



# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

April 30, 2007

## DSBN Students Participate in Mock Trial Tournament

On Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007, students from four local high schools will compete at the DSBN's Third Annual Mock Trial Tournament. This event, organized by Governor Simcoe law teacher D'Arcy McCardle and Kernahan Park teacher Norbert Kuebeck, allows students to experience first-hand the Canadian judicial system in a competitive context.

Each fall, the Ontario Bar Association (OBA) creates a case for students from across the province to use in their law classes and competitive teams. This year's case, *R. v. Beancounter*, finds the accused charged with second-degree murder in the death of teenager found trespassing on Carson Beancounter's property. Teams must prepare as both Crown and defence counsel, as these roles are determined by a coin toss before the match.

Each team is composed of four attorneys and two witnesses. The attorneys make opening and closing statements and conduct direct and cross examinations. They must learn about the relevant facts of the case and use effective questioning to convince the judge to acquit or convict. They must also learn trial advocacy skills such as objecting. They have the chance to argue their case in a real courtroom before legal professionals.

The tournament will be held this year at the St. Catharines Courthouse, 59 Church Street, and will feature local Crown attorneys and defence lawyers acting as judges for each case. Students receive valuable feedback from these judges on their performance as well as advice on how to approach cases in the future.

The DSBN gratefully acknowledges the support of lawyer Peter Barr for his assistance in arranging judges and Diana Brunton of Court Services for her assistance in reserving courtrooms.

Round 1 begins at the Courthouse at 9:00a.m.; Round 2 will take place at 10:30a.m., and the championship match will be held at 12:00p.m.

Participating schools are: E.L. Crossley (Fonthill), Governor Simcoe (St. Catharines), Port Colborne High School (Port Colborne), and Westlane (Niagara Falls).

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