

Court Information Release



United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

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Court Hosts 504 High School Students in Mock Trial Competition

Chicago, Illinois – On November 9 and 10, 2024, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois hosted the Empire Mock Trial World Championship, which included 504 high school students from 16 states and 5 countries including Canada, Ireland, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

“In a time of some uncertainty about our Constitution and the Rule of Law, I am buoyed by the passion and proficiency shown by these future leaders. I was thrilled to preside over this display of diverse excellence, especially on Veteran’s Day!” said U.S. District Judge Sharon Johnson Coleman.

Judge Coleman presided over the final round, which was her second time judging for Empire Mock Trial.

After a highly competitive final round, Apple Valley High School (MN) clinched the World Championship in a 4-3 decision over Glenwood Springs High School (CO).

Schools from within the Northern District of Illinois, Maine South High School from Park Ridge, Illinois, and Hinsdale Central School from Hinsdale, Illinois, both finished in the top half of the competition. Maine South High School cracked the top 10, placing 9th overall at the competition.

Empire Mock Trial is an education nonprofit that started as a father-son project in 2007. According to its mission statement, Empire Mock Trial is committed to organizing intellectually rigorous and culturally enriching mock trial programs for high school students that educate, connect, and empower them to be more compassionate and capable citizens.

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Above: Judge Coleman with the championship teams and their witnesses and timekeepers.