

31st Annual Gordon D. Schaber High School Law Program



A LawWorks Partnership of the Center for Youth Citizenship

Competition Highlights

This year's 31st Annual Gordon D. Schaber (GDS) High School Law Program involved over 500 student participants from 25 different high schools throughout the Placer, Yolo, El Dorado and Sacramento County areas. In addition, over 150 judges, lawyers, and educators contributed their time and resources to help make this program a success.

C.K. McClatchy High School received first place in the Moot Court Competition Event.

Rio Americano High School received Top Honors in the GDS Mock Trial Competition Event and first place for Sacramento County. Other County first place teams included Oakmont High School for Placer County, Ponderosa High School for El Dorado County and River City High School for Yolo County.

Mock Trial first place teams will go on to represent their counties at the State Competition in San Jose on March 19-21.

Mock Trial Most Valuable Team Members:

*Cordova - Amanda Coronado
Del Campo - Jaron Wilson & Cassie Stewart
El Camino - Anthony Ulrici
Elk Grove - Samantha Church
Grant - Olga Garisimchuk
Laguna Creek - Hannah Muldavin
Natomas - Michelle Santos & Michele Gonzalez
Pleasant Grove - Ty Mullan
Ponderosa - Marina Carpio
River City - Thomas Thao & Alex Effers
Rocklin - Jenna Mersereau
Sacramento Country Day - Sarah Smerling
Sheldon - Britney Vierra
St. Francis - Shannon Clark*

Winning Entry for Courtroom Journalism

School Comedian Found Guilty of Murder

Sacramento, Calif.- Jordan Bratton was found guilty of first degree murder yesterday morning. The victim was famed critic Preston Palmer, who was found dead by strangulation outside his estate in Hollyville, CA on April 13th, 2009.

Palmer had critiqued Bratton's comedy act on April 1st, 2009. His review sent Bratton's rising career into the depths of obscurity. Bratton denies all involvement in the murder of Mr. Palmer, stating that he was at the Hollyville Comedy Club the night of the murder until very late. He admits that though he was saddened by the review, he never wanted to hurt Palmer. "He was just doing his job, however unfair it was," Bratton explained.

Officer Kendal Malone of the Hollyville Police Department investigated Bratton's involvement in the murder. Bratton's Sony FV-100 microphone chord perfectly matched the marks on Palmer's neck, caused by the murder weapon. Bratton's brown cotton gloves matched four characteristics from the brown cotton fibers found underneath Palmer's fingernails. Investigators believe that Palmer pushed these fibers into his own fingernails when he scratched at the assailant's hands during the murder.

Bratton matches the physical characteristics of the assailant, too. Investigators believe that the assailant would be 5'9" through 5'11" and left handed. Bratton is 5'10" and left handed. Furthermore, tire treads found behind Palmer's estate, most likely made on the night of the murder, were an indisputable match to the wheels of Bratton's car. "I had all the evidence I needed to arrest Bratton," Officer Malone stated...

*1st Place, Sacramento County
Kendall Connolly, Elk Grove High School (Excerpt)
To read the full article, please visit
www.youthcitizenship.org*

Based on the 09-10 Mock Trial Case: People vs. Bratton

2010 Competition Event Winners



C.K. McClatchy High School with Justice Raye, Justice Hull and Justice Butz at the Moot Court Finals

MOOT COURT

- 1st Place: C.K. McClatchy High School
 2nd Place: West Campus High School
 Semi-Finalist: Bella Vista High School
 Semi-Finalist: Rio Americano High School-Team A

MOCK TRIAL

- Regional & Sacramento County Competition Finalists
 1st Place: Rio Americano High School
 2nd Place: Elk Grove High School
 Semi-Finalist: Pleasant Grove High School
 Semi-Finalist: Sacramento Country Day School
- El Dorado County Winner - Ponderosa High School
 Placer County Winner - Oakmont High School
 Yolo County Winner - River City High School

COURTROOM ARTIST

- Placer County Winner - Lindsey Hogan (Rocklin High School)
 El Dorado County Winner - Kylie Mosbacher (Ponderosa HS)
 Sacramento County Winners
 1st Place: Barbara Kalustian (Rio Americano High School)
 2nd Place: Kaitlyn Moring (St. Francis High School)
 3rd Place: Jer Vue (Grant High School)

COURTROOM JOURNALIST

- Placer County Winner - Madelyn Starr (Rocklin High School)
 Sacramento County Winner - Kendall Connolly (Elk Grove HS)

TEAM SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

- Moot Court: Natomas Pacific Pathways Prep School
 Mock Trial: Laguna Creek High School & St. Francis HS



Rio Americano High School with Judge Morris & Judge Gilmour



Courtroom Artist
 (Sacramento):
 1st Place
 Barbara Kalustian
 (Rio Americano
 High School)



Courtroom Artist
 (Sacramento):
 2nd Place
 Kaitlyn Moring
 (St. Francis High School)

The Center for Youth Citizenship's GDS High School Law Program is a model school and legal community partnership providing schools and communities in the Sacramento region with service, leadership, moot court, and mock trial activities that increase youth understanding of the law and our judicial system. In its 31st year, the GDS High School Law Program brings area youth valuable connections to the local legal community, opportunities for future career exploration, and the chance to develop the academic, service, and leadership skills needed by our young citizens. This program is provided with the support and partnership of the: California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District; Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento; U.S. District Court and U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of California; Sacramento County Bar Association and area firms and legal organizations; Legal Professional Volunteers from throughout the Greater Sacramento Region; and area districts and schools.

2009-10 Donors:

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