



**FOR IMMEDIATE NEWS RELEASE**

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**Emmy-Winning Producer Sandra Robbie & Sylvia Mendez  
Educate Local Youth About Civil Rights**

**ORANGE, CA** – September 17, 2009, 8:45am-12:15pm – Constitution Day teaches 500 high school students about the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment and *Mendez v. Westminster (1947)*, a local landmark de-segregation case, in Memorial Auditorium at Chapman University.

The Keynote will be delivered by Emmy-winning film-maker Sandra Robbie, writer and producer of the KOCE-documentary *Para Todos Los Niños (For All the Children)* about the historic *Mendez v. Westminster (1947)* case, and Sylvia Mendez, the now-adult plaintiff in the *Mendez* case. *Para Todos Los Niños* tells the story of segregation and discrimination in Orange County schools and how *Mendez v. Westminster* is one of the most important stories in the American Civil Rights Movement. According to Robbie, “Many people don’t realize that the civil rights movement wasn’t limited to the deep South or that it represented more than a struggle between black and white – it was about people of many colors and it was a fight that resonated throughout the country. What happened here in our own backyard more than 60 years ago truly changed our nation.”

Workshops include: “How Courts Protect Your Rights,” “Equal Opportunity?” and “Equity in Sports.” Presenters include: Hon. Cormac J. Carney, United States District Court, Central District of California; Hon. Eileen C. Moore and Hon. Richard D. Fybel, California Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division III; Hon. Frederick P. Aguirre and Hon. Randall J. Sherman, Superior Court of California, County of Orange; Dave Southern, Orange County Human Relations Commission; Professor Ernesto Hernández-López, Chapman University School of Law; Brian R. Sciacca, Esq., Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo; and Courtney Lewis, Chapman University School of Law graduate and former Division I athlete (Dartmouth Women’s Basketball). From Chapman University School of Law, Dr. John C. Eastman, Dean, and Celestine R. McConville, Esq., Associate Dean of Administration, will wrap up the conference by presenting the historic *Brown v. Board of Education* case before a panel of esteemed local judicial officers (listed above) and four O.C. high school students.



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Constitution Day provides valuable information about the important role the U.S. Constitution has played in our history and how it influences society today. This one-day conference is made possible through partnerships among the Orange County Department of Education; United States District Court, Central District of California; California Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division III; Superior Court of California, County of Orange; Orange County Public Defender's Office; Orange County Human Relations Commission; local law firms and Constitutional Rights Foundation, Orange County (CRF-OC).

Generous sponsorships from Orange County Bar Association – Charitable Fund, Outwater & Pinckes, LLP, Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP, Federal Bar Association of Orange County and Jones Day provide scholarships for bus and substitute fees for schools facing cutbacks in field trip funds.

"Orange County high school teachers have a unique opportunity to introduce our students to the individuals who have affected the course of history," says Deborah Granger, Coordinator, History/Social Science, Orange County Department of Education. She added, "Everyone benefits from rich community and education partnerships in our community."

### **About CRF-OC**

The Constitutional Rights Foundation, Orange County (CRF-OC) is a non-partisan educational nonprofit. Our mission is to empower youth to become active, responsible members of our community. Established in 1981, CRF-OC provides interactive legal education programs, which empower high school students to develop skills to master state standards for history and social science. Each year, over 10,000 Orange County youth and adults participate in our five education programs: Constitution Day, Mock Trial, Peer Court, Law Day and Orange County Career Forum.

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