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MEMORANDUM NO. 2015-107

TO: District Superintendents

High School Principals

High School Activities Directors High School Civics Teachers High School Mock Trial Coaches

FROM: Brent Young, Chief Policy Officer

DATE: September 14, 2015

SUBJECT: High School Mock Trial Program

High School Mock Trial Season is Starting; Schools Encouraged to Enter

The Wyoming High School Mock Trial Association has released its case for the 2015 High School Mock Trial State Competition in November.

The Wyoming High School Mock Trial Program introduces students to the American legal system, and provides a challenging opportunity for academic and personal growth and achievement. Students receive a case and court documents before spending the first semester of the school year preparing a case for trial. Students act as the attorneys on the case as well as witnesses during the State Mock Trial Competition, arguing cases with district court judges or State Supreme Court Justices on the bench. Wyoming attorneys act as competition judges scoring the arguments of the students.

A mock trial team requires six to eight members and a sponsor from a high school. While an attorney is not necessary for a mock trial team, it is helpful. The Wyoming High School Mock Trial Association can connect you with an attorney in your community.

This year, mock trial teams will argue the case of Jesse Platte vs. Mountain Rangers of America. Parent Jesse Platte accuses the Mountain Rangers of America and Leader Corry Johnson of taking unreasonable risks with her son Cameron, and being responsible for his injuries. For a PDF of the case including court documents, affidavits and exhibits, visit www.wyomingmocktrial.com.

The State Mock Trial Competition will be held in Cheyenne on Nov. 21, 2015. The state's winning team will qualify for the national competition in Boise, Idaho May 12-14, 2016.

For more information, contact the Wyoming High School Mock Trial state coordinator, Marguerite Herman, at <u>wyomingmocktrial@gmail.com</u>, or call 307-638-1468.