



News Release

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

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Point of Contact: Fred Foreman
Diane Flory

Telephone: 847.377.4500
847.377.3818

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

2013 High School Mock Trial Invitational

Snowy, slick roads did not deter high school students from gathering at the Lake County Courthouse on Saturday morning, February 2nd, to compete in the 9th Annual Lake County High School Mock Trial Invitational. The competing teams this year included Boylan Catholic, Carmel Catholic, Deerfield, Highland Park, Libertyville, and Morgan Park Academy. The goal of the competition for the school teams is to be judged as the best and receive the first place award.

The students prepare for this event months ahead to take on roles as attorneys, victims, and witnesses in a presentation of a mock court case. Each team will try the case twice – once as the prosecution and as defense in the other. In preparation for the competition they may be coached by sitting judges, attorneys in private practice, assistant state's attorneys, assistant public defenders and teachers.

This year's mock trial is a criminal case involving a burglary/theft of historical photos. It is a jury trial and the students will be addressing the evaluators as the jury. At the end of the trial, the evaluators, who are composed of attorneys, will judge the students on their ability, presentation, and effectiveness. The sitting Lake County judges who presided over the trials were Judge Thomas M. Schippers, Judge Michael B. Betar, and Judge James K. Simonian.

Circuit Judge Victoria Rossetti, Associate Judge Christen L. Bishop, and Kathy Bell, a Mundelein teacher now retired, founded the popular annual school activity that began in 2004. Stacy Gorman, also a teacher from Mundelein, joined the team of judges when Kathy retired. Sponsors of the event are the Lake County Law Related Education Initiative, the Lake County Bar Association, and the Lake County Juvenile Officers Association.

After lunch, it was time to listen to Judge Bishop who announced the names of the top student performers who acted out the roles of defense and prosecuting attorneys and witnesses. Next came a special announcement made by Mark Peavey on behalf of the Lake County Bar Foundation that a check in the amount of \$250.00 will be presented to the winning school to help defray some of the expenses associated with the school's mock trial program.

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As Judge Rossetti approached the microphone, it was time now to learn the names of the third, second, and first place school winning teams. They were: Third Place, Morgan Park Academy; Second Place, Highland Park; and First Place, Boylan Catholic.

In closing, Judge Rossetti and Judge Bishop thanked everyone for their participation and help in making this program a success and wished the teams good luck as they prepare for the state competition to be held in Champaign on March 2-3.

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Below is a list of previous 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 and Mundelein H.S.

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