



PRESS RELEASE
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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT
OPENS ITS DOORS TO THE
2017 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

The federal district court in Hartford, Connecticut is opening its doors for the 2017 National High School Mock Trial Championship on May 12 and 13. Every year, this competition brings together the best mock trial teams from high schools around the country, as well as from Guam, South Korea, and the Northern Mariana Islands, to promote understanding and appreciation of the American judicial system.

Civics First, a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing democracy and law education in Connecticut's schools through hands-on learning experiences for students, teacher training and curriculum development, is hosting the event. Its objective is to use interesting and innovative activities to incorporate law-related education into the curriculum of all schools, from kindergarten through high school.

This year, over 600 students, comprising 46 teams, will travel to Connecticut for the competition. Chief United States District Judge Janet C. Hall said: "Our court is proud to partner with Civics First to support these students and help educate young people and the public about the important role that our courts and judges play in preserving the rule of law. Through educational opportunities like this, our nation's youth learn the fundamentals of civic rights and responsibilities, which learning can only strengthen our democracy. We congratulate the 20,000 participating students around the nation for their hard work and dedication to learning about the law and our system of justice."

District court judges, law clerks, and Clerk's Office staff have volunteered to judge the mock trials, provide feedback to the students, and to help administer the competition rounds held in the federal courthouse.

United States District Judge Alvin W. Thompson, co-chair of the court's Public Outreach Committee, said: "We are thrilled to support this competition and are eager to partner with schools and organizations such as Civics First to create opportunities for students to learn about

the federal judiciary. Through programs and events like the National High School Mock Trial Competition, we endeavor to regularly collaborate with local schools and organizations to bring communities to our courts and our courts to communities.”

The goal of the district court’s Public Outreach Committee is to help young people and the public better understand the importance of the law in our daily lives. Judges, lawyers, and court personnel play important roles as they contribute to protecting and preserving our legal system, ensuring fairness, equality, diversity, non-discrimination, openness, due process, accountability, and compassion to all who seek justice.

If you are a member of the press and would like to attend the competition, or if you would like to explore educational opportunities with the federal district court, please contact Dinah Milton Kinney, Chief Deputy Clerk via email at Dinah_MiltonKinney@ctd.uscourts.gov or telephone at (203) 773-2430.

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