



NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA • COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Post Office Box 120128 • San Diego, CA 92112-0128

Release: Immediately

Date: 02/24/16

Record Number of County High Schools Celebrate 10 Years of Mock Trial Competition *565 Students Compete in Annual Event*

It is not your traditional high school sport: mock trials involve paper pads instead of shoulder pads, thinking caps instead of helmets and judges instead of referees but the competition demands the same time commitment and preparation as other sports. Students learn to keep their eyes on the facts and must have the mental agility to maneuver and move where the evidence and witnesses take them. It is not an easy task but 27 San Diego County High Schools and their students have undertaken the challenge.

The schools will face off at the downtown County Courthouse in the 2016 San Diego County High School Mock Trial Competition. The four-day competition will take place on February 18th, 23rd, 25th and 27th. 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 front of real state and federal judges 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 Hayes*, a murder trial featuring a pretrial argument involving Fifth Amendment issues.

(MORE)

Superior Court Judge Yvonne E. Campos, one of the chairs of the event says. “The only way to get hundreds of attorneys and dozens of state and federal judges to spend evenings and a Saturday at the County Courthouse, in addition to their regular workload, is to bring in hundreds of intelligent, hardworking future jurors who are currently passionate high school students devoting hundreds of hours to learn civics and criminal legal procedure.

We are fortunate to celebrate our 10th Anniversary of this program, which has grown into an annual highlight for the local bench and bar. These students inspire us all to be better citizens and legal professionals. Hopefully they better appreciate the beauty of the United States Constitution as played out in realistic mock trials.”

Organizing the competition is a group effort: Judicial officers oversee the bench trials, area lawyers volunteer to serve as team coaches and scorers for the competition. The event is organized by San Diego Superior, San Diego County Bar Association (SDCBA), together with the Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF).

The mock trials are not open to the public. For background information on the program, visit the website at sdmocktrial.org.

###

2015 SAN DIEGO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL
COMPETITION SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. | Round 1- Mock Trials | County Courthouse |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. | Round 2 - Mock Trials | County Courthouse |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. | Round 3- Mock Trials | County Courthouse |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2016

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 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 |

10th Annual
San Diego County High School Mock Trial Competition
Participating Schools
February 18, 23, 25 and 27, 2016

Academy of Our Lady of Peace
Bonita Vista High School
Carlsbad High School
Cathedral Catholic High School
Christian High School – Team 1
Christian High School – Team 2
Coronado High School
Crawford High School
Dehesa Charter School
Del Norte High School – Team 1
Del Norte High School – Team 2
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
Patrick Henry High School
San Diego High School International Studies
Scripps Ranch High School
Saint Augustine High School
Steele Canyon High School
The Bishop's School
Torrey Pines High Schools
Vista High School
Westview High School
