

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

2003 Mock Trial Finalists will Compete for Championship on February 13 at Visalia's Rotary Theater

Finalists in Tulare County Office of Education's Mock Trial Competition will compete for the county championship on February 13 at 5:30 p.m. at Visalia's Rotary Theatre. Along with first-place honors, the winning school's team earns the right to compete in the California Mock Trial competition in Riverside, March 28-30.

The following schools fielded teams for the 2003 Mock Trial Competition: Dinuba High School, Exeter High School, Farmersville High School, Golden West High School, Lindsay High School, Monache High School, Mt. Whitney High School, Redwood High School, Tulare Western High School, Tulare Union High School, Orosi High School, and El Diamante High School. Tulare Western High School, Tulare Union High School, Lindsay High School and Redwood High School teams competed in the semi-finals, with Tulare Union High School and Lindsay High School advancing to the finals.

The ten- 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.

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Three attorneys score the teams on the basis of their analysis and debate of the constitutional issues, the law, and the facts in the case. This year's hypothetical case, *People v. Martin*, features a pretrial argument on the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Tulare County Office of Education, with assistance from area attorneys and judges, serves as the local coordinator for the Mock Trial Program. 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 level of effort, research and preparation every team has put into the Mock Trial Competition has been remarkable," says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. "I congratulate them all and wish our finalists, Tulare Union and Lindsay High School, the best of luck," says Vidak

For more information, contact Marsha Ingraio, Instructional Consultant, at 651-1193.

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