

## Area students take part in Mock Trial

(Updated Friday, December 16, 2005, 12:41 PM)

Teams from Yosemite High School and Madera High School competed Saturday at Madera County Office of Education's Mock Trial Competition.

The Mock Trial is a simulation of a criminal court case in which the students are the trial participants.

The teams argued the case The People vs. Markson at the Madera County Government Center.

Defendant, fictional character Jes Markson, was found guilty of first-degree murder in both trial cases.

Markson was found to have murdered his wife, the late actress, Taylor Rodriguez.

Scores will be calculated and a winner of the competition will be announced next week. The winner will advance to the state competition on March 17-19, 2006 in Riverside.

Each team was coached by an attorney as preparation for the trial. Yosemite was coached by Ernie LiCalsi. Madera was coached by Lazaro Salazar and Robert Williams. Students argued the Fourth Amendment during the pre-trial hearing. It was decided that the search of a pool house was unlawful and a script found was not allowed as evidence in the case.

Each school provided a prosecution and defense team. Each round consisted of one school's defense team going up against the other school's prosecution team.

The Honorable Edward P. Moffat presided over the case. Judge Moffat has been volunteering at the Mock Trial competition for more than 20 years.

Volunteer attorneys from throughout the valley acted as scoring attorneys at the trial.

California Rights Foundation provided the trial cases.

Yosemite High School participants included: Rachel Anderson, Victor Arce, Brittanica Bergan, Natasha Corless, Kayla Geest, Jason Koczanowicz, Branden Landon, Will Madsen, Jessica Martinez, Tara Rowledge, Michelle Salas, Raj Srinivasan, Brandon Thacker, Sarah Trayer, Karen Urrutia, Gannon Walser, Valerie Woolard,

Madera High School participants included: Heidi Chou, Suri Daza, Jacqueline Granados Figueroa, Lucia Granados Figueroa, Hector Galindo, Emma Guzman, Jatinder Kaur, Janette Lomeli, Liliana Lopez, Marisol Luna, Chris Martinez, Martha Martinez, Juan Peraza, Mona Rodriguez, Rolando Rosas, Matthew Sams, Britni Stewart.

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### COLUMNISTS

Paul Henry Abram

Denise Aday

Ronna Adler

Dr. Bill Atwood

Dwight Barnes

Daniel Blodgett MD

Cathie Campbell

Kristine Coman

G O Degilio

Tom Elias

Jim Flanagan

J.R. Froelich

Grace Grady-Barnes

Bryan Greeson

Mike Hackworth

Al Joyal

Tony Krizan

Ed Lyons

David Richards

Irene Thirlwall

Earlene Ward

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