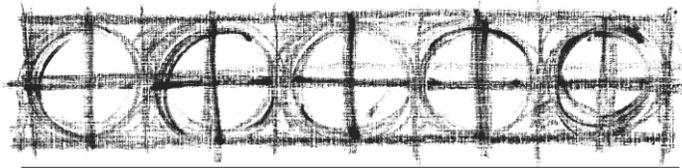


IDAHO LAW FOUNDATION



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 7, 2012

Idaho High School Mock Trial Team Earns Fifth Place Finish at National Competition

BOISE – Idaho’s state champion mock trial team from Logos School in Moscow, Idaho placed fifth at the National High School Mock Trial Championship held in Albuquerque, NM on May 4 and 5. This is the highest place ever achieved by a team from Idaho.

Logos qualified to represent Idaho at the national tournament by winning the state title at the Idaho High School Mock Trial Championship tournament held in Boise in March. At Idaho’s state competition, 142 students and 88 volunteers participated in the annual event. 16 teams from 10 schools participated in regional tournaments held in Blackfoot, Caldwell, and Coeur d’Alene in early March. 14 of those teams chose to go on to participate in the state tournament held in Boise on March 21 to 23. In addition to Logos School, participating schools included: The Ambrose School, Blackfoot High School, Bonneville High School, Centennial High School, Coeur d’Alene High School, Idaho Distance Education Academy, Lewiston High School, Mountain Home High School, and Vallivue High School

Mock trial is the premiere law related academic tournament for high school students and is recognized as one of the most exciting hands-on educational opportunities available to students. It offers students the chance to experience the drama and excitement of a court proceeding while fostering a better understanding of the legal system and hone their analytical and communication skills.

This year’s national case, *The United States vs. Rawley Windsor* finds a fictitious United States congressman accused of conspiracy to commit murder in the alleged hiring of assassins to take out two of the congressman’s political enemies. The case is loosely based on famed southwestern author Tony Hillerman’s mystery novel entitled *Sinister Pig*.

This year, more than 1,000 people attended the National Championship and included 46 championship teams from 42 states, Guam, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, and South Korea. Each team consists of 8 official members who play roles as witnesses or attorneys and a designated team timekeeper. An attorney and teacher pair serve at the team coaches. Idaho’s team members from Logos School include: McKenzie Evans, Rebekka Hoeft, Will Isenberg, Kira Langworthy, Gavin Myer, Jacqueline Nance, Lydia Ryan, Madeline Schlect, and Morgan Schlect. They are lead by teacher coach, Chris Schlect and attorney coach, Sam Creason.

The four preliminary rounds of competition were held on Friday and Saturday at several courthouses in downtown Albuquerque. The Championship Round was held in the Rio Grande Ceremonial Courtroom in the impressive Pete V. Domenici United States District Court for the District of New Mexico. Idaho’s team faced the state champions from Utah, Nevada, Florida, and Minnesota. In each round of competition, teams try their case in front of a presiding judge who moves the case along and rules on objections and three scoring judges who fill out a score sheet for each team. In order to win a round of competition, a team must be chosen as the winner by two of the three judges.

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Idaho Law Foundation Mock Trial Press Release

The first two rounds of the competition took place on Friday, May 4. In Round 1 against Utah, Idaho played the role of prosecution and won 3 to 0. Coach Schlect indicated: "Our team put on a clean, solid performance from opening statement to closing arguments. No Round 1 jitters or fumbles." Round 2 saw Idaho's team play the role of defense in another 3 to 0 decision against the team from Nevada.

Saturday, May 5 saw a still undefeated Idaho team play the role of defense against Florida in a very close round with the split-decision win for Idaho. In their final round of the competition, and their only loss of the tournament, Idaho's prosecution faced Minnesota's defense in another split-decision, decided by only a few point differential. Though the loss precluded the team from moving on to the final championship round, they earned high praise from the judging panel. One of the judges, Richard Segal, an attorney from Albuquerque said, "Each of the judges for this round felt that both teams were winners, despite the need to make evaluations and decisions. Both of teams were absolutely phenomenal and a joy to watch in action. Their top-5 finishes were richly deserved. I hope you will communicate to your students my reaction that they are truly a credit to their states, to their schools, to their families, and to themselves. If even a few of them end up making their way to law school, I have no doubt that our profession will be enriched by their participation."

For more information about the mock trial program, contact Carey Shoufler, Law Related Education Director, at (208) 334-4500 or cshoufler@isb.idaho.gov.

Founded in 1975 by a group of Idaho attorneys, the Idaho Law Foundation enhances public understanding of the legal system and provides increased access to legal services. The Foundation's core programs include the Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program that coordinates volunteer legal assistance to low-income citizens across the state and Law Related Education that brings together attorneys and teachers to help students understand the role of law in a democratic society.

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