

# Mock Trials Final - Dripstone Takes the Win

**The Hon Justice Thomas presided over the Grand Final of the 1998 Inter-school Mock Trials Competition at the Supreme Court on 17th June.**

The Grand Final is the culmination of four months' activity on the part of year 11 and 12 students from the twelve schools entered, who with the support of their teachers, and that of volunteer coaches and adjudicators from the Territory's legal profession, have wrestled with the legal intricacies of a number of cases, both criminal and civil.

The honours of the evening went to Dripstone High School over St Phillip's College who came up from Alice Springs for the event. Dripstone has competed over a number of years, and 1998 was the first time they have had the opportunity to engrave their name on the perpetual trophy.

Justice Thomas, in her comments on the trial, congratulated both teams on their performances. The case for debate was a criminal matter involving heroin importation. Justice Thomas found that the Crown had not proven its case beyond a reasonable doubt and was therefore unable to convict the defendant.

The skill displayed by both teams was

impressive. The witnesses were unshakeable in their evidence, the barristers, well briefed by their solicitors, moved with intellectual grace through examination-in-chief and cross-examination and the well-executed back-up roles of court orderly and judge's associate indicated that these students have learned a good deal about courtroom procedure.

Members of the NT's legal profession who provided invaluable coaching and adjudicating assistance during the course of the competition can feel that their efforts were well rewarded. Coaches of the Grand Final teams were Chris Howse of NAALAS and Kathy Perry of Poveys. The skills displayed

by their teams during the trial were a testament to their services.

Following the rigours of the trial, the teams, coaches, teachers, and representatives of the Law Society (coordinator of the competition), joined Justice Thomas for a post-final dinner at *Giuseppe's Restaurant*



*Students from Dripstone High School and St Phillip's College put aside legal differences over the post-final dinner at Giuseppe's.*

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