

By: Harper-Brown

H.R. No. 848

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The student and adult volunteers of the Irving Teen
2 Court provide an important civic service by taking part in a
3 juvenile justice program that benefits the residents of Irving and
4 also provides valuable experience for the young participants who
5 fill the courtroom assignments; and

6 WHEREAS, A deferred program of the Irving Municipal Court,
7 Teen Court hears cases involving teenage defendants who have
8 received a Class C misdemeanor ticket; young adults ages 14 and
9 older serve as attorneys, jurors, clerks, and bailiffs as these
10 cases are tried; and

11 WHEREAS, Prior to taking their places in the courtroom, the
12 youth participants are trained for their duties by adult
13 volunteers; Teen Court attorneys are tutored by professional
14 lawyers and hone their skills as assistant and associate attorneys
15 before taking charge of a case; teen jurors, clerks, and bailiffs
16 also undergo training to prepare them to carry out their official
17 functions; and

18 WHEREAS, These young volunteers become part of an actual
19 courtroom, with attorneys presenting the prosecution and defense
20 cases and six-person juries deciding the verdict and sentencing
21 defendants to perform community service if they are found guilty;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, In addition to the licensed attorneys who instruct
24 the young litigators and serve as judges, other adult volunteers

1 play crucial roles in the Teen Court proceedings by overseeing the
2 courtrooms and handling administrative and training duties; and

3 WHEREAS, By aiding the administration of juvenile justice and
4 providing young citizens with first-hand experience in the legal
5 system, the Irving Teen Court helps prepare youths for their
6 future, and in so doing, contributes immeasurably to the well-being
7 of this state; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
9 Legislature hereby recognize the student and adult volunteers of
10 the Irving Teen Court and commend them for their dedicated service
11 to the community; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for the Teen Court as an expression of high regard by the
14 Texas House of Representatives.