



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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John Adams Middle School Mock Trial Team Places 2nd in Los Angeles County

The John Adams Middle School (JAMS) mock trial team from Santa Monica finished in second place out of 56 competing teams from public and private middle schools across Los Angeles, marking the best results in the team's seven-year history.

In addition to reaching the finals for the first time in history, two teammates received prestigious awards by the [Constitutional Rights Foundation \(CRF\)](#), which runs the national mock trial program. Eighth grader Siddhart Wali received recognition for Best Defense Attorney and eighth grader Jesse Gonzalez for Best Prosecution Witness.



“Our entire team was extraordinary and had a dominating tournament! It is rare for a team to ever win one of these awards, and for our team to have two students receive an award is phenomenal,” Joel Koury, mock trial coach, said. Koury is a Los Angeles defense attorney and parent of one of the participating JAMS students. Coach Stu Glovin added “this team is the top public school mock trial team in all of LA County and we couldn’t be more proud!”

The team selection process begins each spring through an application process that is further vetted by the administration in the fall. Sixteen team members are ultimately chosen by the coaches. The JAMS mock trial team has finished in the top four finalists three times and regularly wins against private and parochial schools that have full-time teachers and coaches.

The case is chosen by the [Constitutional Rights Foundation \(CRF\)](#), and is heard in Los Angeles Superior Court downtown before a real judge.

Team roles include bailiff, court staff, testifying witnesses, prosecuting attorneys and defense attorneys. The competition inspires and teaches the students about constitutional rights, legal analysis, formulating an argument and public speaking. The competition is an amazing combination of moot court, debate and theater.

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“I can't thank our coaches enough for their hard work,” Steve Richardson, JAMS principal, said. “They have developed invaluable critical thinking skills in our kids and also provide a small glimpse into an exciting career option. And, of course, I am in awe of our students, their commitment to this demanding task and their ability to shine in a high pressure situation. The mock trial program is a gift to our school and community.”



Chaminade College Preparatory Middle School in Chatsworth earned first place in the junior competition.

Both Photos: JAMS mock trial students at LA Superior Court, Los Angeles.



**39th Annual Los Angeles County
Mock Trial Program**

2016 Competition Winners

Senior Division

Champions
Chaminade College Preparatory High School

Runner-Up
Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies

Junior Division

Champions
Chaminade College Preparatory Middle School

Runner-Up
John Adams Middle School

Junior Division

<p>Outstanding Prosecution Attorneys Ashley Sanchez, Stauffer Middle School Daniela Johns, The Wesley School</p> <p>Outstanding Prosecution Witnesses Role: Lin Stark Colton Davis Patarias, The Wesley School</p> <p>Role: Julian Blake Cenzo Spina, St. Joseph Elementary</p> <p>Role: Hayden West Jesse Gonzalez, John Adams Middle School</p> <p>Role: Dana Greyjoy Adrian Ramos, TEACH Academy of Technologies</p> <p>Outstanding Clerk Benjamin Chory, Laurel Hall</p>	<p>Outstanding Defense Attorneys Armen Ajemian, Chaminade College Preparatory Middle School Siddhart Wali, John Adams Middle School</p> <p>Outstanding Defense Witnesses Role: Cameron Awbrey Sarai Lopez, David G. Millen Intermediate</p> <p>Role: Devin Tyler Rachel Lowenthal, City Charter Middle School</p> <p>Role: Frankie Lyman Jessica Lewin, Manhattan Beach Middle School</p> <p>Role: Addison Frey Lorraina Scolaro, Perras Middle School</p> <p>Outstanding Bailiff Zaire Hampton, Jefferson Middle School</p>
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