



# Teen Legal **z** **i** **n** **e**

Issue. 01 | Spring 2026

# *Fast Fashion And The Environment*



# Zines



Zines are casual magazines that prioritize self-expression, outreach, and giving a voice to marginalized groups and issues.

The Riverside County Law Library is excited to present our first zine featuring projects created by some amazing Riverside County High School students and our wonderful RCLL staff. We hope this zine brings you some unique insights into the Issue of Fast Fashion.





*Student  
Lines*

A collage of images. At the top, a mountain landscape with a person. Below it, a large pile of trash. In the middle, a crowd of people. At the bottom, a cartoon policeman. The text 'Arresting Fashionista' is overlaid on the collage.

# Arresting

## Fashionista

By: Marissa Gutierrez  
Grade: 12



This is Tim  
He is a certified  
Fashion police!



This is Ron  
He is a  
Overconsumer!





Tim says that Fast Fashion is "the rapid production of cheaply priced clothing to profit from current fashion trends. It is a business model that encourages consumption and mass production of clothing, which in turn leads to huge amounts of textile waste," He says that this leads to companies being accountable for their mass production of clothing and their textile waste.



Ron yells, "What will you do about my Fast fashion ways!"

Tim yells back, "We are doing things!  
We are doing The FABRIC Act (US): Aims to hold manufacturers accountable for labor standards and abolish piece-rate pay  
And we are shifting toward circular, sustainable materials, and the rise of resale markets.



(In my opinion, were doing a lot to  
Stop fast fashion from ending up in ditches.)



Ron screams on top of his Lungs "I DONT CARE!"

Tim starts spitting facts about fast fashion To scare Ron.

"Fast fashion is responsible for over 10% of global carbon emission"

"It takes about 7,500 to 10,000 liters of water to produce one pair of jeans—equivalent to 10 years of drinking water for one person."

"The more you buy, the more people die!!"



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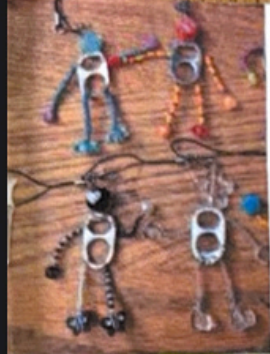
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Ron stops running and says  
You know now that im educated,  
I think I will stop my Fast Fashion  
Crimes.

Tim smiles and says lets read  
So that we will both know how  
To prevent fast fashion consequence



I am the Fashion Club President of my school. This issue is significant to me. Personally, I hate fast fashion! I feel that buying things that are trending right now and not later is really dumb. Especially since these unwanted clothes go to Landfills are just for throwing away.



So I've been changing things around my school. I've been teaching my club members to create instead of throwing away. Another thing I plan to do is to establish a school-wide thrift store. Everyone in the school donates clothes, and people come and get what they will wear/need. And any extra left over will be donated to a country in need.



I have done this before and donated it to Venezuela. I know it's small, but small changes can make big changes.



- Jean bags
- Soda pop pins
- Soda tab key chains
- Tank top tote bags





Tim, the Fashion Police, has been trying to explain to Ron why he needs to be arrested for his fast fashion and overconsumption crimes, but Ron keeps running away!

LOOKING  
GOOD,

LOOKING  
AWAY

**BY: JOHANNA MARX**

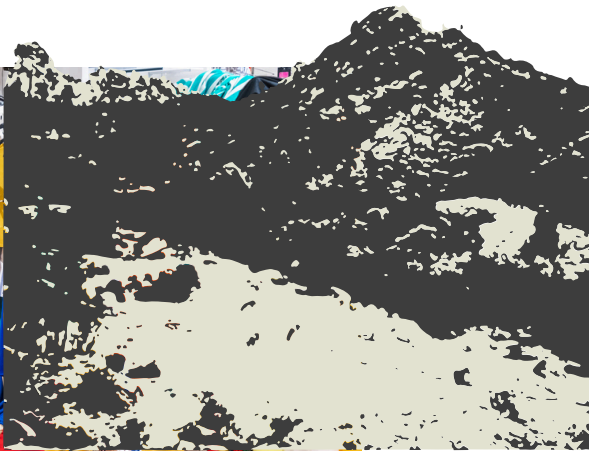
**GRADE: 12**





I have had sudden, inspired bursts of environmentalism throughout my life. They often led to short-term changes—riding my bicycle to school for a week, unplugging chargers while not in use, and even, much to the disgust of my family, a brief stint with the philosophy of “If it’s yellow, let it mellow”. Yet comfort in life always seemed to dull the urgency of these wake-up calls until they faded away like faraway dreams—and along with it, my mini environment-saving habits. Now, a bit more jaded than before, I wonder: with all the environmental waste fast fashion causes, is there really anything I can do to help our planet?

