



News Release

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

Date of Release: 2/25/2017

Point of Contact: Jorge Ortiz

Diane Flory

Telephone: 847.377.4500

847.377.3818

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

ANNUAL MOCK TRIAL INVITATIONAL AT THE COURTHOUSE

Early Saturday morning the hallways and courtrooms of the Lake County Courthouse came alive as the 13th Annual Mock Trial Invitational took place. The morning began with a welcoming and greeting by Chief Judge Jorge Ortiz, followed by a briefing of activities for the day delivered by Circuit Judges Victoria Rossetti and Christen Bishop. The sixteen high school teams competing against one another to attain first place in the competition included students from Bartlett, Carmel Catholic, Chicago Christian, College Prep of America, Evanston, Highland Park, Libertyville, Main South, Maine West, Mundelein, Niles West, Normal Community, St. Charles East, St. Charles North, Timothy Christian, and York.

By 9:00 a.m. the students were making their way to assigned courtrooms to begin their first trial session. The mock trial, selected by the Illinois State Bar Association, is entitled, "*People of the State of Illinois vs. Taylor Cartwright.*" The case is set at Lakeview University and involves a co-ed university-sponsored honor society. During a Pledge Olympics event called "Water Jeopardy," one of the pledges (the victim) consumes a large amount of water, collapses and passes out. 911 is called and the victim is taken to the hospital where he/she dies two hours later. The autopsy reveals the victim died from a swollen brain stem caused by the large consumption of water. The defendant is the pledge master of the society and is charged with involuntary manslaughter and hazing.

-more-

The teams tried the case twice (at 9:00 a.m. and again at 10:45 a.m.) – first, as the prosecution and then as defense. Students play out the roles of attorneys and witnesses who compete for outstanding performances. Lake County judges Luis Berrones, Charles Johnson, Christopher Lombardo, Veronica O’Malley, Elizabeth Rochford, Joseph Salvi, James Simonian, and Christopher Stride presided over the trials while assistant state’s attorneys, assistant public defenders, and practicing trial attorneys volunteered to evaluate and score the students on their ability, presentation, and effectiveness. (The Lake County Mock Trial Invitational is governed by the same rules and procedures that apply to the Illinois State Bar Association mock trial competition.)

The ever popular annual event which began in 2004 by Judge Rossetti and Judge Bishop is sponsored by the Law-Related Education Initiative, the Lake County Bar Association and Bar Foundation, and the Lake County Juvenile Officers Association.

After a lunch break, an awards ceremony was held in the courthouse atrium. The top-scoring individuals, for their performances as attorneys and witnesses, were named and all winners were presented with trophies. Next, on behalf of the Lake County Bar Foundation, members Mark Peavey and Joann Fratianni made an announcement that they would be awarding the first, second and third place winners with a check to help defray some of the expenses associated with the schools mock trial programs.

And, finally, the moment everyone was waiting for, the announcement of the winning school teams. They were: Third Place, Timothy Christian; Second Place, Chicago Christian, and First Place, Bartlett. Checks were presented in the amounts of \$100.00, \$250.00 and \$500.00 respectively.

In closing, Judge Rossetti and Judge Bishop thanked everyone for their participation and wished the teams good luck as they now prepare for the state competition in March.

###

www.19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us

Follow us on Twitter@19thCircuitIL

LAKE COUNTY MOCK TRIAL INVITATIONAL WINNERS

1ST ANNUAL – FEBRUARY 21, 2004

- 1st Place – York H.S., Team #1
- 2nd Place – York H.S., Team #2
- 3rd Place Tie – St. Charles East & Mundelein

2ND ANNUAL – FEBRUARY 19, 2005

- 1st Place – St. Charles East
- 2nd Place – Glenbard South
- 3rd Place – Noble Charter

3RD ANNUAL – FEBRUARY 18, 2006

- 1st Place – Glenbard South
- 2nd Place – Mundelein
- 3rd Place – Wheaton Academy

4TH ANNUAL – FEBRUARY 17, 2007

- 1st Place – Evanston
- 2nd Place – Glenbard South
- 3rd Place – Mundelein

5TH ANNUAL – FEBRUARY 2, 2008

- 1st Place – Evanston
- 2nd Place – Wheaton Academy
- 3rd Place – Highland Park

6TH ANNUAL – MARCH 7, 2009

- 1st Place – Wheaton Academy
- 2nd Place – Evanston
- 3rd Place – Highland Park

7TH ANNUAL – JANUARY 29, 2011

- 1st Place – St. Charles East
- 2nd Place – Mundelein
- 3rd Place – Morgan Park

8TH ANNUAL – FEBRUARY 25, 2012

- 1st Place – Highland Park
- 2nd Place – Libertyville
- 3rd Place – Chicago Christian

9TH ANNUAL – FEBRUARY 2, 2013

- 1st Place – Boylan Catholic
- 2nd Place – Highland Park
- 3rd Place – Morgan Park Academy

10TH ANNUAL – FEBRUARY 8, 2014

1st Place – Evanston

2nd Place – Highland Park

3rd Place – Libertyville

11TH ANNUAL – FEBRUARY 21, 2015

1st Place – Evanston

2nd Place – Libertyville

3rd Place – Highland Park

12TH ANNUAL – FEBRUARY 20, 2016

1st Place – St. Charles North “B” Team

2nd Place – Highland Park

3rd Place – Timothy Christian

13TH ANNUAL – FEBRUARY 25, 2017

1st Place – Bartlett

2nd Place – Chicago Christian

3rd Place – Timothy Christian