



## **AAE Mock Trial Team**



**By Kathy Riggs, Academy for Academic Excellence Staff Member  
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For the first time in the history of the Academy for Academic Excellence (AAE), staff and students have formed a Mock Trial Team. Our team consists of ten students from grades 9-12. They will compete against schools throughout the Inland Empire in the 27th Annual Mock Trial program.

This program is a collaborative effort between the offices of the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools and the District Attorney to provide students within our county a working knowledge of legal institutions and the judicial system. Students research a case developed by the Constitutional Rights Foundation and prepare for trial as attorneys, witnesses, defendants, bailiffs, and clerks. Judges, prosecutors, public defenders, and private attorneys volunteer their time to provide guidance in courtroom procedure and trial preparation. These volunteers preside over the trials and score the events.

Our team has the privilege of working with two local deputy district attorneys. They also have three AAE/LCER staff members to support and coordinate their efforts. Starting Monday, October 27th the students will act out their given role in a courtroom at the Victorville Courthouse in preparation for their first round of competition against Colton High School, Wednesday, November 5th. The trial will take place at the Rancho Cucamonga Courthouse. This is an arson trial featuring a pretrial argument on the First Amendment.

The Mock Trial program sets exemplary standards in education, leadership, and community partnerships. Our students practice 4 out of 7 evenings a week at the courthouse, during lunch times and at home. They should be commended for their enthusiasm and teamwork. We are small in numbers, but mighty and determined!

### **AAE Mock Trial Team**

**Tory Bryant**

**Deandra Cass**

**Arturo Garcia**

**Chris Manghane**

**Paola Monteon**

**Kathleen Richmond**

**Kelly Slone**

**Phoenix Solis**

**Sterling Solis**

**Staff Members: Stacy Newman, Kathy Riggs and Colleen Williams**