



For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Buist wins Middle School Mock Trial

Buist Academy for Advanced Studies

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Charleston, SC — Buist Academy for Advanced Studies earned top honors in the 2019 Mock Trial State Championship in a competition held December 6-7 in Columbia.

Buist defeated Socastee Middle School in the finals, earning its first state crown in the wake of their 2018 state runner-up finish and 2019 Georgetown Regional Title.

Buist team members include Betsy Bailey, Jordan Burrell, Keren Collins, Eliza Compton, Ella Grace Dillard, Harry Ding, Parker Legette, Campbell Leshner, James Prutting, Grayson Skipper, Ava Smoak, Caroline Spann, Lukey Sutherland, Noa Wallen Walker Cote, Paul Biddle and Finley Love. Beth Bailey is the team's attorney coach, with Liz Good and Chris Garner serving as teacher coaches. Thurmond, Kirchner, and Timbes, P.A. has been Buist's community partner since the team was founded in 2012.

Mock Trial is a legal simulation competition sponsored by the South Carolina Bar Association, in which teams of middle schoolers playing the roles of attorneys and witnesses re-enact a case.

Forty one middle school teams across the state participated in regional competitions held last month in Lexington, Georgetown, Conway, and Greenville, with the top 12 teams advancing to the state competition.

Buist's Mock Trial participation dates back to 2012. The team has previously boasted three regional championships and six consecutive state tournament appearances.

"We are proud of our team not only for its victory, but for its hard work, determination, grace under pressure, and sportsmanship," said Garner. "No team could be more deserving of success. They were champions no matter what the final score was."

For more information, contact Chris Garner at christopher_garner@charleston.k12.sc.us or 843 724-7750 ext. 24029.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD), a nationally-accredited school district, is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 87 schools and 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. 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.