



NEWS RELEASE

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

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Fifth Annual Mock Trial Competition Kicks Off

Event sponsored by the San Diego County Bar Association (SDCBA), San Diego Superior Court, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, California Western School of Law, and the San Diego County District Attorney's Office, together with the Constitutional Rights Foundation and the San Diego County Office of Education

Giving high school students hands-on experience in due process, the fifth annual San Diego Mock Trial competition kicks off at the San Diego Superior Court (220 West Broadway) on Tuesday, February 1, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. The competition unplugs kids from computers and pushes them out of classrooms and into a real world of critical thinking and public speaking.

Two hundred and fifty (250) students from 13 high schools will assume the roles of attorneys, witnesses, and other court personnel and will compete in a fictitious trial tied to current events. This year the trial is *People v. Woodson*: a case spotlighting cyber-bullying and assault with a deadly weapon.

The goal of the mock trial is to educate students about the basis of our American judicial system and the mechanics of litigation. Through participation in the mock trial program, students increase basic skills such as listening, analytical thinking, speaking, writing, reading and problem analysis. The students analyze complex information, apply logic and deductive reasoning, and use other critical thinking skills in the trial scenario.

(MORE)

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Each team is led by a teacher and a volunteer attorney, and is comprised of 10 to 15 students. Real judges and attorneys oversee and score the trial presentations.

The winning team in the San Diego competition will compete on the state level in Riverside, March 25-27, 2011 with the state winner moving on to the national competition in Phoenix, Arizona, May 5-8, 2011. The objective of participating in the trial is not to win for the sake of winning, but to learn and understand the meaning of good citizenship in a democracy through participation in our system of law and justice.

For more information on the schools participating and the time and location of the competitions, please see the attached Media Alert from the San Diego County Bar Association.

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****MEDIA ALERT****

San Diego County High School Mock Trial Competition

WHAT: The San Diego County Bar Association (SDCBA), San Diego Superior Court, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, California Western School of Law, and the San Diego County District Attorney's Office, together with the Constitutional Rights Foundation and the San Diego County Office of Education will present the 2011 San Diego County High School Mock Trial Competition.

WHEN: First Round: Tuesday, February 1, 2011 @ 5:30 p.m.
Second Round: Thursday, February 3, 2011 @ 5:30 p.m.
Final Round: Saturday, February 5, 2011 @ 9:00 a.m.
Championship Round: Saturday, February 5, 2011 @ 1:00 p.m.

WHO:

The competition 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 case is a criminal case involving cyber bullying and assault with a deadly weapon. Students from The Bishop's School, Christian High School, Dehesa Charter School, La Jolla Country Day School, La Jolla High School, Mt. Carmel High School, Otay Ranch High School, Point Loma High School, San Diego School of Creative & Performing Arts, Scripps Ranch High School, Steele Canyon Charter School, Torrey Pines High School, and University City High School will compete in the three-day competition, with the winner moving on to represent San Diego County at the California Mock Trial Finals in March. As part of the program, area lawyers volunteer to serve as coaches and scorers for the competition and Superior Court Judges and Commissioners preside over the mock trials.

The competition is not open to the public. Due to the limited capacity of the courtrooms, seats are reserved for contestants, coaches, teachers, and the students' family and friends.

WHERE: San Diego County Downtown Courthouse
220 W. Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101

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Media interested in covering the Competition should contact Alison Phillips at 619-321-4135 or aphillips@sdcb.org no later than 10:00 a.m. Monday, January 1st, as security clearance must be arranged.

For inquiries and access to the Courthouse on competition days, contact Julie Myres, San Diego Superior Court, at 619-957-8113.