



**SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY**  
COUNTIES OF  
ATLANTIC AND CAPE MAY  
VICINAGE I

**Howard H. Berchtold, Jr.**  
*Trial Court Administrator*

**Kathleen E. Obringer**  
*Ombudsman/Community Liaison*

**1201 Bacharach Boulevard**  
**Atlantic City, NJ 08401-4510**  
**(609) 594-3400**  
**FAX: (609) 343-2232**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Feb. 10, 2011

For additional information, contact:  
Kathleen Obringer  
Ombudsman/Community Liaison  
609-594-3346

**Middle Township High School Wins Cape May County and  
Southern Regional Mock Trial Competition;  
Absegami High School Holds Atlantic County Title**

Middle Township High School's mock trial team has won the Southern Regional mock trial competition, defeating the Atlantic County champion, Absegami High School, and the Ocean County champion, Monsignor Donovan High School, on Feb. 9. They will compete at the regional playoffs on March 15.

Middle Township earned their trip to the semi-finals by defeating teams from Cape May County Technical High School, Ocean City High School, Wildwood Catholic High School, and Lower Cape May Regional High School to win the Cape May County title on Feb. 3.

Superior Court Judges John Porto and John R. Rauh presided over the Cape May County competitions, along with Presiding Municipal Court Judge Louis J. Belasco, Municipal Court Judge Richard Russell and Administrative Law Judge Bruce Gorman.

"This was a rewarding experience for members of the bar to see high school students who are so well prepared and who presented their cases in such a professional manner. All students, witnesses and attorneys competed at a very high level, and I am sure that the winner will be a good representative of Cape May County," said Judge Belasco.

In Atlantic County, Absegami High School defeated Mainland Regional High School for the county title on Feb. 3. Other schools competing were Holy Spirit High School, Egg Harbor Township High School, Mainland Regional High School, Hammonton High School, and St Joseph's High School.

Superior Court Judges James E. Isman, Bernard E. Delury Jr., Mark H. Sandson, James P. Savio, Joseph E. Kane, and retired Judges Steven P. Perskie and L. Anthony Gibson presided over the Atlantic County mock trial competitions. They were joined by Municipal Court Judge H. Robert Switzer. The competitions were held at both the Criminal Courts Complex in Mays Landing and the Atlantic County Civil Courts Building.

"This is one of the most gratifying things we get to do as judges, having the opportunity to see high school students developing into advocates for the legal system," said Judge Sandson.

Judge Savio said, “We want to thank the faculty advisors for all of their hard work in teaching the students to think and behave like attorneys, which will serve them well in the future.”

This year’s mock trial was based on a fictional case that deals with distracted driving/walking. A pedestrian/motor vehicle accident occurred on the grounds of a high school. Both parties in the case are students at the high school.

The Atlantic and Cape May County High School Mock Trial programs are sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation in cooperation with the Atlantic and Cape May County Bar Associations and the New Jersey Superior Court in Atlantic and Cape May counties.

###