

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MARIN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
WINS
2020-2021 MARIN COUNTY
MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION TITLE**

San Rafael California, February 8, 2021

Marin County Office of Education hosted the 33rd Annual Marin County Schools Mock Trial Competition. This annual event typically takes place within the walls of the courtrooms at the Marin County Civic Center but took on a new look this year in keeping with our COVID restrictions. The competition was held virtually via a series of Zoom- courtrooms for student teams from 8 of our public and private high schools in Marin. Day 1 of the competition was held Saturday, January 30, with day 2 on February 6, 2021.

This annual competition is the culmination of months of practice, student preparation and countless volunteer hours. Students participating are affiliated with their high school - participating schools have a dedicated teacher and attorney coach.

The students meet this competition with a level of seriousness and professionalism that was consistently noted by the judges as being the highest caliber. In a word they were all truly outstanding.

Through this role play, students learn about the content and processes of law in an authentic and real way. The trial provides the teams with a Case - created from the Constitutional Rights Foundation. The high school teams work with their teacher and attorney coaches to prepare their version of the criminal case, both from the prosecution and defense perspectives. These students, following months of preparation, assume the roles of trial attorneys, pretrial motion attorneys, witnesses, clerks, bailiffs, artists and journalists present their case before 8 volunteer judges with 38 volunteer local attorneys as official scorers. Teams that prevail in their presentation scoring are eligible to participate at the State level competition March 18-21, 2021

For a moment in time there was some equivocating as to whether we were going to be able to proceed with this competition secondary to the virtual format. It was however, the strong feeling of our Marin County Judges that this event was important and should continue as scheduled. These amazing people are experiencing the same level of overwhelm that the rest of us feel and yet they, without hesitation, elected to push it aside and lead the charge on this competition.

Each trial opens and closes with our courtroom Judges - recognizing the hard work that got these students to this moment. Overall, both days of the competition were a success. The level of volunteerism and focus on what is good for kids is such a silver lining to our world. We cannot thank our volunteers enough for their dedication and selflessness on

behalf of kids. This is truly a team effort that is based in relationship and a focus on students as our future. "it would appear that we are in capable hands" was a quote from one of our judges.

All 8 teams competed at such high level as evidenced by the tight scores in each round. The semifinal round included 4 teams with a matching record overall, necessitating that we implement the state rules for tie breaking. The two teams that ultimately advanced to the final round were Marin Catholic and San Marin. Unfortunately, only one team can prevail. After an excellent final competition, Marin Catholic was awarded as the 2021 Mock Trial Champion. They will represent all of Marin County schools at the California State Mock Trial, March 18 – 21, 2021. This is Marin Catholic's first advancement to the State competition.

The following Superior Court of California Judges presided over this year's competition:

1. Roy O. Chernus
2. James Chou
3. Stephen P. Freccero
4. Paul M. Haakenson
5. Geoffrey M. Howard
6. Beth Jordan
7. Andrew Sweet
8. Mark A. Talamantes
9. Beverly Wood

Attorney scorers were:

1. Victoria Argumendo
2. Marie Barnes
3. Camille Bosworth
4. Claudia Brisson
5. Jeremy Castro
6. Mike Chaput
7. Emily Charley
8. Renee Chernus
9. Susan Feder
10. Laura Flynn
11. Brendan Fogarty
12. Lori Frugoli
13. Carols Gonzalez
14. Ryan Griffith
15. Eric Grover
16. Bryna Holland
17. Geoff Iida
18. David Levin
19. Abby Lucha
20. Patricia Medina
21. Ty Merlo
22. Robert Mills
23. Tim Nardell
24. Jamie Newbold
25. Andy Perez
26. Mark Peters
27. Karthik Raju

28. Kelly Reid
29. Mark Rice
30. Geoffrey Rotwein
31. Barrett Schaefer
32. Austin Shopbell
33. Larry Strick
34. Gwendolyn Thiessen
35. Jeannette Vaccaro
36. Jose Varela
37. Nancy Willet
38. Michael Yakumithis

Over twenty attorneys have worked with the school teams since September 2019. Each team's teacher coach or sponsor also volunteered their time to work with the students in preparing for the Mock Trial competition.

Marin Catholic High School will represent Marin County at the State Mock Trial Competition on March 18-21, 2021.

