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HOUSE MEMORIAL 55

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012

INTRODUCED BY

Rick Miera

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM IN NEW MEXICO
AND THE HOSTING OF THE 2012 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL
CHAMPIONSHIP BY THE CENTER FOR CIVIC VALUES, THE STATE BAR OF
NEW MEXICO AND THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO LAW SCHOOL IN
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the Gene Franchini high school mock trial is an
educational initiative for high schools statewide that teaches
students about the law, the legal system and civics; and

WHEREAS, mock trials are dynamic and rewarding skill- and
character-building academic and social experiences for high
school students; and

WHEREAS, mock trials teach high school participants the
lifelong skills of critical thinking, responsible decision-
making, considering and advocating both sides of an ethical or

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1 legal issue, research, teamwork and public speaking; and

2 WHEREAS, mock trials provide a focused opportunity for
3 high school students to discover their rights and
4 responsibilities and to consider the merits of being on the
5 correct side of the law; and

6 WHEREAS, mock trials provide opportunities for licensed
7 attorneys to give back to the community and to refresh and
8 renew their skills as volunteer mentors to high school
9 students; and

10 WHEREAS, for twenty-five years, the center for civic
11 values has coordinated, facilitated, supported and encouraged
12 the high school mock trial programs in New Mexico; and

13 WHEREAS, each year, hundreds of New Mexico high school
14 students and their teacher advisors and attorney coaches spend
15 several weeks researching, studying, preparing and presenting
16 hypothetical courtroom trials that take place in Las Cruces and
17 Albuquerque; and

18 WHEREAS, high school students participating in mock trials
19 may perform the roles of attorneys or witnesses; and

20 WHEREAS, volunteer state and federal court judges and
21 licensed attorneys may serve as presiding judges who make
22 evidentiary rulings or scoring judges who score the performance
23 and presentation of each mock trial attorney or witness during
24 mock trials; and

25 WHEREAS, each March, the top teams advance to the state

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1 finals in Albuquerque, with the winner going on to represent
2 the state at the national championship, held each year in a
3 different United States city; and

4 WHEREAS, in May 2012, New Mexico's top team will compete
5 in Albuquerque where the national high school mock trial
6 championship will be hosted by the center for civic values in
7 collaboration with the state bar of New Mexico and the
8 university of New Mexico law school; and

9 WHEREAS, the national high school mock trial championship
10 will draw about six hundred students competing in the
11 championship from other states, South Korea, Guam, the Northern
12 Mariana Islands, Australia and Ireland;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
14 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize
15 and wish luck to the New Mexico mock trial teams that will
16 compete in the state mock trial finals and the top New Mexico
17 team that will compete in the 2012 national high school mock
18 trial championship; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a welcome be extended to out-
20 of-town participants in the 2012 national high school mock
21 trial championship; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the house of representatives
23 recognize the twenty-five years of outstanding work by the
24 center for civic values; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the house of representatives

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1 recognize the collaboration of the state bar of New Mexico and
2 the university of New Mexico law school in hosting the 2012
3 national high school mock trial championship; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the center for civic values, the state bar of
6 New Mexico, the university of New Mexico law school and the
7 secretary of public education.

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