

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 25, 2019

**The Charter School of Wilmington wins the 2019 Delaware
High School Mock Trial Competition**

The Charter School of Wilmington won the 28th annual Delaware High School Mock Trial Competition that was held on February 22 and 23, 2019 at the Leonard L. Williams Justice Center in Wilmington. The team from The Charter School of Wilmington faced off against students from St. Elizabeth's High School in the final round. It was a return to form for the Charter School of Wilmington, which has won eight previous statewide Mock Trial Competitions, most recently in 2014.

Students from The Charter School of Wilmington will now go on to represent Delaware in the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Athens, GA on May 16 – 18, 2019.

In all, 23 teams from public, private, parochial and charter schools throughout Delaware took part in this year's two-day mock trial competition that involved more than 300 students, 28 teachers and 42 attorney advisors. The annual statewide competition is sponsored by the Delaware Law Related Education Center (DELREC), and nearly 200 members of Delaware's legal community – including attorneys, paralegals, judges and court staffers – donated their time as judges, bailiffs and support staff for the competition.

Students on each team spent the two days arguing a simulated civil case involving Delaware corporation law that revolved around if a board of directors violated their fiduciary duties, and if a company attempting a takeover was barred from doing so due to its ties to a terrorist organization. Student teams presented opening statements, closing arguments, and questioned "witnesses." Each team had to argue both sides of the case. In each round, students are judged on their knowledge of the law and ability to properly present their case. After four rounds, the two teams with the best scores faced each other in the final round.

The Co-Chairs of this year's Mock Trial Committee were Daniel Attaway, Esq.; Christopher Griffiths, Esq.; and Jason Jowers, Esq.

Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr. of the Delaware Supreme Court presided over the final round this year, and the final round scoring judges were U.S. District Court Judge Richard G. Andrews, former Superior Court Judge M. Jane Brady, Gov. John Carney's Chief Legal Counsel Danielle Gibbs, and attorneys Tom Bayliss and Montgomery Donaldson

The other schools that finished in the top five places, in order, after The Charter School of Wilmington and St. Elizabeth's were Archmere Academy, Cape Henlopen High School, and Wilmington Friends. The outstanding attorney for the final round was Neha Das of Charter. The outstanding witness was Chris Reid from St. Elizabeth's. Students who won ceremonial gavels

for winning three or more awards during the competition as either “best attorney” or “best witness” included Morgan Whittam from Cape Henlopen and Tarron Coursey from Sussex Central. At the banquet following the competition, DELREC’s Executive Director Pat Quann and Volunteer Judge Coordinator Margie Touchton were both presented with the Pete Jones Award for their many years of service to the Delaware High Scholl Mock Trial Competition.

Finally, student Hannah Kim from Newark Charter received a scholarship award of \$500 (generously provided by Anthony Iannini) for winning the Mock Trial Competition Essay Contest and Rylee Santillo from Wilmington Christian won the first-ever courtroom sketch artist competition.

Organizers would like to thank the Delaware Supreme Court for their support, along with the Delaware Administrative Office of the Courts, Capitol Police, bailiffs and security officers at the Leonard Williams Justice Center for providing assistance during the two-day event. Other sponsors included Grotto Pizza and the Delaware Bar Foundation, which donated lunch for the students and Reliable of Wilmington that provided document services. Organizers also expressed their deep appreciation to the Delaware Bench and Bar, and the Delaware Paralegal Association, for providing many of the volunteers that helped organize and operate the competition.

**For more information, please contact:
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Attached photo (Courtesy of the Delaware Administrative Office of the Courts):

Photo Caption: Mock Trial Committee Co-Chair Christopher Griffiths, Esq. (Center) flips a coin to determine which team will be the plaintiff and which team will be the defense as Annabelle Ryu (Center left) the team captain for The Charter School of Wilmington, Mock Trial Co-Chair Jason Jowers Esq. (Center left behind podium) and Brian Millard (Left), the team captain from St. Elizabeth’s looks on.