

Tulare County Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Exeter and Redwood high schools face off in 2020 Mock Trial finals Tuesday

February 18, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., TCOE Conference Center, 6200 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia

The public is invited to watch the top two teams in the annual Mock Trial competition compete for the chance to advance to the state finals in Los Angeles next month. Redwood High School and Exeter Union High School will face off in the Tulare County Office of Education Redwood Conference Center, 6200 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia on February 18 at 5:00 p.m.

This year, students are prepared to argue the case of *People v. Matsumoto* at the trial of Bailey Matsumoto, founder of a technology start-up that develops autonomous (self-driving) trucks.

Bailey is charged with the murder of Taylor Matsumoto, his spouse. The prosecution alleges that after Taylor's son Michael died in a tragic accident using one of Bailey's malfunctioning autonomous scooters, Taylor founded an organization called Parents Against Autonomous Driving (PAAD). Taylor's involvement in PAAD began to financially impact Bailey's autonomous truck company. The prosecution further argues that the couple's relationship rapidly deteriorated. Just days before Taylor was set to testify in Washington, D.C., in support of a bill titled "National

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Moratorium on Autonomous Technologies,” Taylor was found dead, face down in the couple’s bathtub. The prosecution claims that Bailey murdered Taylor with premeditation in order to prevent her from testifying.

The winners of the Tulare County Mock Trial competition will advance to the state competition scheduled for March 20-22 in Los Angeles. For more information, visit tcoe.org/MockTrial.

TCOE