

2019 President's Award of Excellence for Outstanding Law-related Education Teacher

Amanda G. Hall is a Law Studies teacher in the Washington Parish School System. Upon being hired at Franklinton High School seven years ago, she requested to offer a Law Studies course that focused on both civil and criminal law and their application to young adults in America. She utilizes a variety of resources including Louisiana Mock Trial Debates, Street Law sample cases and current legal battles taken from today's headlines. She begins each semester by surveying her students' interests and then uses that data to create engaging lessons that are grounded in solid case law.

If you enter Hall's classroom on any given day, you are likely to see her students interacting with each other in lively debate and Socratic seminar style discussions. However, if you watch and listen closely, you will see that their dialogue isn't just hearsay, it is grounded in caselaw that students have researched from the ERIC Clearinghouse, LexisNexis, and FindLaw.com. Hall teaches in a high-poverty, low-socioeconomic status high school. Having students that can research utilizing authentic resources is a major accomplishment. She believes that the law will simply become forgotten if students don't see it as practical and relevant to their lives.

Hall sees to it that her students have more than adequate opportunity to become empowered to be active, engaged citizens by giving them the tools to successfully participate and create change in their communities. Every student leaves Hall's class knowing how the legal and political systems function, how the law affects them, and how they can affect it. The Louisiana State Bar Association and the LCLCE are honored to name Amanda Hall as the 2019 President's Award of Excellence for Outstanding Law-related Education Teacher.



Amanda G. Hall, a teacher at Franklinton High School in Franklinton, is the recipient of the President's Award for Outstanding Law-Related Education Teacher, presented jointly by the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education and the Louisiana State Bar Association. Presenting the award was Robert A. Kutcher, 2018-19 LSBA president-elect. *Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.*