

**For Immediate Release**

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# Media Release

## **Moultrie Middle School Mock Trial Team Crowned State Champions**

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**Charleston, SC** — Over the last three months, the Moultrie Middle School Mock Trial team put in countless hours learning about the judicial process. Student attorneys spanning sixth through eighth grades learned how to give opening and closing statements, direct and cross examinations, objections, and how to introduce evidence. They even had to learn witness testimony and defend it against a cross examination they had never heard before from the opposing team. All of which led them to become this year's Middle School Mock Trial Team State Champions on December 3, 2016.

Last weekend, 12 out of 31 teams advanced from the regional competitions to the state competition held on December 2 and 3 at the Marc H. Westbrook Lexington County Judicial Center. Moultrie entered the 12-team competition as a wildcard having lost to Buist Academy in Regionals in Georgetown last month, and was behind all other finalists, including the undefeated State Champions, Forestbrook Middle of Myrtle Beach. The team of 13 participants competed in four grueling two-hour trials over a two-day period, fighting hard to advance to the finals. Moultrie went up against Chapin Middle in the championship, ultimately bringing a first place finish and the state title back home to the Lowcountry.

Congratulations to the following Moultrie Middle Mock-Trial Team student participants on their outstanding performance:

Barron Burns, Ansel Dietrick, Maris Ferro, Addyson Fisher, Joy Katsburg, Whitney Knotts, Emma Nodine, Finlay Palmer, Lucas Sneed, Luke Wallace, Estella Walsh, Crawford White, and Laney Winn

"This achievement is even more exciting because last year Moultrie won the Regional competition, but the State competition was canceled due to the October rains which limited other counties' practice time, so to win State this year was nothing less than an epic conclusion of a two-year dream," said Moultrie parent, Victoria Ubina-Katsburg.

Marie-Louise Ramsdale and Audrey Brown, the team’s attorney coaches, and Moultrie teachers, Cathleen Lee and Kelly Hodo, went above and beyond, donating their time and expertise to teach students about the procedures of the courtroom. The group often dedicated their Sundays, as well as weekdays after school over a three-month period to coach students in an effort to foster the team spirit and expertise required for the team to come together and perform at their highest potential.

“The accomplishments of our Mock Trial team this past weekend have made all of us in the Moultrie Community so unbelievably proud,” said Moultrie Middle School Principal Ryan Cumback. “This group of 13 students has redefined what it means to fully invest in a common goal.”

The team was recognized yesterday, dressed in their Mock Trial suits, with a special lunch with Dr. Joe Williams, Executive Director of Middle Schools for CCSD, at the school.

For more information about the South Carolina Bar Middle School Mock Trial Program, visit <https://www.scbar.org/public/students-educators/middle-school-mock-trial/>.

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#### **About the Charleston County School District**

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 schools and several specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities led by associate superintendents. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.