

Trumbull Mock Trial Places First at Yale Competition

Two Trumbull High School Mock Trial teams competed in the Yale High School Mock Trial Invitational in New Haven on Saturday, October 30. Their participation was made possible by funding from the Trumbull Business/Education Initiative and the Trumbull Academic Challenge for Excellence (ACE) Foundation.

Both teams placed, with Trumbull Black finishing in a First Place tie with Bethel High School as the team finished with a record of 2-0 by posting wins over Westhill High School teams from Stamford. Trumbull Gold finished with a record of 1-1, posting a commanding win over Bishop Guertin High School (Nashua, NH) and losing to Bethel by one point.

THS advisor Eric August was very happy with the results, "I couldn't be more proud of these kids. They worked extremely hard and their results show their ability and commitment. I tell the kids that we use this tournament to gain some experience and work out the kinks before the state tournament but, anytime you can walk away with both teams placing, that is amazing."

THS was a couple points away from having both their teams tied for first. "Bethel is a great program and we lost to them by only one point on one of the judge's ballots. With just a few things going differently, both of our teams are hoisting first place trophies."

Julie Malota won an award for Best Witness as several Trumbull students were acknowledged for their outstanding performances.

THS is getting ready for the annual state High School Mock Trial Competition sponsored by Civics First. The opening round is set to take place on Thursday, December 9, at the Waterbury Superior Court from 12 – 6. August likes his teams' chances, "I would be lying if I wasn't expecting great things on the 9th. With the talent we have, we are going to be tough to beat."



All juniors, members of the THS Mock Trial teams competing at the Yale Invitational, from **left to right, front row**: Jillian Noto, Jillian Barcia, Molly McCullough, Samantha Wesley, Stanley Zheng, and Anna Larracuenta. **Second row**: Shannon Ahearn, Julie Malota, Tina Lapsia, Rachel Laffitte, Ally Tuozzoli, and Ayla Hundley. **Third row**: Josh Spector, Erica Quinones, Mike Barnett, Kate LaBoa, Gabe Reyes, Rhianna Seferian, and advisor Eric August. **Not pictured**: Courtney Cunningham, Lucy Flucker, Stephen Penney, Stephanie Voytek, and Abby Whitmoyer.