



News for Immediate Release

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Pennsylvania Supreme Court Historical Commission Hosts Local Students for Mock Trial Event

HARRISBURG — Focused on the importance of the intersection of civics education and the judiciary, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Historical Commission today invited local students into the courtroom for hands on legal experience during a mock trial event.

Organized in partnership with the Rendell Center for Civics and Civics Engagement, students from St. Mary's Interparochial School, Philadelphia, took part in a mock courtroom event designed to provide them with a practical understanding of courtroom procedures and legal reasoning.

"Today's mock trial gives students first-hand experience in how the judicial system works," said Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Sallie Mundy.

"This kind of event helps make civics real for students.

"Instead of reading about the courts in a textbook, students stepped into courtroom roles and learned how our legal system works from the inside, helping them to turn abstract ideas into real decisions."

During the event, participants played key courtroom roles—including attorneys, witnesses, judges, and jurors—while presenting a fictional case before a panel of local legal professionals. The experience allowed students to build critical thinking, public speaking, and teamwork skills, while learning about due process and the rule of law.

"Civics education, especially when it includes learning about the courts, helps students understand the rights they have and the responsibilities that come with them," said Senior Judge Marjorie Rendell, US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and President, Rendell Center for Civics and Civics Engagement.

"Today's classroom was a real-life experience, giving them the tools to make sense of how government works and how they can have a voice in it."

For more information about the Pa Supreme Court Historical Commission, visit
<https://www.pasupremecourthistory.org/>.

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