

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### ***Local High School Students Prepare for Mock Trials***

Student teams from nine local high schools will have their day in court soon. The annual **Stanislaus County Mock Trials** event is set to take place at **5:15 p.m.** on **February 10, 17 & 18** at the **Stanislaus County Courthouse**, 800 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Modesto. The awards ceremony will follow the last trial round on **February 18**, at the **Petersen Event Center**, 720 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Modesto.

Sponsored by the Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE), Gianelli & Associates, and the Education Foundation of Stanislaus County, the annual High School Mock Trials competition provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate acquired listening, speaking, reading and reasoning skills. Working in teams, students study a hypothetical case, conduct legal research, and receive guidance from volunteer attorneys. Students gain a working knowledge of the judicial system as well as an understanding of the link between the United States Constitution and the substance of the law. Superior court judges conduct each trial with the teams scored by attorneys practicing in Stanislaus County. Thirty volunteer adjudicators are required for each trial during the three evenings of competition. If you are an attorney interested in volunteering, please contact Cheryl Goulart by phone at 238-1705 or by e-mail at [cgoulart@stancoe.org](mailto:cgoulart@stancoe.org).

This year's fictitious case, *People v. Shem*, is a murder trial, featuring a pretrial argument on the Fourth Amendment.

Nine Stanislaus County high schools signed up to participate: Beyer, Davis, Downey, Enochs, Gregori, Johansen, Modesto, Pitman and Turlock. The winning team will advance to the state competition scheduled for March 20-22, 2015 in Riverside.

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