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MORRIS/SUSSEX VICINAGE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Morris/Sussex Vicinage Announces Winners of Mock Trial Finals**

West Morris Mendham High School won the Morris County Mock Trial Competition, besting Villa Walsh Academy in the final round on Feb. 2. Assignment Judge Thomas L. Weisenbeck and Civil Division Presiding Judge David B. Rand presided over the competition.

In Sussex County, High Point Regional High School beat Kittatinny Regional High School on Jan. 26 to win the county title. Judges David B. Rand and Edward V. Gannon presided over the competition.

“The mock trial program is a wonderful way for students to learn more about the legal system, develop their analytical thinking and sharpen their public speaking skills,” said Assignment Judge Weisenbeck. “It is also an opportunity for local attorneys who volunteer to work with the students to make a positive and rewarding contribution to our community. I am impressed with the enthusiasm and hard work of the students and their coaches.”

This year’s mock trial case was about a fictional high school student who broke into a teacher's house. The jury had to determine whether he was just trying to deliver a math test of his own, on which he admittedly had cheated, or whether the student was there to commit a bias crime by stealing an emblem of the teacher's home country.

The county winners will compete in a regional competition, and the winner will try for the state title at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick on March 22.

The Morris and Sussex County Mock Trial Programs are sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation, in cooperation with the Morris County Bar Association and the Sussex County Bar Association.

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