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**ILLINOIS STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION**

LAW-RELATED EDUCATION

The Newsletter of the ISBA's Committee on Law-Related Education

The Illinois State Bar Association's Law-Related Education Newsletter is provided free of charge on a quarterly basis during the school year. We are dedicated to promoting law-related education resources and discussion topics appropriate for use in classroom or community settings. If you do NOT wish to receive this complimentary newsletter, please reply and indicate in the message line that you wish to be removed from our mailing list. Statements, expressions of opinion or comments appearing herein are those of the editors or contributors, and not necessarily those of the Association or the Committee.

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Results of the 2014 State and National Mock Trial Invitationals

St. Charles North High School, in St. Charles, placed first in the 32nd annual Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA) High School Mock Trial Invitational held at the University of Illinois, School of Law in Champaign March 8 and 9, 2014.

Hinsdale Central High School in Hinsdale came in second place, and third place went to Chicago Christian High School in Palos Heights. Hinsdale Central received the highest team average on the Written Law Exam. Teams from 42 Illinois high schools traveled to Champaign to participate in the program. St. Charles North represented Illinois at the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Madison, Wisconsin. The St. Charles Team did well at the Nationals. It won a trophy for 10th place.

“The mock trial competition provides a unique opportunity for high school students to learn civics through the courtroom,” says Hon. Michael J. Chmiel, of Woodstock, chair of the ISBA’s Standing Committee on Law Related Education for the Public, which conducts the program. “Through the efforts of the ISBA and the University of Illinois, high schools have the rare chance to fully expose their students to a valued and necessary profession.”

Each 10-member team tries both sides – plaintiff and defense – of a hypothetical case developed by the ISBA Committee. This year’s case was *Jersey Johnson v. Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS)*. On Halloween Eve 1938, CBS’s radio program, “Mercury Theater on the Air,” presented an interpretation of, *The War of the Worlds*. A disclaimer aired at the beginning of the broadcast informing listeners that the work was fictional. Johnson and his/her cousin, Logan St. Clair, did not hear the original disclaimer or one that aired 40 minutes into the program, and believed it to be true. To avoid being captured by aliens, they went into hiding in the cellar of their home. They were later found by authorities in a state of mental disarray and physical deterioration from their time in hiding. In a lawsuit, Johnson alleged that CBS intentionally caused emotional distress and that he/she is now ostracized in the community because of the incident.

The high school mock trials have been conducted each year since 1982 by the ISBA to provide Illinois high school students an interesting and challenging way to gain insight into the American judicial system. Co-sponsors of the 2014 event are Illinois LEARN, Inc.; the Illinois Trial Team of the University of Illinois; the University of Illinois College of Law; and the Diversity Scholarship Foundation of Chicago.



In addition to St. Charles North, Hinsdale Central, and Chicago Christian the following teams in alphabetical order were in the championship round at the State Invitation:

Boylan Catholic, Rockford
De La Salle, Chicago
Evanston Township, Evanston
St. Charles East, St. Charles
Timothy Christian, Elmhurst

Congratulations to all the students who participated and their teachers, coaches and parents who helped to make the Mock Trials an excellent learning experience. A list of all the schools that participated follows:

Bartlett High School - Bartlett
Benet Academy - Lisle
Boylan Catholic High School - Rockford
Carmel Catholic High School - Mundelein
Chatham Glenwood High School - Chatham
Chicago Christian High School - Palos Heights
De La Salle Institute - Chicago
Deerfield High School - Deerfield
Evanston Township High School - Evanston
Glenbard East High School - Lombard
Glenbard South High School - Glen Ellyn
Guerin College Prep - River Grove
Highland Park High School - Highland Park
Hinsdale Central High School - Hinsdale
Hinsdale South High School - Darien
Homewood Flossmoor High School - Flossmoor
Huntley Consolidated High School - Huntley
Law Explorer Post #1 – Springfield
Lexington High School - Lexington
Libertyville High School - Libertyville
Maine South High School - Park Ridge
Mount Carmel High School - Chicago
Mt Vernon Township High School - Mt. Vernon
Niles West High School - Skokie
Normal Community High School - Normal
Normal Community West High School - Normal
O'Fallon Township High School - O'Fallon
Oak Park and River Forest High School - Oak Park



Pittsfield High School - Pittsfield
Providence Catholic High School - New Lenox
Rich Central High School - Olympia Fields
Roxana High School - Roxana
Salem High School - Salem
South Elgin High School - South Elgin
St. Charles East High School - St. Charles
St. Charles North High School - St. Charles
Thornton Fractional High School – Calumet City
Timothy Christian High School - Elmhurst
Uno Garcia Charter - Chicago
Wheaton Academy - Chicago
Willowbrook High School - Villa Park
York Community High School - Elmhurst

Thank you to our Volunteers

Volunteers who made this all possible!

