



News Release

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

14th ANNUAL LAKE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL INVITATIONAL

The 14th Annual Lake County High School Mock Trial Invitational will be held at the Lake County Courthouse on Saturday, February 24, 2018. High school students from Lake and neighboring counties have been practicing their role assignments since early last year in anticipation of participating in this popular event, which is often referred to as a dress rehearsal for the State's Mock Trial Competition which will be held in March. The eighteen teams contending for first place in Lake County's invitational this year include: Bartlett High School, Carmel Catholic High School, Chicago Christian High School, College Preparatory School of America, Evanston Township High School, Highland Park High School, Lakes Community High School, Libertyville High School, Maine South High School, Maine West High School, Mundelein High School, Niles West High School, Normal Community High School, St. Charles East High School, St. Charles North High School, Timothy Christian School, Whitney M. Young Magnet High School, and York Community High School.

The program, spearheaded by Judge Christen L. Bishop and Judge Victoria A. Rossetti, is a collaborative effort with the Lake County Law Related Education Initiative, the Lake County Juvenile Officers Association, and the Lake County Bar Foundation.

The mock trial, selected by the Illinois State Bar Association, is entitled, "Addison Grant vs. Sam Smith." The case involves a Civil lawsuit filed by the Plaintiff, Addison Grant, alleging that Defendant Police Officer Sam Smith used excessive force on July 20, 2017.

Teams try 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. The students as well as their teams are evaluated and scored by volunteers that consist of Assistant State's Attorneys, Assistant Public Defenders, and practicing trial attorneys who appear in Lake County Courts. Several sitting Lake County Judges preside over the cases as presented by the different teams.

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After the scores are tallied, an awards ceremony is held, and announcements are made naming individual students for their great performances along with the names of the first, second, and third place winning teams.

The State competition, hosted by the University of Illinois College of Law, in Champaign-Urbana, will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 24-25, 2018.

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