



2008-2009

Wade Edwards High School Mock Trial Competition

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NC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO REPRESENT STATE IN NATIONAL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

CHARLOTTE – Sixteen top placing Mock Trial teams from across North Carolina competed in the Wade Edwards High School Mock Trial Competition State Finals Competition on March 21-22, at the Mecklenburg County Courthouse in Charlotte.

Victory Christian Center School bested all 16 student teams to take home the 2009 State Champion title. The runner up team from J.H. Rose High School in Greenville (Green Team) and the third place team from Raleigh Charter High School (Silver Team) are also invited to represent the state at the American Mock Trial Invitational, a national-level competition to be held in New Brunswick, New Jersey on May 17-19, 2009. The American Mock Trial Invitational is co-sponsored by the North Carolina Advocates for Justice and the New Jersey State Bar Foundation.

NC District Court Judge Tim Smith presided over the Final Round trial, *Rodgers v Estrada*, between Victory Christian Center School and J.H. Rose High School, a civil rights case involving issues surrounding police brutality and use of force. Mock trials are structured like real trials, but teams are limited to three witnesses and three attorneys for the plaintiff and three witnesses and three attorneys for the defense.

Other participating teams included Asheboro High of Asheboro (2 teams), C.E. Jordan High of Durham, Charlotte Country Day of Charlotte, Fayetteville Academy of Fayetteville, Gaston Christian School of Belmont (two teams), Gray Stone Day School of Misenheimer, Hendersonville High of Hendersonville, J.H. Rose High of Greenville (Blue Team), Leesville Road High of Raleigh, Millbrook High of Raleigh, Raleigh Charter High of Raleigh (Lapis Team), and Village Christian Academy of Fayetteville.

“The effect of being on mock trial is a tremendous boost in self confidence, as the students develop strong teamwork, public speaking and critical thinking ability,” said Dick Taylor, CEO of the NC Advocates for Justice.

This event is sponsored by the NC Advocates for Justice Foundation. This marks the 17th year of the competition, an initiative that provides an opportunity for students to learn about the legal system from legal professionals and gain powerful life skills.

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