



NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA • COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
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25 San Diego County High Schools Set to Compete In the Courtroom

*Ninth Annual High School Mock Trial Competition
Spotlights a Felony Theft Case*

Approximately 450 high school students from throughout San Diego County will face off this week at the downtown County Courthouse in the 2015 San Diego County High School Mock Trial Competition. Students from 25 different high schools will argue a hypothetical case before real state and federal judges. The four-day competition began on February 19th with the final two competitions on being held on February 26th and February 28th. The local Mock Trial winner will go on to represent San Diego County in the Statewide Mock Trial competition.

The Mock Trial program places high school students in a simulated courtroom setting, where they assume the roles of lawyers and witnesses in a hypothetical case. This year's trial is *People v. Shem*, a felony theft case featuring a pretrial argument on the Fourth Amendment.

The San Diego County High School Mock Trial competition has grown steadily over the past nine years and has become so popular, organizers had to reach out for more judges to preside over the proceedings, "The unbridled success of this program is due to the extensive volunteer efforts of the San Diego County legal community and the hundreds of high school students who passionately participate in the mock trial program each year. This program not only provides a positive influence in these student's lives, but the program provides a positive impact within our entire community" said Mock Trial Planning Committee member and United States Magistrate Judge David H. Bartick.

(MORE)

While judicial officers oversee the bench trials, area lawyers volunteer to serve as team coaches and scorers for the competition, which is organized by the Superior Court of California, the San Diego County Bar Association (SDCBA), together with the Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF)

Schools participating are:

- Academy of Our Lady of Peace
- Bonita Vista High School
- Carlsbad High School
- Cathedral Catholic High School
- Christian High School
- Coronado High School
- Del Norte High School
- Escondido Charter High School
- Francis Parker School
- Grossmont High School
- King Chavez High School
- La Jolla Country Day School
- La Jolla High School
- Lincoln High School
- Major General Raymond Murray High School
- Otay Ranch High School
- San Diego High School International Studies

(MORE)

- Scripps Ranch High School
- St. Augustine High School
- Steele Canyon High School
- The Bishop's School
- Torrey Pines High School
- University City High School
- Vista High School
- Westview High School

The mock trials, which are not open to the public, are designed to promote a greater understanding of and appreciation for the law, court procedures and for the American judicial system. It also offers students a real-life opportunity to challenge and improve basic life skills such as critical thinking, reading, public speaking and advocacy for ideas. For background information on the program visit the website at sdmocktrial.org.

2015 SAN DIEGO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL
COMPETITION SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Round 1- Mock Trials	County Courthouse
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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2015

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Round 2 - Mock Trials	County Courthouse
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Round 3- Mock Trials	County Courthouse
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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2015

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Round 4 - Mock Trials	County Courthouse
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.	Individual Awards Ceremony	Hall of Justice, Jury Lounge
2:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Championship Round	Presiding Dept., 3 rd Floor
4:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Awards Presentation	Presiding Dept., 3 rd Floor
