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Appeal Court Hosts Annual Moot Court Competition on July 21 in Ventura

Ventura – The Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Six, will host its Eighth Annual Moot Court Competition at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 21, 2010, in the court's courtroom at 200 E. Santa Clara St., Ventura, California.

Two law schools will compete: Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law and the University of West Los Angeles School of Law.

The competition will feature four students who have competed against classmates for the opportunity to earn a berth in the finals. Each student has written briefs and presented oral argument representing either the government or defendant in a hypothetical criminal appeal.

This year's case addresses the extent to which a defendant in a criminal case is entitled to self-representation at trial, even when a trial judge has determined that the defendant is exploiting the constitutional right of self-representation to delay a trial. The case also presents the question of whether a police officer who is testifying as an expert witness on the subject of criminal street gangs exceeds the boundaries of permissible expert testimony when rendering an opinion about the defendant's motivation.

The four finalists will present oral argument before Presiding Justice Arthur Gilbert and Associate Justices Paul H. Coffee and Steven Z. Perren. The student from each school with the most persuasive argument is presented with an award of recognition.

Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law have dedicated their competition to the memory of retired Associate Justice Richard W. Abbe, who served on Division Six from its inception in 1982 to 1990. The University of West Los Angeles School of Law has dedicated their competition to the memory of Barry Levin, a former law professor at the school's San Fernando Valley campus and prominent defense attorney.

(more)

A reception for the students, their families, and faculty will follow in the library. For more information concerning this outreach program, please contact Assistant Clerk/Administrator Paul T. McGill at (805) 641-4711, Law Professor Michael C. McMahon at (805) 477-7114 or Adjunct Law Professor David F. Glassman at (818) 601-1537.

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