

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

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## **For Immediate Release**

Contact: Rob Herman  
Public Information Officer  
559/733-6606

**Tulare County Office of Education Announces:**

## **2006 Mock Trial Competition**

**First Rounds to be Held January 17, 19, 24 and 26 at Tulare County Superior Court**

Mock Trial season begins in January with eleven teams from Tulare County high schools.

Schools participating in the 2006 Mock Trial Competition are: Dinuba High School, El Diamante High School, Exeter High School, Farmersville High School, Golden West High School, Lindsay High School, Mt. Whitney High School, Orosi High School, Redwood High School, Tulare Union High School, and Tulare Western High School.

All teams will compete in the first four rounds of the competition in the Tulare County Superior Court on January 17, January 19, January 24 and 26, 2006. Semi-finals will take place between the top two teams on January 31 at the Courthouse. The final trial round will occur at the El Diamante Theater on February 7, 2006. All trials begin nightly at 5:15 p.m. The season wraps up with the Mock Trial Awards Banquet on February 9 for students, parents, teachers and attorneys. The champions will be eligible to compete in the state finals in Riverside, March 17-19, 2006. Oklahoma will host the National Mock Trial competition May 5-7, 2006.

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Mock Trial offers students an opportunity to develop an understanding of the link between our Constitution and the legal system. In addition, students have the opportunity to interact with positive adult role models in the legal community. In trying the hypothetical Mock Trial case, students grapple with particularly thorny legal and social issues.

This year's hypothetical case, *People v. Markson*, the prosecution charges Jes Markson with First Degree Murder. The case features a pretrial argument on the Fourth Amendment's protection against unreasonable search and seizure. In preparation to present this case, students must be familiar with the U.S. Constitution, Amendment IV, as well as several state and federal cases.

The 10- to 20-member mock trial teams are composed of students who take on the roles of lawyers, witnesses, court clerks and bailiffs. All teams must make their presentations based on identical hypothetical case materials. Each team – coached by local attorneys and school personnel – has the opportunity to present the case for both the prosecution and defense during the course of the competition. Three attorneys score the teams on the debate of the constitutional issues, the law, and the facts in the case.

The Mock Trial Program is sponsored by the Constitutional Rights Foundation, and co-sponsored by the California Department of Education, the State Bar of California, the Young Lawyers' Association and the Daily Journal Corporation. The Tulare County Office of

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Education coordinates the program locally, with assistance from local attorneys and judges, Lisa Strongin, Public Defenders' Office, and Cynthia Logan, Deputy Court Executive Officer.

Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak commends participating schools and students, "Mock Trial is an extremely rigorous competition, and the prize goes to all that have the courage and opportunity to compete."

For more information, contact Marsha Ingraio at 651-0680.

# T C O E #

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