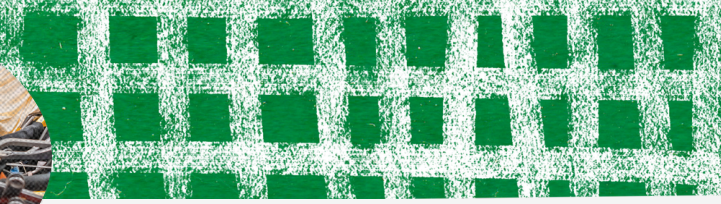
My first wake-up call to the horrible consequences of fast fashion came about two years ago, when I watched the documentary “Brandy Hellville & the Cult of Fast Fashion”. The week afterwards, I went to the mall. Each fast fashion store with faceless mannequins wearing trendy clothes saddened me. Now they all carried a hidden meaning—the horrible consequences of these clothes.



The fashion industry is one of the most polluting industries in the world (Brodde and Rynita). Fast fashion contributes to filling landfills and beaches while releasing greenhouse gases. Before we get into the heavy stuff, imagine this hypothetical situation: You're the older sibling (just like me), and you get some awesome, trendy toys. You play with them ad nauseam until you're too bored with them and (oops) you accidentally break a few. The trash bin in your room is too small for them, though. Luckily, next door is your younger sibling. You dump the toys in their room, and now it's magically not your problem anymore. When your sibling complains about the little horsey's broken leg and the racecar's faded colors, you snap, "Don't be ungrateful!"

While it might seem funny on a small scale of sibling squabbles, this is unfortunately happening on a large scale with terrible consequences. Global North countries overproduce and overconsume fast fashion, without being able to properly dispose of the clothes. This leads to them "[dumping] their fashion waste in the Global South—among them in Africa—under the guise of charitable donations" (Nkatha). In countries such as Ghana, there are markets overwhelmed with tons of secondhand clothes (many of which that are already broken) shipped in from countries like the United States. These clothes even have nicknames; they are called *Obroni Wawu* in Ghana, translating to "dead white man's clothes". These go to markets, which become so overwhelmed that *tons* (as in *thousands of pounds*) of clothes eventually end up polluting beaches and waterways. As they decompose, the clothes release greenhouse gases, which are the leading cause in climate change.





The federal U.S. government does not have comprehensive laws concerning the mass amount of waste fast fashion is creating. However, certain states have started passing bills to address the issue. The first state to do so was California, in September 2024, with their Responsible Textile Recovery Act. That bill includes Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs, which hold “producers financially responsible over the entire life cycle of textiles and apparel” (Romano). In case your eyes glazed over and I lost you there, here’s a breakdown: imagine a little kid starting a lemonade stand. He makes the lemonade, sells it for a profit, and then leaves without cleaning up the plastic cups or washing the dishes from the lemonade-making; he leaves that for his neighbors and family to do. This is basically what fast fashion companies have been doing: they produce a bunch of clothes cheaply to make a large profit. Then they can prance away from all the problems afterwards—the waste, pollution, landfills in other countries—that everybody else has to deal with. This California law forces them to use some of their profits to help reduce waste, such as investing in recycling programs.

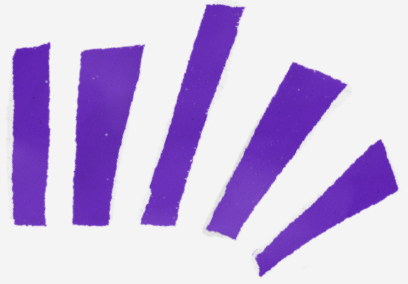


Unfortunately, there are not laws on a nationwide scale as comprehensive as ever-pioneering California. To combat this, there are methods that teens can individually do in order to reduce the amount of secondhand clothing sent to less developed countries.

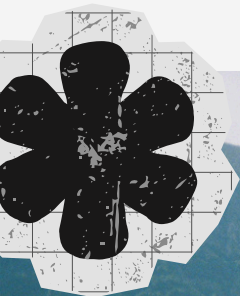
First, consider quality over quantity. Instead of jumping on the bandwagon for the latest TikTok fast fashion trend, pause. Ask yourself: “Would a future version of myself be proud wearing this?” If there’s any hesitation—if something doesn’t fit quite right, if it’s a trend that might die out soon, if the material feels flimsy as if it’ll break after only a few wears—do not buy it. Otherwise you would end up throwing it out and contributing to clothing waste.

Other steps we can take are recycling our clothes in various ways. Try going to a vintage store to buy second-hand clothing. When you’re done with a piece of clothing, donate or recycle it.





In today's modern world of fast fashion, looking good is easy. Looking away from the costs of that is easier. But we need to keep in mind that the fast fashion system depends on our ignorance—especially teens, since we are used to buying stuff cheaply online. In the past, I often gave up on my little eco-friendly habits because I thought individual choices will not fix everything. Now I've realized something else; the laws have not caught up to keep fast fashion companies responsible for the destruction of our Earth. So while the individual choices of teens like us won't fix everything, they are the first step to forcing change.





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# Riverside County Law Library



# Staff Feature



# What *IS* “Fast Fashion”?

By: Yanis Azzou

LIBRARY ASSISTANT

The rise of fast fashion corresponds to the decline of “working with one’s hands” in American life. One generation experienced a choice between mending a shirt and buying a new one. Industry existed back then. Clothes could have been cheaper. They could have already been cheap. But supply meets demand, and a rugged sensibility meant that consumers were inclined to fix what they knew over trusting something new.