The Illinois State Bar Association, Illinois Trial Team and the Standing Committee on Law-Related Education for the Public would like to thank the volunteer judges, lawyers, retired lawyers, paralegals, Illinois Trial Team students and ISBA staff who undertake the task for coordinating and hosting the High School Mock Trial Invitational. This year, the following individuals helped to make the event possible.

Aaron Galloway
Aleksandra Ostojic
Alexander Berk
Amyna Visram
Ann Pictor
Arjun Sharma
Ashley DiFilippo
Bianca Ciarroni
Brandon Black
Brenda Duke
Carey C. Gill
Chengcheng Wu
Christina Cullom
Christine Zeman



Donald Parkinson
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Frank Kopecky
Heather Igoe
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Jeremy Tyrrell
Jill Doherty
Jiwon Juliana Yhee
John Thies
Kaitlyn Willison
Kateah McMasters
Kathleen L. Pine
Katie Sreenan
Katy Karcyannis
Lauren Evans DeJong
Mark C. Palmer
Mark L. Karno
Marylou Kent
Michael Robinson
Nancy Easum
Pablo Eves
Phil West
Radusa Ostojic
Randy Cox
Rhett Buchmilles
Rocky Martinez
Sarah J. Taylor
Stanley N. Wasser
Stephen Iden
Thomas R. Siegel
Tom McClure
Tracy Douglas
William Schmitz
Xi Zhao



Xiaoqi Dai
Yulia Chembulatova
Zeophus Williams

Outstanding Presentations by Mock Trial Students

Named for Outstanding Achievement as a High School Mock Trial Attorney and Witness:

Zane Kaiser	Bartlett
Tia Mangahas	Bartlett
Anne Marie Hawley	Benet Academy
Madeleine Lotesta	Benet Academy
Molly Schorsch	Boylan Catholic
Kotryna Jukneviciute	Carmel Catholic
Hannah James	Carmel Catholic
Ryan Connor	Chatham Glenwood
Gracie McCall	Chatham Glenwood
Made DeJager	Chicago Christian
Dan Venhuizen	Chicago Christian
Jacob Bruinius	Chicago Christian
Jamie Hiskes	Chicago Christian
Eddie Hood	Chicago Christian
Mariel Guzman	De La Salle Institute
Melissa Zavala	De La Salle Institute
Ben Richards	Deerfield
Lauren Spungen	Deerfield
Max Goldsmith	Evanston
Ella West	Evanston (named in two trials)
Ben Osterlund	Evanston
Emma Merrick	Glenbard East
Parker Brand	Glenbard East
Gaetano Bianco	Guerin Prep
Paul Saad	Guerin Prep
Daniella Cohen	Highland Park
Madison Xilas	Highland Park
Jeremy Burroughs	Highland Park
Mishika Narula	Highland Park
Madeleine Lofchy	Hinsdale Central
Corrien Casper	Hinsdale Central
Vinay Basti	Hinsdale Central



