



MEDINA COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT

Probate and Juvenile Divisions

93 Public Square, Room 104, Medina, Ohio 44256

KEVIN W. DUNN
Judge

MEDIA RELEASE

January 25, 2017

High School District Mock Trial Hosted at Medina County Courthouse



A student from Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School cross-examines the Buckeye High School student playing the role of former Governor Pat Justice during the Mock Trial District Competition January 20.

MEDINA – Six teams of students from Cloverleaf, Buckeye and Brecksville-Broadview Heights High Schools competed in the Medina District annual Mock Trial District Competition at the county courthouse January 20.

The students, who began preparing their case in October, argued both sides of the mock case *Pat Justice v. CAT News et al.* In this case, students must argue whether or not a local news station's decision to quickly publish a story cost a former Governor re-election. CAT News hastily accused former Governor Pat Justice of murdering a high school principal after a student reporter witnessed him storm out of the school official's office. While the story was quickly disproven, it did go viral leading Governor Justice to file a civil suit against CAT News. Each team presented the case twice

throughout the day, once as prosecution and again as defense to argue whether or not the former Governor's claim of alleged defamation by CAT News cost him re-election.

In Probate and Juvenile Court, Judge Kevin Dunn presided over the case between Brecksville-Broadview Heights and Buckeye High Schools with the assistance of local attorneys Kenneth Marco and Bradley Proudfoot. The students were scored based on their presentation, their understanding of the complex legal issues in the case, cross examination and direct examination skills, as well as their opening and closing statements.

"You all did a great job identifying documents and exhibits," Judge Dunn told the students after the mock trial. "And those of you who were expert witnesses really knew your facts and were well-prepared."

Judge Dunn told the students that he thought they did a great job overall, but added that they could work on their presentation by speaking slower, louder, and pausing for responses.

-more-

To learn more about the Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court or Court programs, visit our websites at www.MedinaJuvenile.org and www.MedinaProbate.org.

“When you come into this courtroom, I want you to come in here like you own the place,” Judge Dunn told the students. “Speak up and take charge.”

Attorney Marco added to the Judge’s recommendations by suggesting that the students work on developing a rapport in the courtroom.

“Increase your eye contact with the Judge and witnesses when you are speaking,” Attorney Marco suggested. “Overall, you should be very proud of yourselves for your presentations today.”

The Medina County Mock Trial District Competition, coordinated by Attorney Andrew M. Parker, Esq., is sponsored by the Medina County Bar Association.

The goal of the mock trial program, created by the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education, is to better inform students about their constitutional rights and responsibilities and to fill the void in law-related education. The program also assists students in developing problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

State finals for qualifying teams will be held in the Ohio Statehouse March 9-11, with the winning team advancing to the national competition.

-end-

To learn more about the Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court or Court programs, visit our websites at www.MedinaJuvenile.org and www.MedinaProbate.org.