

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces: 2002 Mock Trial Competition

Eleven teams from eleven Tulare County high schools will compete in the first four rounds of the Mock Trial Competition in the Tulare County Superior Court on January 29, January 31, February 5 and 7, with finals being held February 13. Beginning at 5:15 pm, this year's hypothetical case, *People v. Price*, features a trial on the crime of arson including a pretrial argument on the 4th and 14th amendments of the United States Constitution. During the course of the trial, students will argue issues related to racial profiling by the police and the law of search and seizure.

The 10-to 20-member mock trial teams are composed of students who take on the roles of lawyers, witnesses, court clerks and bailiffs. All teams must make their presentations based on identical hypothetical case materials. Each team, coached by local attorneys and school personnel, has the opportunity to present the case for both the prosecution and defense during the course of the competition. Three attorneys score the teams on the basis of their analysis and debate of the constitutional issues, the law, and the facts in the case.

The Mock Trial Program is sponsored by the Constitutional Rights Foundation, and co-sponsored by the California Department of Education, the State Bar of California, the Young Lawyers' Association and the Daily Journal Corporation. The Tulare County Office of Education coordinates the program locally, with

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Page 2

assistance from local attorneys and judges, Lisa Strongin, Attorney at Law for Kings/Tulare Area Agency on Aging, a division of Tulare County Health and Human Services, and Cynthia Logan, Deputy Court Executive Officer.

“The Mock Trial Competition provides students an opportunity to sharpen their research, critical thinking and presentation skills, while getting a glimpse into the complex world of law. It is one of the most fascinating and entertaining competitions we host,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. Schools participating in the 2002 Mock Trial Competition are: Dinuba High School, Exeter High School, Farmersville High School, Golden West High School, Granite Hills High School, Lindsay High School, Monache High School, Mt. Whitney High School, Redwood High School, Tulare Western High School and Tulare Union High School.

The champions from the final round of the Tulare County Mock Trial Competition will be eligible to compete in the state finals in San Jose, March 22 – 24, 2002. St. Paul, MN will host the National Mock Trial competition May 9 – 11, 2002.

For more information, contact Carmen Friesen at 651-3046.

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