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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Morris/Sussex Vicinage Announces Winners of Mock Trial Competitions**

West Morris Mendham High School defeated Villa Walsh Academy School to win the Morris County High School Mock Trial Competition. Assignment Judge Thomas L. Weisenbeck and Civil Division Presiding Judge Thomas V. Manahan presided over the final round of the county competition on Thursday, Jan. 31. Superior Court Judges James M. DeMarzo, David H. Ironson and Stephan C. Hansbury presided over the semi-finals.

In Sussex County, High Point Regional School District beat Kittatinny Regional High School to win the county competition, also held on Jan. 31. Superior Court Judges William J. McGovern, Peter N. Conforti, James A. Farber, Edward V. Gannon, Louis S. Sceusi, and Robert J. Gilson presided over the competition.

The competitions included students from 11 local schools who played various roles such as plaintiffs, defendants, attorneys, witnesses and jurors in a fictional court case designed by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation. Judges from the Superior Court and many volunteer attorneys, staff members, and teachers served as judges, coaches, and timekeepers during the competition.

Both winning high schools will compete in the regional competition at the New Brunswick Law Center. The semi finals will be held on March 18. The state finals are scheduled for March 20.

The mock trial program was sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation in cooperation with the Morris and Sussex County bar associations.

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