

2016 YMCA HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

In a series of weekend and evening trials between February 20 and 29, 2016, the 27th 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 18-20.

This year's fictional case, entitled "Ex-Con Oration," involved a claim of wrongful conviction. It was inspired by Bryan Stevenson's 2014 book JUST MERCY as well as national and local press coverage of exonerations. In our case, claimant Dana Calas' robbery conviction was reversed due to a host of improprieties – sloppy identification procedures, reliance on a jailhouse snitch, withheld exculpatory evidence and ineffective assistance of counsel. Now seeking exoneration (and the statutory award of \$50,000 per year of incarceration), Dana had to establish "actual innocence."

The High School Mock Trials are a program of YMCA Youth & Government. Besides the Y, the program receives support from lawyers and judges associations and hundreds of volunteer hours. The trials were presided over by King County Superior Court Judges **Beth Andrus, Tim Bradshaw, John Chun, Sam Chung, William Downing, Bruce Heller, Janet Helson, Hollis Hill, Dean Lum, Patrick Oishi, Sue Parisien, Judith Ramseyer, Jim Rogers, John Ruhl, Ken Schubert, Tanya Thorp**, and retired Superior Court Judge **Carol Schapira**, King County District Court Judges **Mike Finkle** and **Anne Harper**, Seattle Municipal Court Judges **Karen Donohue** and **Steve Rosen** and Administrative Law Judge **Nicole Gaines Phelps**. Experienced attorneys **Anne Bremner** and **John McHale** also served as judges.

In addition to the twenty-four judges, the trial performances were rated by more than seventy volunteer lawyers who gave generously of their time and talents. Championship round scorers were two specialists in this area of the law, Todd Maybrown and Ass't Attorney General Melanie Tratnik, as well as King County Bar Association President Kim Tran.

The popular and growing event ran smoothly thanks to the administrative help of Ricki Reese, Cameron Reese, Jamie Galvin, Debra Bailey Trail, Shelly Jones, Paige Weir, Amanda Hailey, Joy Fernandes, Loyce Weishaar and Kirby Pierce.

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 Seattle Prep. They, along with teams from Franklin, Seattle Academy, The Jefferson Community Center, Bush and Eastside Catholic, will all advance to the State Competition.

For more information about the YMCA High School Mock Trial Program, call (206) 477-1585 or email william.downing@kingcounty.gov

Here are the final official results of the competition:

TEAM	WINS	BALLOTS	POINTS
1. Seattle Prep – K	5	14	2622
2. Franklin – G	4	13	2641
3. Seattle Prep JV – L	3	9	2050
4. Eastside Catholic – T	3	9	2013
5. Franklin JV – H	3	9	2002
6. Seattle Prep (green) – M	3	9	1969
7. Jefferson Comm. Ctr. – A	3	8	1956
8. Seattle Academy – Q	2	7	1857
9. Bush – P	2	6	1873
10. Intl. Comm. School – C	2	5	1955
11. University Prep – I	1	4	1933
12. Holy Names – S	1	3	1847
13. Jefferson Comm. Ctr. – B	1	3	927
14. O’Dea – F	1	3	865
15. Garfield – V	1	2	959
16. Chief Sealth – O	0	1	906
17. University Prep – J	0	0	1026
18. O’Dea – E	0	0	983
19. Int’l. Comm. School – D	0	0	960
20. Bishop Blanchet – R	0	0	896
21. Nathan Hale – U	0	0	808

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

Outstanding Witness: Noelle Whitman of Seattle Prep

Outstanding Attorney: McKenzie Palmer of Franklin

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

Outstanding Attorneys:

Bishop Blanchet: Isabella Sundy

Bush School: Cyrus Busby, Ben Cape, Isabel McFadden

Chief Sealth: Isabel Lafky, Tony Tran, Noah Webster

Eastside Catholic: Andrew Frank, Ben Green, Jack Green, John Merle

Franklin High School: Quinn Angelou-Lysacker, Ami Diouf, Elizabeth Huse, Rachel Kaftan, Rebekah Nachman, Parker Nyberg-Steel, McKenzie Palmer, Cora Patz, Sam Tudor-Hidy, Alex Walsh

Garfield High School: Jocelyn Crawford, Camille Fain, Alex Reynolds, Sivan Tratt

Holy Names: Mia Anderton, Claire Goudy, Rosemary Norheim

International Community School: McKenna Conlin, Sydney Ku

Jefferson Comm. Center: Matthew Barrera, Ricky Huang, Kaela Jackson, Arissa Lee, Jasmine Woon

Nathan Hale: Marcus Bradley, Reilly Hearne, Heidi Klepac

O'Dea: Spencer Pickering, Brendan Standaert

Seattle Academy: Hannah Davis, Stella Esensten-Cicon, Sam Gray

Seattle Prep: Abigail Hamblett, Emma Heerey, Thomas Mallick, Hudson Patterson, Maslyn Pessner, Abigail Potts, Elizabeth Shields, Carson Stockwell, MacKenzie Tobin, Alex Tuminello, Rachel Wang

University Prep: Nikhil Deo, Lacey Pike, Jacob Richey

Outstanding Witnesses:

Bishop Blanchet: Claire Gallaudet

Bush School: Quinn Dillard, Daniel Wang

Chief Sealth: Leah Arkilis-McLain

Eastside Catholic: Emma Abraham, Molly Brown, Gage Hefty

Franklin High School: Leila Al-Heider, Ami Diouf, Sumaya Faqi, Alosha Fujii, Arthur Fujii, Ace Huang, Rachel Kaftan, Cora Patz, Alex Walsh

Garfield High School: Bailey Harris, Michael Lynch, Wyatt Morrison

Holy Names Academy: April Adams, Meeraf Alemayehu, Emma Hamlin, Tori Tanaka

International Community School: Anmaol Bajpai, Christian Culbert, Stephanie Fulton, Stella Gonzalez, Rishi Krishnamurthy, Annalice Ni, Rohan Patel, Adam Tazi

Jefferson Comm. Center: Twinny Alipio, Shirley Chen, Jesse Loi, Alan Tang, Selena Xie, Jia Yu (Amy) Zhou

Nathan Hale: Mia Cassidy, Sylvie Corwin

O'Dea: Mac Earle, Chris Walker

Seattle Academy: Lee Faury, Sam Gray

Seattle Prep: James Anderson, Gabe Berger, Alex Blattner, Liam Gannon, Max Heid, Erik Kuebler, Elijah Pasco, Patrick Paulsen, Davis Pessner, Sarah Reuter, Elisa Simon, Noelle Whitman

University Prep: Anne Cohen, Isaac Glasser, Hana Neutz, Katherine Thomas, Vivian Voth