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Morris/Sussex Vicinage Hosts High School Mock Trial Competition

The Morris/Sussex Vicinage and the Morris County Bar Foundation will host the 2020 Vincent J. Apruzzese High School Mock Trial Competition on Monday, Jan. 27 in the Administration and Records Building, 10 Court St., Morristown.

The competition will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Winners of the competition will advance to compete for the title of Morris County mock trial champion on Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 6:30 p.m. in the Historic Courthouse, Washington and Court streets, Morristown. Presiding Chancery Judge Maritza Berdote Byrne and Superior Court Judge David Ironson will preside over the finals.

This year's program features a fictional criminal case in which the defendant was charged with killing an animal that was owned or used by a law enforcement agency. Students will play the roles of plaintiff, defendant, attorneys, witnesses and jurors.

The vicinage and the Sussex County Bar Foundation hosted the semi-finals competition in the Sussex County Historic Courthouse in Newton on Tuesday, Jan. 21. Superior Court Judges William J. McGovern III and David J. Weaver, retired Superior Court Judge James. A. Farber and Municipal Court Judge Paris P. Eliades presided. Newton High School's mock trial team won the Sussex finals on Thursday, Jan. 23, with Appellate Court Judge Robert J. Gilson and Superior Court Judge Michael C. Gaus presiding.

The winning schools in Morris and Sussex counties will advance to the regional semifinals, where they will have a chance to advance to the state championship. The winners of the regional competitions will be honored at the vicinage Law Day celebrations in Newton and Morristown in April and May, respectively.

For more information on the mock trial competition or Law Day events, contact Ombudsman Jennifer Shultis at 862-397-5700, ext. 75069.

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