



FREDRICK A. WENTWORTH
County Superintendent

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

October 15, 2009

To: Mock Trial Coaches and Supporters
From: Meredith Davis, Coordinator
Re: Update of the October 8th Meeting

- At the present time, we believe we will have six teams participating in the 2010 Mock Trial Competition. They include Escalon High, IBML, Ripon Christian, Tracy High, Venture Academy and West High. I have attached an Intent to Participate form so please complete and mail or fax to me on or before October 23.
- The following procedures will be followed again this year:
 - The judges and attorneys need to limit their debriefing to a maximum of 15 minutes.
 - Witnesses should take no note cards to the witness stand.
 - Judges need to ask questions of all attorneys during pretrial arguments.
 - There should be tent signs indicating student name and role for witnesses/attorneys.
 - The county scoring sheet will not weight Participation and Team Performance.
- The coaches present last week felt that the procedure of having the teams exchange and complete scoring sheets prior to a trial was slow and time-consuming resulting in frequently delayed starting times. It was suggested that while these completed sheets are important to the scoring attorneys, the process could be expedited by having the coaches meet in the lobby prior to team check-in at 8:00 to exchange and complete the forms. A table will be available in the lobby for that purpose.
- All necessary forms and information for our county competition can be found on our Mock Trial website at <http://www.sjcoe.org/sae/mocktrial.aspx>.
- The CRF is again requesting that all participating schools and students register with them online on or before December 8. Go to <http://www.crf-usa.org/mock-trial-california/> and click on registration instructions. I have already registered the county.
- The password to download the case, *People v. Bratton*, is **r321axm**. Go to the address above, click on Forms/Download, and the case will be listed under "Case Materials". Please retain this password as it will be necessary to enter it each time an individual downloads the case from the website. Please do not share the password with anyone not associated with the team.

- An updated event schedule for both competition days is attached. It is very similar to last year's with the exception of the awards ceremony location. The Civic Auditorium is unavailable, the County Office of Education is booked on 2/20 (we discovered today) and the Jury Assembly Room while fine for team check-in, is too small for awards. Ed Busuttill suggested the COG Building (Council of Governments) which is three blocks east on Weber. It sounds ideal and I have an appointment to tour the facilities tomorrow.
- Rounds one and two will take place on Saturday, February 20, at the County Courthouse and the championship round is scheduled for Monday, February 22, at the SJCOE Education Service Center. Both the prosecution and defense of the two top scoring teams will be involved in determining the final outcome on Monday evening.
- The SJCOE Educational Foundation will pay up to \$2500 for the winning team to attend state competition which is in San Jose from March 19-21 this year. The school or district must pay the costs of the hotel, food, transportation, etc. and then submit all receipts to this office for reimbursement. The Foundation check cannot be made out to an individual or business.
- Registration fees remain \$300 per team. Because of difficulty in collecting several team fees last year (we are still invoicing for several schools for 2009 events), all fees must be paid prior to competition in order for the team to participate.
- Attached is the most current errata for *People v. Bratton*. Check the Mock Trial website frequently for updates, needed forms, exhibits, etc.
- The San Joaquin County Bar Association has generously contributed \$300 to our program to help defray the cost of the t-shirts. Our thanks go to the association for its continued support.
- Student/Team recognition for 2010 will include;
 - T-shirts for all student participants, volunteers, and coaches
 - Student certificates
 - Team plaques—1st and 2nd and runners-up
 - Top Prosecution plaques (2 per team with nominations from coaches)
 - Top Defense plaques (2 per team with nominations from coaches)
 - The Judge Cruikshank Spirit Award (nominations from scoring attorneys)
 - The Courtroom Artist Award
 - The Journalist Award
- In addition to the awards listed above, we may also be able to present a \$250 scholarship to the winning artist this year. I should know soon if it is going to be a go.
- County Competition Reminders:
 - Coaches, please go over the Code of Ethics on page 4 of the case packets with your students.

- We will be doing pretrial motions for all rounds.
- As in the past, scoring will be based on number of wins, then percentages and finally, if needed, upon points earned.
- Team photos will be taken and actually given to coaches in a timely manner.
- Both the prosecution and defense teams need to bring a scoring sheet complete with names and roles for the scoring attorneys in each round. This year coaches will meet in the courthouse lobby before team check-in to exchange and complete the sheets.
- Each pretrial motion attorney, trial attorney and witness needs to have a tent sign that indicates their name and role.
- Event programs will be available again this year.
- T-shirts sizes need to be indicated on the Team Rosters that are due on January 29.
- Audio and video taping is allowed as long as it is of one's own team, is not obtrusive, and the other team agrees.
- The winning courtroom artist and journalist may attend state competition even if they are from a school different from the winning Mock Trial team.

•Our final coaches' meeting before competition will be held at the ESC, Kingston Room, on Thursday, December 17 at 3:45 p.m. I hope to see you there.

•**Scrimmage Information:**

- The San Joaquin County scrimmage is set for December 5 here at the ESC. It has been opened up to all six of our teams if they wish to participate. However please send in your registration form (attached) with payment as soon as possible. If not intending to participate, let me know even sooner. I have a waiting list of out-of-county teams who will take your spot if given an opportunity. For more information, go to <http://www.sjcoe.org/sae/mocktrial.aspx>.

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