

## News release



Everett Public Schools

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### **Jackson High School Mock Trial Team wins spot at state championship**

The Mock Trial Team from Jackson High School in Mill Creek qualified for the Washington State High School Mock Trial Championships by finishing in the top three at the Snohomish County District Competition, Feb. 20-23, at the Denney Juvenile Justice Center in Everett. The state competition will be held at Thurston County Courthouse in Olympia, March 23-25.

Senior Jackie Becker won "Best Witness" of the competition for her roles portraying two key witnesses. Several other Jackson students received awards for specific trials.

Coach Jack Follis of the Anderson Hunter Law Firm, the team sponsor, said this was an impressive result. "Each school must field a prosecution team and a defense team, each comprised of seven members. Other schools have different students playing the roles of attorneys and witnesses on each side of the case, meaning they have 14 team members. Our team has eight members who handle both sides of the case," Follis continues. "It's like a football team where the offense also plays the defense. Our students have no time to rest and must be able to change hats quickly."

The students spent months preparing to compete before sitting judges. This year's fictional case was a criminal matter in which an alleged terrorist is charged with conspiracy to blow up a Washington state ferry. Legal issues included entrapment, freedom of speech, and the role of confidential informants.

The High School Mock Trials are a program of YMCA Youth & Government. The Snohomish County competition was presided over by judges from many levels of the court system.



Members of the Jackson High School Mock Trial Team during the recent Snohomish County District Mock Trial Competition. The team qualified for the State Mock Trial Championship in March.

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