



## San Joaquin County Office of Education

James A. Mousalimas, County Superintendent of Schools

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

016-036: Mock Trial Competition

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### **San Joaquin County Mock Trial Ends with Championship Round**

*The verdict is in: Venture Academy wins Mock Trial and heads to state competition*

The team from Venture Academy Family of Schools fought its way over two weeks of competition and six rounds of play to become the champion of the 2016 San Joaquin County Mock Trial Competition. Of the teams from 10 county high schools that began the competition, only four teams remained on Feb. 27, when the final two rounds took place at the San Joaquin County Courthouse. They were followed by an awards ceremony at the Stockton Federal Building. As the winning team, Venture will compete in the state competition in March 18-20 in Sacramento.

#### Results:

First Place: Venture Academy Family of Schools, San Joaquin County Office of Education

Second Place: Tracy High School, Tracy Unified School District

Third Place: Stockton Early College Academy (SECA), Stockton Unified School District

Fourth Place: Merrill F. West High School, Tracy Unified

The Honorable John F. Cruikshank, Jr. Spirit Award: Angeli Indran, Tracy High

First-Place plaque for journalism: Iran Bernal, Aspire Langston Hughes Academy, Stockton Unified

First-Place plaque for courtroom artist: Lilianna Guadagnolo, Lincoln High School, Lincoln Unified School District

This event is co-sponsored by the San Joaquin County Bar Association and the San Joaquin County Office of Education in cooperation with the Constitutional Rights Foundation. The event would not have been possible without the assistance of the judges and attorneys who took time out of their schedules.

Ten county high schools participated: ABLE Charter High School, Escalon High School, Aspire Langston Hughes Academy, Lincoln High School, Merrill F. West High School, Pacific Law Academy, Ronald E. McNair High School, Stockton Early College Academy, Tracy High School, and Venture Academy Family of Schools.

**CASE:** People v. Hayes is the trial of Jamie Hayes, a student on a track and field scholarship who faces a felony charge of murder for the homicide of a campus security guard.

#### ***About the San Joaquin County Office of Education:***

*San Joaquin County Office of Education provides educational leadership, resources, and services to support schools throughout the county. With its highly regarded programs, innovative staff, and community partnerships, SJCOE ensures that every student in San Joaquin County has the opportunity of a quality education. For more information, visit [www.sjcoe.org](http://www.sjcoe.org).*