Greer Harrison	Hinsdale Central
Anu Rao	Hinsdale South
Shane Farhang	Hinsdale South
Louisa Collazo	Huntley
Crystal Hart	Huntley
Vitoria Reales	Huntley
Dolan Barnes	Law Explorer 1
Ellen Mannion	Law Explorer 1
Stu Stalter	Lexington
Ben Montgomery	Libertyville
Julia Wilson	Libertyville (named in two trials)
Bjorn Olafsson	Maine South (Attorney and Witness)
Ian King	Maine South
Savannah Thiel	Maine South (Attorney and Witness)
Alberto Covarrubias	Mt. Carmel (named in two trials)
Diana Badasyan	Niles West
Christian Baker	Normal Community
A.J. Blodgett	Normal Community (named in two trials)
Kelli Tilford	Normal Community
Jacob Rinda	Normal Community West
Madeline Herrman	Normal Community West
Alex Belongy	O'Fallon
Nate Sacks	Oak Park River Forest
Maggie Costello	Oak Park River Forest
Iyenoma Ogbomoh	Rich Central
Michael Iloegbunam	Rich Central
Rayshaun Coope	Rich Central
Corey Bohnenkamp	Roxana
Madison Lobos	Roxana
Drew Ratliff	Roxana
Sriya Siems	St. Charles East (named in two trials)
Connor Dieckman	St. Charles East
Justine Shanner	St. Charles North
Kiersten Aalfs	St. Charles North (named in two trials)
Tony Maganini	St. Charles North (named in two trials)
Tracie Beard	Salem
Nick Conklin	Salem (named in two trials)
Bianca De Rango	South Elgin
Elijah Heyboer	Timothy Christian (named in two trials)
Vincent Williams	Timothy Christian
Charis Valmores	Timothy Christian



Joshua Bootsma	Timothy Christian (named in two trials)
Gabriela Silva	Major Garcia
Alex Renn	Wheaton Academy
Abby Lindsay	Wheaton Academy
Lydia Jiang	Wheaton Academy
Ben LoCascio	Wheaton Academy
Mira Staykova	Willowbrook
Diana Cahill	York

Chairs Column – By Judge Michael Chmiel
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Once again, this publication comes to you through the work of the *Standing Committee on Law Related Education for the Public* of the *Illinois State Bar Association*. The Standing Committee has continued in its endeavors to encourage and enhance opportunities for civics education throughout the State of Illinois, through its volunteer attorneys who stand ready, willing, and able to speak to students, through its publications, and through the High School Mock Trial Competition which it coordinates for the ISBA. Gratitude is stated for all who have participated. More can always be done, but things bode well for the future of the State through the interest and effort of those who focus on civics.

As we approach the end of the 2013-14 fiscal year of the ISBA, gratitude is also stated for those who will be leaving the ranks of the Standing Committee. In particular, thanks go to **Suzanne Schmitz** of Carbondale who has chaired our *Civics Education Subcommittee*. Through Suzanne’s efforts, the Standing Committee (and others) has (have) re-oriented efforts to not only gather volunteers and produce quality materials for discussion, but also focus on educating the educators on the availability of such resources.

As well, thanks go to **Ann Pictor** of Springfield who has traveled across the State to attend meetings, offer comments, and help the Standing Committee with its efforts to educate the educators.

Further gratitude is stated for **Frank Kopecky** who has served as the Standing Committee’s newsletter editor and who has also chaired its new Publications Subcommittee. Frank has provided a steady hand for the Standing Committee with insightful comments and reliable efforts.

As well, thanks to outgoing President of the ISBA, **Paula Holderman** of Chicago, who has helped the Standing Committee re-focus on civics education, and dedicated countless hours of her own.



As we approach the new fiscal year, the Standing Committee is being *further* challenged to help advance the efforts of ISBA and other groups in civics education. To such end, the incoming President of the ISBA, **Richard Felice** of Wheaton, has kept much of the Standing Committee intact for another tour of duty. During his administration, Rick will look to further advance civics education throughout the State, with special hopes of educating non-attorneys, young and old, about the courts and the judiciary, and the importance of the rule of law.

As before, educators are well-advised to explore and utilize various *free* resources which are available through the websites of the ISBA (www.isba.org), the Supreme Court of Illinois (www.state.il.us/court), and the Illinois Judges Association (www.ija.org).

Once again, *we are all working to make our State a better place through education.* As time allows, we welcome questions, comments, suggestions, and invitations to make presentations. Otherwise, thanks and best wishes for a great Summer!

Law-Related Education Committee Activities 2013-2014

Editor's note: The following is an edited version of a Report that was submitted to the State Bar as a summary of the work of the Law Related Education Committee.

As we bring the 2013-14 fiscal year of the Illinois State Bar Association to a close, the following **Report on the Work of the Standing Committee on Law Related Education for the Public** is submitted as a follow up to the reporting of the Committee last year.

