



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Students of award-winning teacher to perform Titanic mock trial in Kanawha County

For immediate release Wednesday, March 21, 2012

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Louis H. “Duke” Bloom will host forty-five students from Charleston’s J.E. Robins Elementary School at **9:30 a.m. Thursday, March 22**, for a negligent death mock trial in the case of a Titanic widow suing the shipping company.

The trial is the idea of fifth-grade teacher Amanda Mays, who in 2010 won a \$25,000 Milken Educator Award, a national award for teaching excellence. She found the script online, as she did last year, when fifth graders conducted a mock trial in the negligent homicide case against Jack in the Beanstalk, who was accused of killing The Giant. That trial was conducted at the school, according to Principal Henry Nearman.

Charleston attorney Bernard Layne, who is a friend of Ms. Mays, and his law partner, Jonathan Mani, assisted the students last year and are helping again this year. They visited the school on Tuesday and will be in the courtroom on Thursday. Students, however, will play the roles of judge, attorneys, witnesses, and jurors.

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