Special recognition awards for outstanding performance included:

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| Abigail Ryan, Marin Catholic | Outstanding Prosecution Pretrial Attorney |
| Ingrid Houtkooper -Redwood | Outstanding Prosecution Pretrial Attorney |
| Amelia Cabrales -San Rafael | Outstanding Prosecution Pretrial Attorney |
| Maddie Dabbah, Terra Linda | Outstanding Prosecution Pretrial Attorney |
| Chiara Savage Schwartz, Marin Academy | Outstanding Defense Pretrial Attorney |
| Emily Rusting, Redwood | Outstanding Defense Pretrial Attorney |
| Joshua Danziger, San Marin | Outstanding Defense Pretrial Attorney |
| Natalia Betzler, Tamalpais | Outstanding Defense Pretrial Attorney |
| Eli Baker, Terra Linda | Outstanding Defense Pretrial Attorney |
| Jack Long, H.S. 1327 | Outstanding Prosecution Attorney |
| Hugo Leiback, H.S. 1327 | Outstanding Prosecution Attorney |
| Alex Bergholdt, Marin Academy | Outstanding Prosecution Attorney |
| Sophie Stiker, Marin Catholic | Outstanding Prosecution Attorney |
| Jacob Rusting, Redwood | Outstanding Prosecution Attorney |
| Ella Bonder, Redwood | Outstanding Prosecution Attorney |
| Cadence Ayoubpour, San Rafael | Outstanding Prosecution Attorney |
| Henry Farrell, Marin Catholic | Outstanding Defense Attorney |
| Riley McCallister, Marin Catholic | Outstanding Defense Attorney |
| Emma Rice, San Marin | Outstanding Defense Attorney |
| Leonardo Perez, San Marin | Outstanding Defense Attorney |
| Anna Kilgariff, San Marin | Outstanding Defense Attorney |
| Elena Pletcher, San Rafael | Outstanding Defense Attorney |
| Tella Cushing, Tamalpais | Outstanding Defense Attorney |
| Reis Revai, Terra Linda | Outstanding Defense Attorney |
| Sophie Brady, Terra Linda | Outstanding Defense Attorney |
| Aiden Mann, H.S. 1327 | Outstanding Prosecution Witness |
| Sasha Yovino, H.S. 1327 | Outstanding Prosecution Witness |
| Avery Abell, Marin Catholic | Outstanding Prosecution Witness |

Caitlin Mitsuoka, Marin Catholic
Isabella Nicandri, San Rafael
Marguerite Walden-Kaufman, San Rafael

Outstanding Prosecution Witness
Outstanding Prosecution Witness
Outstanding Prosecution Witness

Chloe Bishop -Redwood
Reese Bennett -Redwood
Annika Jorgenson -Terra Linda
Katerin Racancoj -San Marin
Dillon Gaidano -San Marin

Outstanding Defense Witness
Outstanding Defense Witness
Outstanding Defense Witness
Outstanding Defense Witness
Outstanding Defense Witness

Annie Donnelly -Marin Catholic
Finn Mallard -Tamalpais

Outstanding Bailiff
Outstanding Bailiff

Matthew Marotto, Marin Catholic
Stefania Bitton, San Marin
Lauren Felder, Tamalpais

Outstanding Clerk
Outstanding Clerk
Outstanding Clerk

Elliotte Mathieson -Marin Academy
Katerin Racancoj -San Marin

Outstanding Courtroom Artist
Outstanding Courtroom Artist

Katherine McCallister -Marin Catholic
Stefania Bitton -San Marin

Outstanding Journalist
Outstanding Journalist

MARIN COUNTY MOCK TRIAL TEAMS

MARIN ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

Travis Brownley, Head of School
Teacher Coaches: Lynne Hansen
Attorney Coaches: Sloan C. Bailey Esq., Ansel Kinney Esq.

Chase Bent
Alex Bergholt
Dexter Watenpaugh
Arika Kalfayan
Chiara Savage Schwartz
Emma Bailey

Zac Resneck
Zara Kiger
Erica Cao
Ally Seba
Sophia Bromberg
Marlow Bjorklund

Sierra Cameron
Sheridan Lee
Alex Hobbs
Nate Maretzki
Esme O'Neil
Eliotte Mathieson

MARIN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Chris Valdez, Principal
Coach: Paul A. Hamel
Attorney Coach: Thomas M. McCallister, Esq.

