

February 19, 2010

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fresno County Mock Trial

On February 18, 2010, Clovis North High School defeated Clovis High School to win the 2010 Fresno County Mock Trial championship in the Ceremonial Room of the Federal Courthouse. The Honorable M. Bruce Smith, Superior Court of California, County of Fresno, presided over the extremely close match. Throughout four rounds of competition, in a First Degree murder case featuring a pretrial argument involving the Fourth Amendment's freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures, 18 Fresno County Mock Trial teams attempted to determine if comedian Jordan Bratton murdered entertainment critic Preston Palmer. Palmer had posted negative reviews of Bratton on the internet.

Clovis North will now go on to State Mock Trial Finals to be held at the Santa Clara Downtown Superior Court on March 19-21, 2010.

Designed to demystify the workings of our legal institutions for young people, Mock Trial uses performance-based education to help student's master state content standards and increase their legal knowledge. Teams consist of 8-20 students who participate as attorneys, witnesses, court clerks, and bailiffs, and present their cases in the Fresno County courthouse before sitting judges and scoring attorneys.

Thursday, February 25, beginning at 5:45 pm, Fresno County Mock Trial teams will be honored at a banquet at Fresno Convention Center, Exhibit Hall. All participating schools will receive recognition, including Achievement awards and Outstanding Team Member awards, with the winning team and the runner-up team receiving special recognition.

Mock Trial, sponsored by the Fresno County Office of Education, is made possible by teacher/coaches and over 100 attorneys and judges who volunteer to serve as judges, scoring attorneys

and volunteer attorney/coaches. Many area law firms and civic groups also contribute to help defray the costs of the program and to support the winning team who will advance to the California State Mock Trial Competition.

For additional information, please contact Sue Baloian, Fresno County Office of Education, History Consultant, at (559) 265-3098, Dr. Lisa Benham, FCOE Language Arts/History Coordinator at (559) 265-3073 or, Jim Lloyd, Fresno Unified School District (559) 457-3000.

2010 MOCK TRIALS PARTICIPATING HIGH SCHOOLS

Buchanan High School	Clovis High School	Hoover High School
Bullard High School	Clovis North High School	Horizon High--Riverdale
Caruthers High School	Clovis West High School	McLane High School
Central High School (2 teams)	Coalinga High School (2 teams)	Parlier High School
Clovis East High School	Edison High School (2 teams)	University High School

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