



Brandeis BRIEF

LOUIS D. BRANDEIS HIGH SCHOOL

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WHAT IS LIBEL AND THE RIGHT OF PRIVACY ?

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Three lawyers from the New York Law Association, Mr. Ed Davis, Mr. Nick Jollymore, and Mr. Larry Savell spoke to Ms. Epple's Journalism class

The lawyers talked about libel and the rights of privacy. Libel means false statements about a person, which cause injury to a reputation. Privacy rights means that you are protected if you don't give your consent to be published. Publications take steps to check out stories and be sure of sources, or they may be sued for libel and invasion of privacy. Each of the lawyers used specific references to illustrate their

point. They also used newspaper articles from the BRIEF and other newspapers to show examples of possible libel or invasions of privacy. The lawyers asked us to participate in role playing as editors, reporters and the public to illustrate the ideas.

We also talked about the defenses sometimes used to print their articles or take pictures. If, for example, a publication takes a picture of someone, but that person doesn't want his/her picture published, the defense the publication can use is it is trying to illustrate a point or idea. The court may find that the public has a right to know. Journalists must be careful in reporting and publishers must be careful of what they publish.



L. to R. Mr. Ed Davis, Mr. Nick Jollymore and Mr. Larry Savell (New York Law Association) discussed libel with Ms. Epple's Journalism Class.