

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1033

By Kumar

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the Tennessee High School Mock Trial Competition.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division, established the Tennessee High School Mock Trial Competition in 1980; and

WHEREAS, held every year for the past forty years, this mock trial competition has produced winners from all across this State, and thousands of students have participated; and

WHEREAS, the winners include Agathos Classical, Austin-East High School, Bearden High School, Clinton High School, Family Christian Academy, Father Ryan High School, Franklin High School, Greeneville High School, Houston High School, Hume-Fogg Academic High School, Jackson Central Merry High School, Kingsport Area Christian Home Education Association, Knoxville Doyle High School, Knoxville West High School, McCallie School, Memphis Central High School, Montgomery Bell Academy, Springfield High School, St. Mary's Episcopal School, and White Station High School; and

WHEREAS, the winner of the State competition represents Tennessee at the National High School Mock Trial Competition; the Tennessee champion has won the national title on three occasions, Family Christian Academy in 2002 and 2003 and Agathos Classical in 2019; and

WHEREAS, Family Christian Academy's consecutive victories in 2002 and 2003 marked the first time a team had repeated as national champions; and

WHEREAS, utilizing a new scenario every year, the Tennessee High School Mock Trial Competition challenges students and their coaches to address new and novel legal theories and fact patterns that are sometimes reflective of actual cases in the legal system; and

WHEREAS, the students who participate in mock trial competition are able to enhance their analytical and public speaking skills, increase their confidence, and better prepare for their college careers or future workplaces; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee High School Mock Trial Competition strives to give students a fuller understanding of the American justice system by allowing them to experience the legal process firsthand; and

WHEREAS, through role-playing as lawyers, witnesses, plaintiffs, and defendants, students develop an awareness and appreciation for the mechanism our society has chosen to resolve its disputes; some students have even been known to choose a career in law based on their mock trial experience; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Tennessee Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division, have helped instill in high school students across this State a better understanding of the law and the process by which the court system operates, and their steadfast commitment to this program should be specially recognized; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the members, both past and present, of the Tennessee Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division, for their commitment to the youth of Tennessee through their organization's sponsorship of the Tennessee High School Mock Trial Competition, commemorate the fortieth anniversary of this worthy program, and extend to all involved parties our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.