The new generation experienced searching through grandma’s things and finding a tin of cookies. Expecting a sweet treat, one confronts all manner of needle, thread, scissor, and tape measure. Individually we may be familiar with the objects, but our mind struggles to take them together as a whole. Perhaps grandma was an expert in some obscure, yet precise art of torture, and this reality was to be hidden in plain sight...



Fashion has always been a topic of historical debate: is a new phenomenon just a fashionable variation on what is old that therefore comes and goes; or is it a genuine break from the past, something that lasts, that becomes essential? With clothes, the way we understand fashion, in general, depends on history. For example, English contains the expression “old-fashioned.” We know the word “fashion” in this phrase refers to a whole cultural sensibility (i.e. that of the boomers), which includes clothing, but also behavior, temperament, music taste, and so on. Yet we also know of something called a “fashion industry,” which refers specifically to the world of clothing designers and runways and magazines. The first sense of the word is older with an obscure origin, while the second is connected to the rise of industrial production, which can be dated reliably to the middle of the 19th century.



What is “fast fashion” then? Is it the latest trend in that already old fashion industry? Or is it something that makes the fashion industry irrelevant? Is it an existential threat to humanity through its toll on the environment? Is it an existential threat to copyright law and international trade law? Is it a downright human rights catastrophe? Or does it pave the way for individual human creativity? In a word, is it slavery or is it freedom?

I anticipate that our spontaneous consciousness of fast fashion to be dismissive. But beware of anti-fast fashion-ism. The crusade for information against the fast fashion industry is a hidden apology for it. It's all too easy to treat it as something that must exist with vile effects world governments must work to mitigate. But critical thought on the matter begins when we remember that Fast Fashion was not needed until we wanted it by, for instance, giving up on mending our own clothes.





# Law Library News





# RCLL Blog Post

## RCLL at SCALL: Learning About Tribal and Federal Indian Law

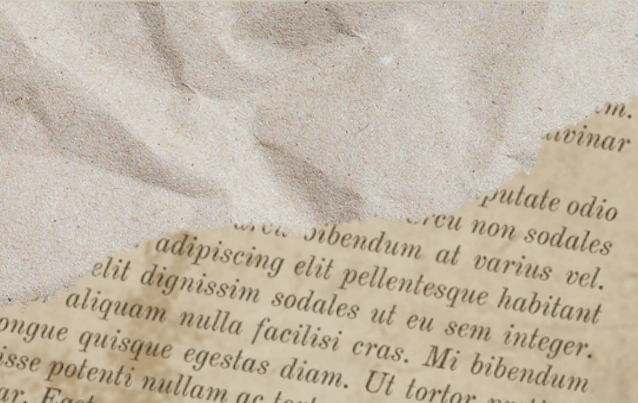
<https://rclawlibrary.org/news/rcll-scall-learning-about-tribal-and-federal-indian-law>



March 6, 2026

By Laura Whyte, Lead Library Assistant, and Sherri Gagliardi, Library Assistant

The Southern Association of Law Libraries held a conference in Palm Springs to discuss the practice of Native American Law. Read about the amazing insights our RCLL staff brought back and learn about the Native law resources available at RCLL.





# ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

**Fast Fashion**

Labor Laws

WORKERS RIGHTS

*Infectious Chemicals*

## **The Threat to ManKind**

# COMING SOON

## TO AN RCLL NEAR YOU

By:

Andrea Larios-Lopez

Library Assistant

# LAW DAY 2026



“THE RULE OF LAW & THE AMERICAN  
DREAM”



## High School art Contest

Art Contest submissions accepted from  
**March 16 through April 17**

1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner - \$500 cash prize

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner - \$300 cash prize

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winner - \$200 cash prize

Please submit traditional  
visual art (drawing &  
painting) or photography

\*\*Art containing Artificial  
Intelligence will not be  
accepted\*\*

**Art Exhibition and Law  
Day Celebration  
April 30th 6:00-7:30pm**

**Contestant Application and  
more details at  
[rclawlibrary.org/artcontest](https://rclawlibrary.org/artcontest)**



RIVERSIDE COUNTY LAW LIBRARY



# TEEN LEGAL



CALLING ALL RIVERSIDE  
COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENTS (GRADES 9-12)



## Issue 2:

NATIONAL LAW DAY:  
"THE RULE OF LAW  
AND THE AMERICAN  
DREAM"



**WHAT IS  
YOUR  
AMERICAN  
DREAM?**

**Accepting**  
Scholarly Essays  
Personal Essays  
Collages  
Illustrations  
Mini Comics  
and More!!!

Open Submissions:  
March 16 - May 12 2026

<https://rclawlibrary.org/rcll-teen-legal-zine>



# Your teen legal zine

Stay Tuned for  
our next Issue:



**WHAT IS  
YOUR  
AMERICAN  
DREAM?**