



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Kanawha high school mock trial program to be held next week For immediate release

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Kanawha County judges will be presiding over the ninth annual public schools mock trial competition on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday next week.

All eight Kanawha County high schools will participate in the event being held at BridgeValley Community and Technical College in South Charleston. All mock trials begin at 9 a.m. and are open to the public.

Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (Kanawha County) Judge Louis H. “Duke” Bloom will preside in a trial Monday, March 16; Senior Status Family Court Judge Mike J. Kelly will hear the cases on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 17 and 18; and Eleventh Family Court Circuit (Kanawha County) Judge Kenneth Ballard will hear the final case on Friday, March 20.

Judge Kelly has overseen the program for nine years. He said he makes mixes up the antagonists each year so the same schools are not competing against each other year after year, and the competition is fierce. Local lawyers go to the schools and help coach the students, who this year are using purchased scripts, in a maximum of five visits.

“The students do all the work, but this event would not function without the members of the bar helping,” said Judge Kelly. “Each school has its own attorney who volunteers to coach them in competition.”

The event is sponsored each year by the Kanawha County Family Court System. It precedes and complements the Supreme Court’s West Virginia Law Adventure mock trial program.

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