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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Re: MOCK TRIALS

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA –

The Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office is presenting mock trials at schools throughout the county for two weeks beginning on Red Ribbon Week (October 14 - 21). The District Attorney's office utilizes mock trials to demonstrate the trial aspect of the judicial system and deliver a message to fourth, fifth and sixth grade students that using drugs is wrong and can result in being sent to jail. Since 1998, the District Attorney's Office has presented 113 mock trials at schools throughout Stanislaus County. The mock trial team takes to the road each October with a cast of three deputy district attorneys, a bailiff, two advocates from the Victim Services Program, the DARE officer assigned to each particular school and an inmate from the County Jail who has successfully completed a drug rehabilitation program. The deputy district attorneys play the roles of prosecutor, defense attorney and judge. The advocates play the role of court clerk and provide handouts after the performance. The bailiff acts as bailiff; the DARE officer plays the expert witness and the inmate plays the defendant. Twelve students, selected by their teacher, act as jurors.

The mock trials are based on a drug case with a simple factual basis suited to students 4th through 6th grades. The one hour program concludes with a question and answer period and a presentation by the "defendant" on how his use of drugs derailed his life. The Mock Trial schedule for this year is:

October 14
10:00 - Agnes Baptist Elementary, Modesto
1:00 - Wakefield Elementary, Turlock

October 21
10:00 - Enslin, Modesto
1:15 - Tuolumne, Modesto

October 15
10:00 - Sherwood Elementary, Modesto
1:00 - Dennis Earl Elementary, Turlock

October 22
10:00 - Stanislaus Union, Modesto
1:00 - Cardoza Middle School, Riverbank

October 16
10:00 - Turlock Adventist, Turlock
1:00 - Caswell Elementary, Ceres

October 23
10:00 - Von Ritter, Newman
1:00 - Yolo Junior High, Newman

October 17
8:30 - Sisk Elementary, Salida
10:00 - Valley Home Joint School, Valley Home
1:30 - Don Pedro, Ceres

October 24
8:30 - Hughes Elementary, Modesto
10:00 - Cunningham, Turlock
1:30 - Alice Stroud, Modesto

October 18
10:00 - Rose Avenue, Modesto
1:00 - Eisenhut, Modesto

October 25
8:30 - Orville Wright, Modesto
10:00 - Fairview Elementary, Modesto

1:00 - Denair Middle School, Denair