

## 2009 YMCA HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

In a series of weekend and evening trials between February 21 and March 2, 2009 the 20<sup>th</sup> annual YMCA High School Mock Trial Competition was sponsored by the King County Superior Court. The event was a district level competition leading up to the state championships to be held in Olympia March 27-29.

The High School Mock Trials are a program of YMCA Youth & Government. Besides the YMCA, the program receives support from various lawyers and judges associations and is also dependent on hundreds of volunteer hours. The trials were presided over by King County Superior Court Judges **Bruce Hilyer, Carol Schapira, Michael Heavey, Mary Roberts, Dean Lum, Chris Washington, Jeff Ramsdell, Harry McCarthy, Catherine Shaffer, Jim Rogers, Susan Craighead, Tim Bradshaw, Holly Hill, Bruce Heller and William Downing** and retired Superior Court Judges **Donald Haley, Anthony Wartnik and Doug McBroom** and King County District Court Judge **Eileen Kato**.

In addition to the nineteen judges, the trial performances were rated by fifty-seven volunteer lawyers who gave generously of their time and talents. Championship round scorers were prominent employment law attorneys Kelby Fletcher and Faye Chess-Prentice and King County Bar Association President Dan Gandara.

The popular and growing event ran smoothly thanks to the administrative help of Ricki Reese, Cameron Reese, Debra Bailey Trail, Brian Wynne, Greta Smith, Dave Kruse, Kirby Pierce, Gene Willard and Anna Downing.

This year's fictional case, written by William Downing, explored themes of employment law, creativity and school security all with a backdrop of Edgar Allan Poe's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. An English teacher had sued for reinstatement after being summarily dismissed when a student brought a gun to school. The key factual issue was whether that teacher should have seen signs of potential violence in the student's Poe-inspired writings. The legal issues concerned whether the firing violated either the teacher's contract or public policy.

As always, each one of the hundreds of student participants went home a winner with all that was learned about the rules of society and about his or her own abilities. Congratulations to all!

This year's King County Champion is Franklin High School. They, along with teams from Seattle Prep, University Prep and Mercer Island, will all advance to the State Competition

Here are the final official results of the competition:

<b>TEAM</b>	<b>WINS</b>	<b>BALLOTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
1. Franklin – O	5	14 ballots	
2. Seattle Prep -- A	4	12 ballots	
3. Seattle Prep – C	3	9 ballots	
4. Seattle Prep -- B	3	8 ballots	
5. University Prep – E	2	7 ballots	
6. Mercer Island – Q	2	6 ballots	
7. University Prep - D	2	5 ballots	
8. Eastside Catholic – G	1	4 ballots	
9. Roosevelt – S	1	3 ballots	963
10. Seattle Academy -- R	1	3 ballots	960
11. Liberty – I	1	3 ballots	954
12. Eastside Catholic – H	1	3 ballots	930
13. University Prep -- F	1	3 ballot	918
14. Chief Sealth - M	1	2 ballots	
15. Int'l Comm. School - L	0	1 ballot	908
16. Int'l Comm. School - K	0	1 ballot	780
17. Liberty – J	0	0 ballots	961
18. Garfield – N	0	0 ballots	858
19. Jefferson Comm. Ctr - P	0	0 ballots	803

In the championship round, these special awards were given out:

Outstanding Witness: Francesca Renouard (Seattle Prep)

Outstanding Attorneys: Marie Angeles & Sandy Nguyen (Franklin High School)

In the earlier rounds, the following students also received special recognition:

**Outstanding Attorneys:**

Chief Sealth: Ciana Calos-Nakano, Julia Hodges, Jan Nichols

Eastside Catholic: Stephanie Malaska, Hailey Odegaard, Kristen Olsen,  
Michael Orehek, Mackenzie Roberts

Franklin High School: Marie Angeles, Kirstin Jensvold-Rumage, Sandy Nguyen,  
Taylor Tibbs

Garfield High School: Max Kee, Caleb Raible-Clark

International Community School: Erin Antono, Jessica Jin, Calen Olsen, Atalia Shlafer

Jefferson Comm. Center: Jonathan Bui

Liberty High: Andrew Boes, Ryan Cain, Kate Faoro, Alex Faulkner, Ahren Stroming

Mercer Island High: Robin Momii, Ian Zhang, Inar Zhang

Roosevelt High: Nicolas Gillingham, Madeline Grose, Jesse Teng

Seattle Academy: Murray McCulloch, Kristina Sokourenko

Seattle Prep: Emily Albi, Isabelle Albi, Devin Curda, Alexandra Dullea, Scott Ferron,  
Rachel Gary, Patricia Laramore, Matthew Mallick, Christopher Pleas, Nicole Zunick

University Prep: Nitika Arora, Denzel Belin, Brittany Carroll-Watts, Kaustubh Deo,  
Aleta Greer, Matt Higgins, Margaux Hujoel, Winson Law, Dana Lyons, Katie Schade

**Outstanding Witnesses:**

Chief Sealth: Meredith Crandell, Dominique Galloway, Laura Gulhaugen

Eastside Catholic: Christina Bucci, Emily Cook, Charles Ory

Franklin High School: Marie Angeles, Nicole Czubin, Brandon Leonard,  
Cameron Springer, Dawn Tuason, Daniel Zayas-Trujillo

Garfield High School: William Godbe, Jade Jones-Hawk

International Community School: Katelyn Cereghino

Jefferson Comm. Center: Patty Flores, Jennifer Tang

Liberty High: Alex Leonard, Alex Mantel, Bree Philips, Daniel Pickering, Brandon Willis

Mercer Island High: Peyton Bell

Roosevelt High: Tristan Huber, Jesse Teng

Seattle Academy: Paulina Phelps

Seattle Prep: Gabrielle Bird-Vogel, Mooki Carter-Vincent, Zachary Dammell, Catherine Finnerty, Nora Genster, Matthew Herring, Vivian McKechnie, Faith Nolan, Francesca Renouard, Sarah Riley, Arthur Stacey

University Prep: Margaret Anderson, Nick Belyaev, Nicole Bosetti, Anna Dawson, Samuel Friedlander, Dennis Hooks, Madeline Kleiner, Emily Levine, Jen Reeve, Jenny Singer, Ellery Weist

For more information about the YMCA High School Mock Trial Program, call (206) 296-9362 or email [william.downing@kingcounty.gov](mailto:william.downing@kingcounty.gov)