

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF IDAHO
U.S. COURTHOUSE, MSC# 039
550 W. FORT STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83724

CAMERON S. BURKE
Clerk

(208) 334-9208
FAX (208) 334-9362

Suzi Butler, Training Specialist
e-mail: suzi_butler@id.uscourts.gov

CLASS TOUR and GOLDILOCKS & THE THREE BEARS TRIAL

Welcome to the Federal Courts. The class tour is an introduction to the federal courts and offers an insight to how the third branch of our government, the judiciary, operates. In the past fifth and sixth grade classes have received the most benefit from this program. During the tour, students will be able to participate in a mock trial to better understand the judicial process. Other information taught in the class tour is:

- Difference between State and Federal courts; state and federal law.
- Explanation of Bankruptcy Court, Civil and Criminal Court.
- Jury and Grand Jury processes.
- Appeal processes; the hierarchy of the judicial system
- Use of technology by the judiciary, computers, evidence presentation, Internet access, etc.
- How the courts process cases.
- Job descriptions of people working in the court; How judges become judges and how long they serve. U.S. Marshal's, Federal Defenders, U.S. Attorneys, etc.
- Other interesting aspects of the federal courts such as the naturalization of new citizens and swearing-in of new attorneys.

The mock trial portion of the tour is a *modern* rendition of the Goldilocks and the Three Bears fairytale (see attached). A day or two before the tour, a court person can visit the class to give an overview of the field trip, speak about the "players" for the mock trial and "set the stage." The teacher will assign parts to about fifteen students. The remainder of the class will participate as the jury--the most important part of the justice system. Students are allowed to write their own scripts within the guidelines, and the jury is allowed to deliberate the fate of Goldilocks as a real jury would in a real trial. The mock trial takes place in one of our courtrooms prior to the actual court tour. The mock trial may take up to an hour and the tour an additional hour which includes a visit with a judge, all depending upon questions and how involved the students become.

If you are interested in presenting this to your fifth or sixth grade class, please give me a call to schedule the tour.

Suzi Butler, Training Specialist
U.S. Courts, District of Idaho
(208) 334-9208

