



**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT**
717 MADISON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20439

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**Federal Circuit Opens Nation's First Courthouse-Based Innovation
and Civics Learning Center**

New website at InnovationCenter.cafc.uscourts.gov launches alongside the opening of the historic Lafayette Square facility for student visits

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit today launched the website for its Center for Innovation & Law and opened the Center to student visitors, creating the nation's first educational facility to combine active federal judiciary operations with immersive STEM and social studies learning experiences for middle and high school students.

The new website at InnovationCenter.cafc.uscourts.gov provides educators and students with detailed information about the Center's programming and allows schools to book visits starting immediately. Be sure to check out [the video](#) of students exploring the Center on the website's homepage.

Located in the historic National Courts Building on Lafayette Square, the Innovation Center brings history, law, and science to life. Students step into real mock trials led by Federal Circuit attorneys, explore artifacts (think moon rock), and work with immersive, state-of-the-art interactive technology to uncover pivotal moments in American history and innovation that have changed the world and the court's role in protecting it.



Chief Judge
Kimberly A. Moore

"The Federal Circuit was created to encourage American innovation by providing uniform legal structure for intellectual property," said Chief Judge Kimberly A. Moore. "Our new Center brings that mission full circle by inspiring the next generation of innovators while showing them firsthand how law, science, and technology intersect in our democracy."

Hands-On Learning in an Active Courthouse

Students visiting the Center will engage in experiential learning activities developed in collaboration with curriculum specialists:

- **Mock Trial:** Students take on the roles of attorneys, witnesses, jurors, and the judge in a trial led by attorneys from the Federal Circuit. The case focuses on a real 1887 dispute involving African American inventor Granville T. Woods.
- **Explore the Innovation Center:** Students tour the Innovation Center and the historic homes that now make up the courthouse, uncovering the people and movements that shaped the nation through high-tech and thought-provoking experiences.
- **Meet a Federal Circuit Judge:** Students meet with a Federal Circuit judge at the end of each visit, offering them the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the role judges play in our government.

Historic Setting Enhances Learning

The Center occupies over 2,400 square feet within buildings that have witnessed pivotal moments in American history. The Dolley Madison House later served as NASA's first headquarters, while the Tayloe House became home to the National Woman's Party. Over the years, these spaces have been lived in, worked in, and frequented by figures such as Dolley Madison, William Seward, General George McClellan, the Wright Brothers, Abraham Lincoln, and members of the Cosmos Club, including Alexander Graham Bell and Louis Brandeis.

First-of-Its-Kind Educational Model

The Center provides students with direct exposure to the legal processes that shape both technological advancement and civic life in America. By integrating history, civics, law, and STEM, and by drawing on the Federal Circuit's unique role as the nation's primary venue for high-tech litigation, the Center creates a multidimensional model for courthouse-based education that responds to the growing demand for authentic STEM learning.

Opening and Access Information

The Center for Innovation & Law is now open for school visits. Educators interested in booking field trips or accessing materials can visit InnovationCenter.cafc.uscourts.gov or contact the Center at 202-275-8400. The Center's programming is offered at no cost to participating schools.

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Social Media:

Instagram: [@innovatecafc](https://www.instagram.com/innovatecafc)
LinkedIn: [Federal Circuit Center for Innovation & Law](https://www.linkedin.com/company/federal-circuit-center-for-innovation-law)

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