Avery Abell
Jacob Chador
Anne Donnelly
Ella Dunnigan
Nadia Farland
Henry Farrell
Chris Gabianelli

Ema Lara
Riley McCallister
Katie McCallister
Catilin Mitsuoka
James Myhre
Grace Perryman
Manuel Rodriguez

Abigail Ryan
Luke Ryan
Sophia Stiker
Lucy Wallenstrom
Turner Wallenstrom

REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

David Sondheim, Principal
Coach: Stephannie Haver Castex
Attorney Coaches: Sara Allman, Esq., Scott Bonder, Esq.,
James Parker, Esq.

Reese Bennett
Stella Bennett
Chloe Bishop
Ella Bonder
Sophie Duryee
Jade Fetnaci
Bella Hann
Ingrid Houtkooper

Calvin Isotalo
Spencer Kitzel
Sterling Lazarus
Wyatt Marshall
Matthew Morotto
Sydney Moseley
Kai Peters
Emily Rusting

Jacob Rusting
Abby Shewmaker
Dani Steinberg
William Stevenson
Calvin Tudor
Xin Van Horn
Kyler Wang
Jake Williams

SAN MARIN HIGH SCHOOL

Mark Sims, Principal
Teacher Sponsor: Haley McFadden
Attorney Coaches: Eric Johnson, Esq., Fred Nelson, Esq.,
Christopher Sheron, Esq.
Alumni Coaches: Robert Oser, Kaitlyn Thomson, Esq., Maria Johnson

Izagani Aquino
Stefania Bitton
Katie Criesco
Joshua Danziger
Alejandro Danziger
Rose Hayes

Dina Johnson
Liam Kelly
Anna Kilgariff
Sydney Martinez
Leonardo Perez
Matthew Piotrowski

Katerin Raconcoj
Emma Rice
Ayan Shazad
Zhiyan Shazad
Skye Tweetie
Nick Tyler

SAN RAFAEL HIGH SCHOOL

Glenn Dennis, Principal
Teacher Coaches: Mark Baker
Attorney Coaches: Peter Arian, Esq., Robert Epstein, Esq.,
Richard Halpern, Esq., Florence Collins, Esq.

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| Cadence Ayoubpour | Paulo Fuentes | Elena Pletcher |
| Kyan Baker | Yareth Garcia | Pier Pomeroy |
| Olivia Bokaie | Alondra Maldonado | Trey Skieresz |
| Amelia Cabrales | Andres Martinez-Sabino | Marguerite Walden-Kaufmen |
| Michael Dahan | Isabelle Nicandri | Leyla Winton |
| Ava Fernandez | Oneida Perez | |

HIGH SCHOOL 1327

Liz Seabury, Principal
Coach: Steve Bluestone

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|---------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Calvin Arnold | Cotina Karr | Luka Rebours |
| Isabella Brisco-Schofield | Hugo Leinbach | Revel Roxberry |
| Audrey Daniel | Jack Long | Aubin Seymour |
| Ethan Fredenburg | Aiden Mann | Cy Stock |
| Alex Griffin | Finn McKitterick | Sasha Yovino |
| Noah Holden | John Minutoli | |

TAMALPAIS HIGH SCHOOL

J.C. Farr, Principal
Attorney Coaches: Molly Alarcon, Esq.
Elissa Asch, Esq., Duncan Labeeuw-Anderson, Esq.

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| Natalia Betzler | Griffin Merriman | Ben Spears |
| Stella Cushing | Adrienne Murr | Rachel Sulciner |
| Lauren Felder | Otto Ryersen | Kylie Tatarsky |
| Jack Knowles | Oliver Silmore | Brady Tatarsky |
| Finn Mallard | William Simonton | Aura Terrell |
| Jake Mclaughlin | Avery Skomer | Nelly Thomas |

TERRA LINDA HIGH SCHOOL

Katy Dunlap, Principal

Teacher Coach: Alex Robins

Attorney Coaches: Joel Gumbiner, Esq., Gordon McAuley, Esq.

Sylvie Anderson

Eli Baker

Puneet Bassi

Sophia Brady

Maddie Dabbah

Brissa Hernandez

Machaella Herschkorn

Zoe Jaros

Annika Jorgenson

Harita Kalvai

Luke Kilma

Emma Kraus

Anabella Long

Joseph MacDaniel

Rachel MacDaniel

Stella Pierce

Reis Revai