

Jackson High School Mock Trial Team Places 8th in WA State Championship

Peers select Jackson to receive “Core Values” award

The Jackson High School Mock Trial Team finished in the top ten of 24 teams across the state at the Washington State YMCA Mock Trial Competition in Olympia on March 24-26 at the Thurston County Courthouse. The team also received the coveted William L. Downing Core Values Award for displaying YMCA Mock Trial values including honesty, sportsmanship and leadership. This is only the second time that Jackson has sent a squad to the highly competitive state competition since a mock trial club was formed in 2011.

Seniors Steven Dean and Patrick Follis received “Best Lawyer” recognition; Hannah Oujidani (senior), Rumi Gilani (junior), and Jessica Ramos (junior) received “Best Witness” recognition.

The team competed in four rounds – prosecuting the case twice and defending the case twice - during the three-day event in Olympia. The students spent months researching case law, working with team members, and finally arguing legal issues in front of real judges and lawyers. This year’s fictional case was a criminal matter in which a corporation was on trial for manslaughter in the death of a test driver for its driverless vehicle. Legal issues included free speech, trade secrets, corporate personhood, and proximate cause.

The High School Mock Trials are a program of YMCA Youth & Government. Members of the Jackson team were: Hannah Aho (senior), Kenneth Clarke (senior), Steven Dean (senior), Patrick Follis (senior), Hannah Oujidani (senior), Rumi Gilani (junior), Jessica Ramos (junior), Malaika Ashraf (sophomore), Yuriana Cornado (sophomore), Zachery Huang (sophomore), Ariel Perreault (sophomore), Tal Wilfand (freshman). Teacher Jim Lockman served as the faculty advisor. Local attorney Jack Follis served as the coach.

Photo 1: Members of the Jackson High School Mock Trial Team at the March 24-26 YMCA State Mock Trial Championship in Olympia.

Photo 2: The Jackson High School Mock Trial team is presented with the Core Values Leadership Award voted on by their peers.

Photo 3: The Core Values Award bears the name of retired King County Superior Court Judge William L. Downing, who has written the mock trial case for many years.