As you will recall, Sarah Taylor and Jennifer Franklin visited with you on behalf of the Committee last May, in support of the continuation of the High School Mock Trial Invitational. *Attached* is a report Sarah has authored as Chair of our new **Mock Trial Subcommittee** which dedicated countless volunteer hours to this year's Invitational. Thanks to the MTS, the administrative efforts of Marley Nelson and the Illinois Mock Trial Team, and hosting by the University of Illinois College of Law, the Invitational has become better than ever. It appears that the Invitational will be at the College of Law for several years in the future.

While the Committee considers the Invitational to provide a prime opportunity for civics education through the offerings of volunteer attorneys and judges who work with teams throughout the State and who participate in the March competition, the Committee has also worked to meet the challenges of President



Holderman to further evolve opportunities for civics education. Thanks to the efforts of Suzanne Schmitz who has chaired the Committee's new **Civics Education Subcommittee**, we have worked to continue to coordinate members of the ISBA in visits to classrooms throughout the State to extol the virtues of, and otherwise provide civics education. We have identified "getting into classrooms" as a challenge, and to meet that challenge, we have staffed tables at conferences of social studies teachers throughout the State. We have also produced written materials which have been distributed at those conferences and through the ISBA website. At the upcoming Annual Meeting of the ISBA, we will again staff a table through which we will encourage further participation by members of the ISBA.

In the area of civics, the Committee has also collaborated with the Illinois Judges Association through its President, Justice Mary Schostok, its incoming president, Justice Michael Hyman, and a past Chair of our Committee, Judge John Coady. We were able to distribute a joint flyer which apprised members of the ISBA of opportunities sponsored by the ISBA and the IJA in the area of civics education, and hope to be able to distribute a similar but updated flyer at the upcoming Annual Meeting of the ISBA. We are also hoping to soon provide for the training of members of the ISBA in the IJA's "Courtroom in the Classroom" program, and have welcomed opportunities to work on mentoring in literacy. The Committee has also collaborated with Judge Patricia Golden on the efforts of her committees of the ISBA. We have begun work on a PowerPoint presentation and an outline, which would facilitate presentations to community groups, by attorneys and judges, to better educate communities throughout Illinois about the court system in Illinois.

The Committee has also continued its publication efforts through its new **Publications Subcommittee** which has been chaired by Frank Kopecky. Through its efforts, the PS is looking to issue its fifth newsletter next week, and has continued to work on materials, including pamphlets for use by members, teachers, students, and others. Through the further efforts of Rocky Martinez, the Committee has continued to review and update its portion of the ISBA website, with further hopes and plans for improvement.

Lastly, with further hope of advancing the work of the Committee in years to come, a new **Long-Range Planning Subcommittee** under the direction of Rocky Martinez has drafted a strategic plan and master calendar which the Committee will look to adopt before the end of this current fiscal year. The plan will identify various aspirations for the future, and serve to identify strategic partners who will hopefully help the Committee (and the ISBA) further advance civics education throughout the State. On April 30, the Committee also voted to



recommend to the Scope and Correlation Committee, modification of the current mission statement of the Committee to better reflect the drive for civics education throughout the State for *all* ages.

It is challenging to provide everything the Committee has handled, is handling, and plans to handle in an executive summary such as this, but rest assured that the Committee is truly a *working* committee which continues to look for ways to serve the membership of the ISBA through its own initiatives and those directed and suggested by the leadership of the ISBA.

Students' Work Leads to New Law

Teachers might use the article below, from State Rep. Osmond's website, to teach the steps required in passing legislation. They also might encourage students to consider what laws they would propose. Teachers might also use this article to challenge students to do further research into the issue of properly disposing unused drugs. Teachers in science can show the need to understand the legislative process and Social Studies teachers can show the need to understand science when passing legislation.

The efforts of students at Antioch High School during the 2013 school year are described in the following press release from Representative Osmond.

Student-Initiated Prescription Drug Disposal Program Becomes Law

ANTIOCH – Governor Pat Quinn signed a new state law Wednesday creating an innovative prescription drug collection and disposal program utilizing local law enforcement agencies across Illinois as a drop-off site for the incineration of unused drugs. House Bill 2056, sponsored by Assistant Republican Leader JoAnn Osmond (R-Antioch) was inspired by the work of an Antioch High School student group, who traveled to Springfield in March to testify on behalf of the legislation at a House Environmental Health Committee hearing.

