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LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL WINS STATE MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

The 32nd annual Oregon Mock Trial state competition was fiercely competitive this year, with eighteen high school teams traveling from as far away as Vale to hold trials at the Mark O. Hatfield Courthouse in downtown Portland. Two days and three rounds winnowed the competition down to two finalists: Lincoln High School (Portland) and West Linn High School's Gold team. St. Mary's Academy (Portland) came in third, and West Linn proved the strength of their program with a rare second appearance in the top four from their Green team.

The competition was strong throughout the day, with all eighteen teams turning in impressive performances. The students clearly enjoyed the opportunity to show off what they've learned about the judiciary and the legal system through the mock trial process. One student from Cascades Academy in Bend observed, "It's intense competing with teams from all around the state, but we feel really good about our skills and teamwork. Plus – it's a lot of fun!"

First place was decided in a winner-take-all final round, with the teams flipping a coin to decide who would represent the prosecution (Lincoln) and the defense (West Linn). The Honorable Michael Simon of the U.S. District Court presided. Joining him were Hon. Patricia McGuire of Multnomah Circuit Court; Dr. Gayle Thieman and Dr. Samuel Henry of the Portland State University Graduate School of Education; and Ms. Blair Townsend, an attorney with Michael Wise & Associates in Lake Oswego. The students tried a fictional criminal case – *State of Oregon v Dannie DeLuca* – which deals with important issues like distracted driving and texting.

After a two-hour long final trial, Lincoln was victorious, with West Linn coming in second. The Lincoln team will now represent Oregon at the National High School Mock Trial Competition in Reno, Nevada, May 10 - 13.

This was a particularly poignant mock trial for hosting organization Classroom Law Project. Program Director Barbara Rost, who facilitated the creation of this year's case as she has done for many years, retired in January. She returned to see the final unfolding of her work at the championship round. CLP Executive Director Marilyn Cover has also announced her [impending retirement](#), so this will be her last mock trial competition as well.

Cover celebrated the hard work of the students, teachers, coaches, and parents in her remarks at the awards reception on Saturday. "The role of an independent judiciary cannot be overstated in our democracy. These teams have ably demonstrated their understanding of that role and of the many parts that go into an effective, just legal system. Watching them today should make everyone proud and hopeful."

Started in 1983, Classroom Law Project brings vital and engaging civics and law-related education programs into Oregon schools, teaching students the values and skills essential to being a participating citizen in our democracy. Each year, CLP's innovative and timely programs inspire over 1,000 teachers and nearly 87,000 students statewide.

PHOTOS ATTACHED

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