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## ***City Prosecutor's Mock Trial Team Competes in State Tournament***

In March, City Prosecutor Kevin McClure helped lead a mock trial team of high school students interested in careers in law enforcement to compete in the state tournament in Olympia.

Kevin began coaching the team three years ago, along with local attorney Curtis Welch. The team is part of the criminal justice program operated by the Clark County Skills Center.



Together, Kevin and Curtis taught the students to conduct a complete trial from pre-trial motions and opening statements through witness testimony and closing argument.

The mock trial team consists of 15 students, with 3 prosecuting attorneys, 4 prosecution witnesses, 3 defense attorneys, 4 defense witnesses and 1 bailiff.

Kevin went to the Skills Center once a week during lunch to coach the students from October 2014 through February 2015. They also held extra practices on weekends and weeknights as the district tournament got closer.

Kevin taught the students the rules of evidence used in Washington, how to object during trial, how to cross-examine a witness and all the other skills utilized by real attorneys.



*Graduating class of 2015, Kevin McClure on the far left*

The district tournament was held at the Clark County courthouse in February and for the first time, a team from the Clark County Skills Center qualified to go to the state tournament by having a 4-2 record at the district tournament!

The evening and weekend practices continued and increased until the state tournament in Olympia March 27-29. Curtis, Kevin and the criminal justice program instructor Tony Shaver, went to Olympia with the students. Everyone got a tour of the state supreme court and the legislature and then participated in four trials at the Thurston County courthouse.

Although the team did not win, it was a great accomplishment and several of the team members were rated as "best attorney in the round" and "best witness in the round" by the judges.