



OFFICE OF THE
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COUNTY OF SHASTA

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PRESS RELEASE
Mock Trial Competition
February 20, 2009

Tomorrow, the Shasta County District Attorney's Office and Shasta County Superior Court will host the Thirteenth Annual Shasta County Mock Trial Competition at the John Balma Justice Center, located at 1655 West Street in Redding. Teams from Shasta High School, Anderson New Technology High School, and Enterprise High School will compete by presenting a criminal case to judges and attorneys. Local attorneys will grade the competitors, and the winning team will move on to the state finals in Riverside in April.

The fact pattern this year involves an alleged arson which occurred after a riot at a religious compound. The investigation used forensic evidence, including techniques to determine fire origin and causation. Pre-trial motions involve questions surrounding the First Amendment Right to Free Speech.

The competition begins on Saturday, February 21, 2009, at 8:00 a.m. and will continue until approximately 6:00 p.m. At the end of the day, the champion will be announced.

The competition is a great way for local students to get a first-hand glimpse of how the criminal justice system works. Local attorneys and teachers donate their time to coach the students in preparation for this weekend's competition. Local judges and attorneys will oversee the trial.

The competition is open to the public. Questions regarding the competition should be directed to Deputy District Attorney Erin Dervin at 245-6300.