

Mock Trial to kick off Dec. 10

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The Madera County Office of Education will host the 24th annual Mock Trial on Saturday, Dec. 10.

This year teams from Madera High and Yosemite High will compete.

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

This year's competition is the People vs. Markson. Fictional character, Jes Markson, a famous television producer will be on trial for the murder of his wife, actress Taylor Rodriguez.

Students will also be discussing the Fourth Amendment during the pre-trial argument. It will be decided if the search of a pool house was lawful and a script found will be allowed as evidence in the case.

"With the help of a coach and attorney, Mock Trial students actively experience the excitement of working in teams, exchanging ideas, setting goals and examining issues while interacting with positive role models from their community," said Osvaldo DeLuna, Program Director, High School Support for Madera County Office of Education.

Each school will provide a prosecution and defense team. Each round consists of one school's defense team going up against another school's prosecution team.

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

Volunteer attorneys from throughout the valley will also volunteer as scoring attorneys at the trial.

The event will be held at the Madera County Government Center from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The winner of the competition will advance to the state competition March 17-19, 2006 in Riverside.

California Rights Foundation provided the trial cases.

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