



16th Annual Mock Trial Competition

Saipan Southern High School won the 2014 Mock Trial Competition held at the Guma' Hustisia on Friday, March 7, 2014. Their team was victorious in the finals over perennial champion Mount Carmel School. Also victorious were the volunteers and sponsors whose hours of work and contribution made the championship an exciting success. The final round, conducted as Friday evening fell, was won by the slimmest of margins.

Deanna M. Ogo, Mock trial coordinator congratulated all the contestants on jobs very well done at the awards ceremony following the competition, and especially wanted to acknowledge and thank those who involved themselves through the multi-week preparation: the coaches, the organizers, and on competition day, the jurors and judges who supported the CNMI High School Mock Trial Program so earnestly.

Acting as judges during the multiple rounds were: Chief Justice Castro, Justice Inos, Judge Wiseman, Judge Camacho, Judge Kim-Tenorio, LRC Executive Director Michael Stanker; attorneys Margo Badawy, Jennifer Dockter, Pamela Brown, and Robert Torres, who presided over the two-and-a-half-hour final trial.

The jurors' role during the trial rounds was performed by Marcia Schultz, Shelia Trianni, Jeanne Rayphand, Tom Schweiger, Joshua Berger, Hyun Jae Lee, Jeanne Rayphand, Kay Delafield, Reena Patel, Charles Brasington, Jerry Cody, Cindy Nesbit, Charity Hodson,



James Zarones, Brian Flaherty, Sean Frink, Shelli Neal, Nancy Gottfried, Chris Heeb, David Lochaby, Chris Heeb, Chemere McField, Tiberius Mocanu, Adam Hardwicke, Heather Barcinas, Dan Guidotti, Micheline Brel, Teresita Sablan, Shelli Neal, Kay Delafield, and Rosemond Santos.

Court staff helped in a variety of ways: Martha Mendiola produced a fine program and tabulated results; Nora Borja was a tabulator and assisted with registration as did Michelle Guerrero. Courtroom functions were handled by Eva Calvo, Partick Diaz, Delia Magofna, Adelpha Kapileo, Kristy Diaz, and Sabrina Dela Cruz. John Demapan and Michael Villacrusis provided audio visual support, including the slideshows on the external monitors and recording of the championship round.

Law Clerks David Ellis, Claire Kelleher-Smith, Joshua Hansen-King, Jordan Sundell, and Nicole Torres put in many hours as coaches to various teams. Special acknowledgement goes out to Bernie Dela Cruz and Suzanne Steffy, Administrative Director of the CNMI Bar Association.

The Saipan Southern team goes on to represent the CNMI in at the 31st National High School Mock Trial Competition to be held in Madison, Wisconsin, on May 8th – 10th.

This year's Mock Trial sponsors are Bank of Guam, CNMI Bar Association, Coca Cola, Commonwealth Judiciary, Docomo Pacific, Herman's Modern Bakery, Hyatt Regency Saipan, J's Restaruant, Joeten Daidia Foundation, Kanoa Resort, Martha Mendiola, McDonald's of Saipan, National Office Supply, Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society, Offices of the Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, Senator Paul A. Manglona, Representative Edmund S. Villgomez, Pacific Islands Club, R&M Printers, Subway, Topnotch and World Resort.

