

## Constitutional Champs

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TRUMBULL – On Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, **Katie Boland**'s AP Government class of 24 students won the State Championship for the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution competition. The students began their preparation at the start of the school year as they became experts, testifying on constitutional issues in a simulated congressional hearing.

Now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year, the competition involved entire classes making presentations and answering questions on constitutional topics before a panel of judges from around the state. The teams were judged on the content of their opening statement, their ability to answer questions with both opinion and fact, and overall presentation. Trumbull competed against St. Joseph, Immaculate, Greenwich, South Windsor, and Torrington.

Trumbull High School has competed in the competition since 1987 and has found great success over the years. However, Trumbull has not achieved first place since 2007 and therefore the mission of the class became “Bring the gold back to Trumbull.”

“It’s such an incredible feeling. All of the hard work paying off, and knowing that we have once again returned the mantle to Trumbull,” Senior **Anurag Chinepalli** said.

Besides doing research and collaboration, students also had the opportunity to practice in competition like settings at the high school and the Town Hall on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Local lawyers, politicians, ACE Board Members, and teachers and administrators from Trumbull High, Hillcrest, and Madison Middle School served as judges to give the students feedback and tips for improvement.

The team now advances to the national finals to be held in Washington D.C. in late April to compete against teams from all over the country. The class has a new set of questions to prepare for and more research to be done in order to attain success on the national stage.

The team members were **Daniel Bond, Paige Bulter, Johnathan Bui, Anurag Chinepalli, Emma Connolly, Patrick Curtin, Elan-Paolo DeCarlo, Dan Flaherty, Ryan Freeland, Alexa Hiznay, Devon Kimball, Kathleen LaBoa, Rachel Laffitte, Tina Lapsia, Michael McGuigan, Natalie Probst, Meredith Ramsey, Benjamin Schoenleber, Silvia Sclafani, Stephen Scott, Shyamsundar Subramanian, Samantha Wesley, Alyssa Zabin, and Stanley Zheng.**