



WORKING WITH YOUTH TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN BALTIMORE CITY SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

Founded in 1998, Community Law In Action (CLIA) creates interactive educational and community-based initiatives to engage young people as advocates and active citizens. Through these real-world initiatives, CLIA fosters youth and adult collaborations leading to sustainable social change, while promoting youth voice and positive youth development. Each year, CLIA youth complete hundreds of hours of community service and advocacy projects to improve their schools and communities while preparing themselves for personal and professional success.

**CLIA'S MISSION IS TO INSPIRE AND ENGAGE YOUNG PEOPLE
TO BE EFFECTIVE PROBLEM SOLVERS, CRITICAL THINKERS AND
ADVOCATES FOR POSITIVE CHANGE.**

PROGRAMS

LAW & LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

CLIA's Law & Leadership Academy is a gateway to student success. By weaving the building blocks of academic achievement—intensive reading, writing and critical thinking—into law and advocacy-themed classes, professional exposure and volunteer opportunities, CLIA helps schools create a small learning environment with a positive culture. CLIA currently operates six Academies in partnership with local high schools.

THE YOUTH CONNECTION: CLIA MENTORING

Through corporate and community-based initiatives, CLIA facilitates relationships between more than 200 motivated teens and positive adult role models. CLIA's corporate mentoring program provides businesses the opportunity to “adopt” a school while mentoring motivated students in a workplace environment. CLIA's new community-based mentoring program connects youth to individual adults who guide them through the difficult transition to high school and beyond.

TEEN LEADERS FOR CHANGE

TLC is a youth-led after-school advocacy group that engages high-school aged youth as advocates for issues of importance to them. TLC youth testified in front of the General Assembly, met with federal, state and local elected officials, completed small-scale projects like raising donations and awareness for youth-serving homeless shelters, and spoke up about youth issues in public forums.

YOUTH JUSTICE INITIATIVES

CLIA's Youth Justice Initiatives engage young men who are involved with the justice system in self-advocacy and life skills workshops. CLIA works with young men in the Baltimore City Detention Center, in Department of Juvenile Services detention facilities and in the community. Dedicated staff provide consistent, strength-based programming and introduce youth to the tools to advocate for themselves in a variety of legal and life situations.

GOVERNMENT INTERNSHIPS

CLIA partners with the Office of the Mayor and the Office of the City Council President to provide high school juniors and seniors competitive internships in the highest offices of city government. These unique programs not only provide valuable professional experience and a unique opportunity to learn about government from inside the systems, but also gives youth a direct opportunity to learn about important issues and advocate for change.

SELECTED RESULTS

- 95% of the youth in CLIA programs receive their high school diploma and over 90% of the students who apply to college are accepted.
- CLIA youth are suspended from school at a rate far below the system average, and are less likely to become involved with the criminal justice system or to recidivate after being detained.
- In 2009, CLIA youth completed a study of flavored tobacco use for the City Health Department, spoke out at community events and on the radio about juvenile issues, led peer-to-peer mentoring for elementary school students, and advocated in support of after-school opportunities to state and local elected officials.

CONTACT US

P 410 706 3875 | F 410 706 0041 | E CLIA@communitylawinaction.org
520 West Fayette Street | Baltimore, MD 21201

