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**SACRAMENTO AREA YOUTH TO REPRESENT
CALIFORNIA AT NATIONAL COMPETITION**

Elk Grove High School Mock Trial Team Advances to National Finals

Sacramento, CA – On March 23-25, 2007, Elk Grove High School's students competed against 34 teams from throughout California to become the statewide winner of the 2007 Mock Trial Competition. As both Sacramento County and state champion, the Elk Grove High School Mock Trial team will represent the State of California at the National Mock Trial Competition to be held in Dallas, Texas on May 10-12, 2007.

Elk Grove High School (EGHS), of the Elk Grove Unified School District, began its quest for the state title in October 2006. For four months, the team's student participants worked with the help of their teacher and attorney coaches to develop their analytical, research, and presentation skills in preparation for the regional competition. This competitive and educational activity for high school youth also fosters teamwork and collaboration among the team's members. Elk Grove High School's Mock Trial team was guided by teacher coaches David Hill, John Patterson, Kitty Laubacher, and Heather Partington (all of Elk Grove High School), as well as attorney coaches Dan Carroll (Downey Brand), Richard Lewkowitz (Sacramento County District Attorney's Office), and Jake Rambo (Attorney at Law).

In January 2007, EGHS participated in the Center for Youth Citizenship's five-county Gordon D. Schaber High School Law Program. During the regional program's culminating events, Elk Grove competed against 25 high school teams from throughout the greater Sacramento Region. Ultimately, EGHS took top honors and, with it, a chance to represent Sacramento County at the State Mock Trial Competition.

The state competition was held on March 23-25, 2007 in Oakland, California. EGHS competed against a field of 34 high schools representing counties from throughout the State of California. In regards to his student's achievements during the state competition, volunteer attorney coach Richard Lewkowitz commented that the student participants "came well prepared, were constantly thinking well on their feet, and consistently adapted their arguments and presentations to the various nuances and changes presented to them in each of their five trials."

In the end, the participating judicial officers and lawyers serving as competition judges deemed EGHS the state's top mock trial team. Following the state competition trials, David Hill, EGHS Mock Trial teacher coach, applauded the hard-work and commitment of his students and noted that "the county of Sacramento and Elk Grove community should be proud of the

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professional and courteous character demonstrated by the Elk Grove mock trial team during the state competition.”

Rocklin High School of Placer County and River City High School of Yolo County also represented their respective counties at the state competition. For more information on the Sacramento Regional Gordon D. Schaber High School Law Program, additional options for involving youth in citizenship education about the rule of law and our courts, and to follow the progress of the Elk Grove winners at the National Competition, please visit the Center for Youth Citizenship’s website at www.youthcitizenship.org.