



March 9, 2010
GREAT PHOTO OPPORTUNITY
For Immediate Release

Contact Carolyn Gravit
work: (303) 824-5323 Monday–Thursday
cell: (720) 988-3295 Friday & Saturday

High School Battle of the Minds: State Finals for Mock Trial this weekend

High school teams from all across Colorado are competing at State Finals of the Colorado Bar Association Mock Trial Tournament on Friday and Saturday, March 12-13 at the El Paso County Judicial Building in Colorado Springs. **Editors: Check the attachment to see if your local high school is a state finalist team.**

With their eyes on the prize — First in State — regional championship teams are coming to Colorado Springs from the Western Slope, Northern Colorado, Southern Colorado, Aurora, Arapahoe, Adams/Broomfield, Boulder, Denver and Jefferson County. This year’s state finals are hosted by El Paso County Judicial Building and the El Paso County Bar Association.

This is the 25th year of High School Mock Trials, sponsored by the CBA. High school students will try a “mock” criminal case in real courtrooms, with established attorneys and judges scoring the teams’ performances. Each year, the process helps students develop critical thinking, public speaking, reasoning, strategic planning and team collaborative skills.

Most teams are structured as extracurriculars, run by teacher and attorney volunteers, from August through the spring. Mock trial combines skills from traditional clubs such as debate, theater, student council and honors. On their own, teams study the same case. Teams must prepare to perform both as prosecution and defense attorneys in a courtroom setting. Two teams from each of the 10 regions have advanced to state by winning the top scores at their regional tournaments, which occurred during the past month across the state.

Colorado Supreme Court Justice Alex Martinez will preside over the championship round. To score the championship round in special public appearances, U.S. District Court Judge Christine Arguello, Colorado Hispanic Bar Association President Damian Arguello, Colorado Women’s Bar Vice President Kara Veitch, Colorado Springs Vice Mayor Larry Small, Teen Court Program Executive Director Pat Ruffini, CBA President Dave Johnson and CBA Litigation Council’s Alden Hill will be there.

The first round begins at 1 p.m. Friday, and the second round begins at 4:15 p.m. Rounds will continue on Saturday with trials at 9 a.m. and 1:15 p.m., with the championship round at 5:30 p.m.

One team from Colorado will go on to compete in the national championship in Philadelphia, Pa. May 6–8, where 44 teams from the United States, U.S. territories and South Korea will compete.

###