Four years ago, an innovative Prescription Pill and Drug Disposal program, called P2D2, was launched by students at Pontiac Township High School in downstate Livingston County who were concerned about the threat of prescription drugs polluting local groundwater. The program has since spread to other communities and states. Antioch High School students heard about the program and brought the idea to Osmond.

“This exceptional initiative will prevent the contamination of our drinking water, protect wildlife, and help keep drugs out of the hands of teens,” Rep. Osmond



said. "I commend the students from Antioch High School for their hard work in bringing this important issue to the forefront and helping us shape a positive solution for the benefit of everyone in Illinois when it comes to disposing of unused prescription drugs." Under HB 2056, local law enforcement agencies across the state would be authorized to collect pharmaceuticals from residential sources and incinerate them safely in a manner consistent with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency standards. Law enforcement agencies would recoup the cost of incinerating the drugs through a \$20 court fee added to every drug arrest in Illinois. Each police department that participates would be able to get a grant to cover the cost associated with disposal of prescription drugs collected under the program.

HB 2056 passed the Illinois House unanimously on April 7 before securing final approval from the State Senate on May 22. Senator Suzi Schmidt (R-Lake Villa) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

Law-Related Education Success Stories Ramona Sullivan

Ramona Sullivan who is a staff attorney with Land of Lincoln Legal Services submitted the following summary of her LRE activities in Champaign County. Readers of the newsletter are encouraged to submit their Success Stories in LRE to Kim Furr at the Illinois State Bar Association.

Students at Campus Middle School for Girls, a private school in Champaign County, immersed themselves in the law last spring. After a week of learning the law, these young women presented oral arguments at the Champaign County Courthouse before Judge Holly Clemons.

Working in teams, the students were assigned a client and given some information about that client. They then researched the law and prepared their arguments, with assistance from area attorneys and law students.

This program was part of a special week the School sets aside for students to study one subject in depth.

The materials were prepared by Ramona Sullivan, an attorney with Land of Lincoln Legal Services. Her daughter attended the school at the time of the program.



Ms. Sullivan reports that youth as young as 6th-8th graders can understand and argue cases involving family law, gender discrimination, contract law and criminal law.

In another experience, Ms. Sullivan worked with students at the Illinois Math and Science Academy in Aurora where her son attended school. There, she guided the students in reading appellate opinions involving Domestic Violence cases. The students reviewed the sentences given for domestic violence and tried to understand the variations in the sentences by examining the conduct committed.

Through this weeklong exercise, students considered what is and is not a healthy relationship, the protections for victims and the consequences for abusers.

Ms. Sullivan reports that high schoolers are capable of reading primary source documents such as appellate cases and of asking very insightful questions.

Ms. Sullivan has taken vacation time to participate in these school activities. Many lawyers will find it more convenient to give an hour or two to Law Day (May 1) activities. On Law Day, she has joined other parents to share their life stories and careers. Sullivan believes that it is important for students to be informed about the legal system and to be informed about their legal rights and responsibilities. She suggests lawyers extend an offer to their children's teachers and teachers ask parents who are lawyers to come in.

History Day

National History Day (NHD) is a program for elementary and secondary school students that encourage research and an appreciation of history. Students are to develop a project based on a particular theme. This year's theme is "Rights and Responsibilities in History."

The National History Day Website summarizes the program as follows: "Each year, more than half a million students, encouraged by thousands of teachers nationwide participate in the NHD contest. Students choose historical topics related to a theme and conduct extensive primary and secondary research through libraries, archives, museums, oral history interviews and historic sites. After analyzing and interpreting their sources and drawing conclusions about their topics' significance in history, students present their work in original papers, websites, exhibits, performances and documentaries. These products are entered into competitions in the spring at local, state and national levels where



they are evaluated by professional historians and educators. The program culminates in the Kenneth E. Behring National Contest each June held at the University of Maryland at College Park.”

More information on National History Day May be found at www.nhd.org . There will be an online graduate course entitled “Introduction to Product Based Learning using the National History Day Curriculum Format” offered in September 2014. More information on this course may be found in a press release at the National History Day website.

<p style="text-align: center;">Illinois State Bar Association 2013-2014 Standing Committee on Law-Related Education</p>

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