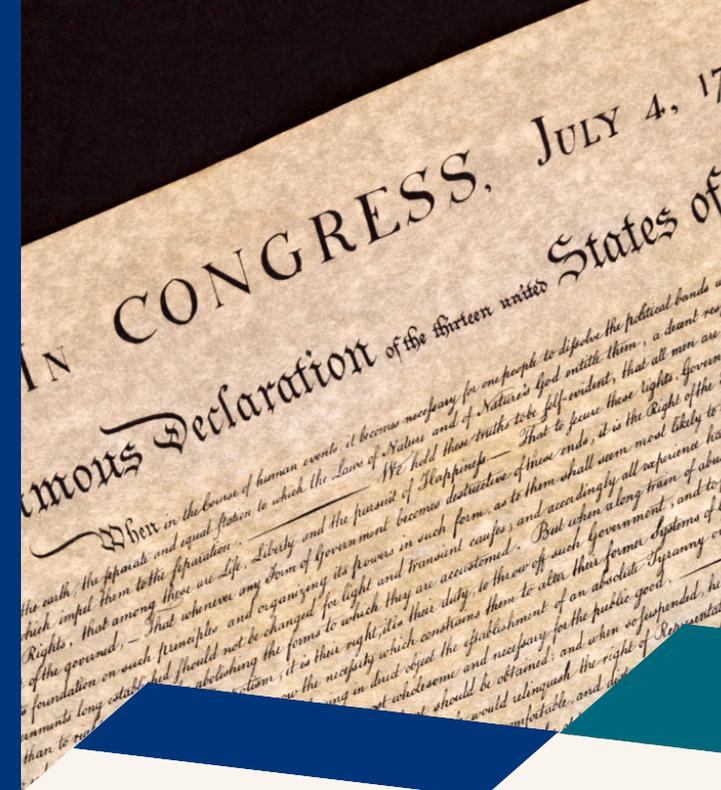


Our Team

Captain: Judge Linda McFadden
Captain: Judge John R. Mayne
Team Leader: Matthew Hawkins
Team Leader: April Meyer
Benjamin Johnson
Mark Doronio
Betty Julian
William Mussman
Ismael Perez
Angela Russell
Donnell Snipes
Delainie Byrum
Roxanne Dominguez-Shell
Blaine Cox
Ramsin Youkana

“A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.”
(Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776.)



**WE DECLARE OUR
INDEPENDENCE! OR DO
WE? HOW THE UNITED
STATES LEGAL SYSTEM
EVOLVED FROM
ENGLISH COMMON LAW**

**MEETING DATE:
JANUARY 22, 2026**



Song Lyrics

“Ditch the British”

Verse 1

There’s a weight upon our shoulders,
Every tax the Crown demands.
We are all getting older
And these should be our lands
But the laws are currently from London
Farther than Sacramento or Turlock
We’d like them to be in Washington
And not just rule ad hoc

Verse 2

We need to ditch the British
But we need to have some laws
If we give up all the common law
Well, doing that would give us pause
The King declares us subjects
And the law is what he says
We object to being objects
But we need more law, not less

Refrain

We’ll build our courts on common law
On the old rules we’ll rely
But we’ll also write our own statutes
To be American as apple pie

Verse 3

The common law is a part of history
And it’s worked for us so far
We cannot survive on a King’s decree
Because that’s not who we are
We’ll build courts in every city
So that justice can be found
And every century we’ll replace them
Before they fall upon the ground

Schedule

5:30 Social Half-Hour

6:00 Dinner is served

6:30: Introduction from Moderator

Cast

Scene 1:

Judge: Blaine Cox

Clerk: Roxanne Dominguez-Shell

Lawyer 1: Donnell Snipes

Lawyer 2: Ben Johnson

Lawyer 3: Ismael Perez

Lord Cornholio: Patrick Hogan

Scene 2:

Judge: Blaine Cox

Clerk: Roxanne Dominguez-Shell

Pierson: Judge Mayne

Post: April Meyer

Lord Cornholio: Patrick Hogan

Fox: Judge McFadden

Scene 3:

Judge: Blaine Cox

Clerk: Roxanne Dominguez-Shell

U.S. Attorney: Delainie Byrum

Stevenson: Mark Doronio

Hudson: Bill Mussman

Lord Cornholio: Patrick Hogan

Song Presentation: Entire Team!

Supplemental Materials

- The Colonial Times Newspaper
- Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776)
- Pierson v. Post (1805 N.Y.) 3 Cai. R. 175.
- United States v. Hudson and Goodwin (1812) 11 U.S. (7 Cranch) 32.
- William B. Stoebuck, Reception of English Common Law in the American Colonies, 10 Wm. & Mary L. Rev. 393 (1968).
- California Civil Code Section 22.
- N.Y. Const. art. XXXV (1777).

