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Educational Outreach

MEMORANDUM TO MOCK TRIAL LAWYERS

From: _____ School: _____
 Phone: _____ Date: _____
 E-mail: _____

Since 2004 over 13,000 students from 12 West Virginia counties participated in The WALS Foundation Mock Trial Program and we are grateful that you will be helping us add to that number through this educational program that is now being offered, since 2013, to ALL 20,000+ 5th grade students in the State of West Virginia.

By role-playing, students experience the beauty of our justice system and learn information “hands-on” that is not in the textbooks. Through our topic content, we show them the dangers and risks of substance abuse, specifically misusing prescription drugs. We strive to help them make good choices, the right choices about using these drugs. Currently prescription drug abuse is an epidemic among our youth both statewide and nationally.

This is a two-day project and you will be “JUDGE” on the second day during the official mock trial. Your part is scripted, but please feel free to interject here and there throughout the trial with comments you deem appropriate. You might also bring sentencing guidelines and/or tell a true story that relates. Students love that!

- * Prior to the mock trial I will assign all students a role and review legal vocabulary words connected to the script.
- * The day before you arrive, we discuss courtroom roles, have a pre-trial discussion along with covering materials relating to the abuse of prescription drugs and have a short rehearsal.
- * After the official mock trial, please de-brief the students regarding this particular case AND then conduct a general Q & A session with the participants. We will then distribute the paper gavel bracelets as a token of our appreciation for allowing The WALS Foundation to bring this educational exercise into their classroom.

**I really appreciate you donating your time and talent to act as “Judge For The Day.”
 Your date, time, and school is:**

I look forward to seeing you at the school. Please plan to arrive 10 minutes prior to the scheduled time - that will be ample time for us to get started. (I have a robe and gavel for you to use)

I am enclosing the following for your perusal:

1. JUDGE (Visiting Lawyer) instructions/notes
2. The Scripted Mock Trial - (5th Grade) State of West Virginia vs. Justin Wusso & Alex Wusso
3. Verdict Form

Thanks again for playing such an important role as we bring the American Justice System to Life!