Exec. Secretary*

[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

