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# BURLINGTON VICINAGE PRESS RELEASE

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## **BURLINGTON JUDGES PARTICIPATE IN MOCK TRIAL FINALS**

**MOUNT HOLLY** – The Superior Court of New Jersey, Burlington Vicinage, will host the final round of the annual mock trial competition in the Courts Facility, 49 Rancocas Rd., Mount Holly on Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. in courtroom 7A. Superior Court Judges Michael J. Hogan and Terrence R. Cook will preside over the mock trials

The names of the two competing teams will not be known until one final preliminary round is decided. The winning schools that will compete in the court house mock trials already have survived elimination rounds that began on Saturday, Jan. 30 and initially involved 12 Burlington County high schools.

“The attorneys and judges are quite impressed with how well the students are prepared and their high level of courtroom performance,” said Burlington County Mock Trial Co-Coordinator Kenneth D. Ross, Esq. This year’s mock trial is based on a fictional criminal case involving the kidnapping of a 12-year-old by a babysitter.

The New Jersey State Bar Foundation, in cooperation with county bar associations, sponsors the Vincent J. Apruzzese Mock Trial Competition each year. The statewide competition encourages a better understanding of the American legal system. Local high school students take on the roles of plaintiffs, defendants, attorneys, and witnesses as they compete against each other. More than 30 members of the Burlington Bar Association donated their time to coordinate, coach and judge the competition.

The winner of the final round will advance to compete in the central regional event at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick on Feb. 10. The central regional winners will go to the regional finals on March 16 and on to the semi-finals on March 18. Statewide championships will be held on March 24 at the law center. New Jersey’s first-place statewide team will compete in the nationals to be held in Philadelphia May 6 through 8.

Burlington Vicinage Judge Susan L. Claypoole participated in the preliminary rounds of the competition.

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