

Glen Ridge Middle School

G & T NEWSLETTER

February 2019



Mock Trial Cases

The past two months students have been working in teams to develop cases to enter into the Law Adventure Competition sponsored by the NJ State Bar Foundation. The themes for this year were **plagiarism** or **cybercrime**. G&T students formed teams to research and write their entries, which had to include the following case elements: 1) Facts of the Case, 2) Issue and Sub-Issues 3) Witness Statements (two for the defense and two for the prosecution/plaintiff) 4) instructions for the Jury, and 5) Relevant Concepts and Laws.



7th Grade Cases

Elizabeth Wayne vs. Phillip Fliye

One artist claims that another has copied her prize sculpture and so is suing him for plagiarizing her work.

Smile-Aid Inc. v. Let's Not Forget

A case where one company is suing another for trademark infringement because they are using the company's catchphrase, "Oh Yeah!"

The State of Florida v. Richard Linden

An environmentally conscious young man hacks into his employer's data systems to shut down the company's drilling machine after stumbling across it operating in a nature preserve where he was hiking. He is being tried for committing a cybercrime and harm done to his employer.

Ask your child more about the case he or she helped develop and is now being considered by the judges for recognition in the NJ State Bar 7th & 8th grade Mock Trial competition. We will hear by the end of March if any of our cases win!

8th Grade Cases

Josie Bennett vs. Anna Smith

Back in middle school two young girls came up with an idea and wrote a story together. Many years later one of them has developed the idea into a full fledged book that has been published. The old friend who was not given any credit is suing for partial rights to the novel.

Patek vs. Weinstein: Battle of the Donut Holes

Two rivals claim to be the creator of a donut hole recipe that relies on a unique ingredient. At issue is whether one of them stole the recipe from the other or whether they just coincidentally use the same secret ingredient in their recipes.

New Jersey vs. Hugo Brown

Student Hugo Brown posts a complaint online about his school's principal after he supposedly suspends only minority students for a senior prank that involved the entire class. The public post includes the principal's contact information which leads to the principal receiving threats and being harassed by many others. Hugo Brown is on trial for inciting the harassment.

12 Angry Men

As a follow to our Mock Trial cases, we have more recently been viewing and discussing the classic film 12 Angry Men. Yes, they not only watched a black and white film from 1957, but seemed to thoroughly enjoy it. The film served as a springboard to more in depth discussions on many of the concepts we learned about when preparing our mock trial cases. These include:



- **Jury of Peers**
- **Impartiality**
- **Reasonable Doubt**
- **Burden of Proof**
- **Reliability of Eyewitnesses**
- **Civil vs. Criminal**

Coming up in MS G&T:

- **Mock Trial Field Trip scheduled for May 14**

If any of our entries win recognition, we will be presenting our case before a judge and “jury” of our peers on this date at the NJ State Bar Foundation in New Brunswick, NJ. If not, we will be serving as the jurors and hearing other students present their award winning cases. Either way, it is sure to be a fun and interesting outing that will include lunch at a nearby restaurant.

Please be on the lookout for **Permission Slips** coming home to be signed and returned with payment in the next few weeks.

- **Stock Market Game**

Students will be introduced to concepts related to economics, financial literacy and investing. Each will have the chance to select and track stocks they will purchase with a fictional \$100,000. Activities will encourage a friendly competition to see who makes the best decisions in the online simulation.

