**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE FORT MILL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL TEAM ON ITS FIRST‑PLACE FINISH IN THE 2009 SOUTH CAROLINA STATE HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION.

Whereas, the seventeen‑member Fort Mill High School mock trial team outperformed teams from eleven other state high schools to win the 2009 South Carolina State High School Mock Trial Competition in Columbia on March 13‑14; and

Whereas, the team will represent South Carolina in the National High School Mock Trial Competition May 7‑10 in Atlanta, Georgia; and

Whereas, a project of the South Carolina Bar’s Law Related Education Division, the mock trial district and state programs were judged by numerous lawyers who volunteered their time and expertise; and

Whereas, because a mock trial follows the procedure of the lower courts, the students who participate in them learn, among other lessons, about courtroom procedures, the people and rights involved with the legal system, and nonviolent resolution of conflict; and

Whereas, in the process, students gain an understanding of the American judicial system, the mechanics of litigation, and the meaning of citizenship in a democracy; and

Whereas, by creating their own questions for witnesses, writing opening and closing statements, and even reconstructing questions when necessary, participants use such critical thinking skills as analysis and evaluation; and

Whereas, 2009 team members include Darius Becker, Josh Bradley, Ryan Corby, Justin Duke, Heather Griffin, Maddison Hall, James Hughes, Sunshine Isner, Rowena Jones, Kristy Klixbull, Nathan Koverman, Gabriela Lanza, Chase Lovins, Veronica Martinez, Tasha Sanders, Mattson Taylor Smith, and Kaylee Wagner. Attorney coaches are Walter Dusky, Harold Staley, Stephen Corby, and Erin Fitzpatrick. Teacher coaches are Lynn Dickinson, Jimmy Fitzpatrick, Beth Spratt, and Tom Wood; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives would like to thank the South Carolina Bar’s Law Related Education Division for sponsoring the mock trial program in our State’s schools, and the members express their sincere pleasure in the success of the Fort Mill High School mock trial team at the 2009 state championship. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate the Fort Mill High School mock trial team on its first‑place finish in the 2009 South Carolina State High School Mock Trial Competition.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Principal M. Dee Christopher and Coach Lynn Dickinson of Fort Mill High School.

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