



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
19th Judicial Circuit
Lake County
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4359

Date of Release: 2/27/09
Point of Contact: James K. Booras
Diane Flory
Telephone: 847.377.4500
847.377.3818

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION AT THE COURTHOUSE

High school students from Cook, DuPage, Kane and Lake Counties are putting their final touches on their anticipated mock trial performances to compete against one another in a mock trial tournament to take place at the Lake County Courthouse in Waukegan on Saturday, March 7, 2009. The annual event is sponsored by the Lake County Law Related Education Initiative (LRE) in partnership with the Circuit Court of Lake County and the support of the Lake County Bar Association and the Juvenile Officers Association.

"This is a great opportunity for these young students to practice their skills before the state tournament that takes place in Springfield the latter part of March," said Chief Judge James Booras. The mock trial invitational is led by Circuit Judge Victoria Rossetti, Assistant State's Attorney Christen Bishop and teacher Stacey Gorman of Mundelein High School.

The schools participating this year include Carmel; Chicago Christian; Evanston; Highland Park; Lake Forest; Libertyville; Maine East; Maine West; Morgan Park Academy; Mundelein; St. Charles East; St. Charles North; South Elgin; Wheaton Academy; York; and Zion-Benton.

Pairings of the schools and courtroom assignments will be announced by Judge Rossetti on the morning of March 7th at 8:20 a.m. The students will re-enact the trial of "People v. William "Duff" Armstrong, based on what has been called the "Almanac Trial." Abraham Lincoln, attorney for defendant Armstrong, used an almanac to discredit the state's witness, and so it has been called the "Almanac Trial." The trial involved a criminal case wherein the defendant was charged with the murder of James Preston Metzker with a slingshot. (The victim died three days later.)

The students' performances will be evaluated by volunteer assistant state's attorneys, assistant public defenders, and private practitioners of Lake County.

Presentations of awards for best school teams and individual performances will take place in the jury assembly room at approximately 12:30 p.m.

The public and press are invited.

###

<http://19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us>

1
9
th
J
U
D
I
C
I
A
L
C
I
R
C
U
I
T