

February 23, 2007

Our view: Future citizens

Local schools should jump on chance to bring legal experts into class

Ignorance is not bliss when it comes to understanding the law.

But Chief Justice R. Fred Lewis of the Florida Supreme Court believes too many of the state's young people are ignorant about the legal system.

They -- along with adults -- aren't clued in to the basics of how American government works, such as its three-branch structure, and concepts like the separation of powers.

That's why Lewis will be in Viera next Thursday to train Brevard County lawyers and judges in his "Justice Teaching" curriculum.

The idea is to prepare legal professionals to team up with teachers in Brevard schools so they can boost kids' knowledge.

That, we hope, will inspire more kids to take greater interest in civic matters, from the courts and criminal justice system to voting.

Attorneys or judges who want to participate should register as a volunteer on the Justice Teaching Web site at www.justiceteaching.org, or call Michelle Kennedy at 637-5355 for information.

Brevard's public and private schools should also take full advantage of the program.

Justice system experts can bring a unique message about good citizenship -- including staying out of trouble with the law -- to the classroom.