

By: Goldman

H.R. No. 1197

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The mock trial team from Covenant Classical School  
2 in Fort Worth won first place at the 2023 Texas High School Mock  
3 Trial Competition; and

4           WHEREAS, Administered by the Dallas Bar Association Mock  
5 Trial Committee, the competition was established in 1979 to deepen  
6 knowledge of the courtroom environment among students interested in  
7 careers as lawyers, public speakers, and politicians; the exercise  
8 shows how the legal system works in everyday life while encouraging  
9 critical thinking and quick analysis; and

10           WHEREAS, More than 20 high school teams from across the state  
11 participated in this year's competition, arguing a hypothetical  
12 criminal case; judges and attorneys performed the role of jurors,  
13 and students portrayed a variety of trial participants, from  
14 defense or prosecution attorneys to witnesses; and

15           WHEREAS, Competitors were evaluated on the basis of  
16 preparation and presentation; in addition to the first-place  
17 trophy, the Covenant Classical team received the Team  
18 Professionalism Award, conferred by their peers; individual honors  
19 were garnered by senior Sophia Foster, named Outstanding Advocate,  
20 and senior Jonathan Fredricks, who received honorable mention in  
21 the Best Advocate and Best Witness categories; the team further  
22 included Emerson Espanet, Elizabeth Farah, Nancy Jageman, Bridgett  
23 Kennedy, Daniel Keyes, Ellie Monwai, Sachi Monwai, Gracie Patel,  
24 Emma Pharris, Nate Smith, and Claire Tollefson; they benefited from

1 able guidance of coordinators Scott Fredricks, an attorney, and  
2 Judge Josh Burgess; and

3 WHEREAS, Before advancing to the state competition, the team  
4 took home top honors at the regional level for the sixth consecutive  
5 year; the members are now set to represent Texas at the 2023  
6 National High School Mock Trial Competition in Little Rock,  
7 Arkansas, in May; and

8 WHEREAS, The members of the Covenant Classical School mock  
9 trial team have demonstrated exceptional dedication and a true  
10 commitment to excellence, and their accomplishments are a source of  
11 great pride to their families, their school, and their community;  
12 now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
14 Legislature hereby congratulate the Covenant Classical School mock  
15 trial team on winning first place at the 2023 Texas High School Mock  
16 Trial Competition and extend to the members sincere best wishes for  
17 continued success; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
19 prepared for the team as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
20 House of Representatives.