

# KENDALL GAZETTE

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## Killian's 'Law Team' strong in Mock Trial Competition

BY RICHARD YAGER

**K**illian Senior High School's student "Mock Law" team has reason to celebrate, according to Lorraine Silverstein, law studies teacher who has taught 40 years of social studies at the Kendall school, as well as directing the annual "We the People" and "Moot Court" extra-curricular activities.

"We had our best Mock Trial finish in years," said Silverstein, who wanted equal credit extended to the Killian team's legal advisor, attorney Mitchell Panter of the Panter Panter & Sampredo law firm, as well as her student lawyers.

"We've rarely had anyone so involved as attorney Panter," Silverstein said. "Would you believe he even answered a student's email question at 10 o'clock at night from his seat at a basketball game?"

Such devotion by teacher and the attorney-coach gained Killian the highest placement for a public school in the 26th annual countywide Mock Trial Competition, co-sponsored by Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the Young Lawyers Section of the Dade County Bar Association.

Three teams competing in semifinal rounds with Killian included Coral Reef Senior High, Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, and Felix Varela



Pictured (l-r) are students Patricia Leret, Michael Wojnar, David Young, Angelica Mendez, Sadaf Chaudhry, Jordan Rome, Anthony Alvarez, Tyler Villagas, Brandon Zamudio; Lorraine Silverstein, law studies teacher, and attorney Mitchell Panter, coach.

Senior High School, top finishers after preliminary rounds held Feb. 23 and 24 when 11 other schools participated.

Each school fielded a team of three attorneys with one alternate, and three witnesses with alternates. Scoring was conducted by panels consisting of judges and attorneys, arranged by Zascha Blanco Abbot of the Young Lawyers Section with Robert Brazofsky coordinating schools participation and program materials.

"The students trained for

several months and worked diligently to present their arguments for both prosecution and defense sides," Panter said.

Jordan Panter, the attorney's son and now a Duke University freshman, was a member of Killian's 2009 team that his dad coached a year ago, an experience leading the elder Panter to volunteer for a second year.

While Lourdes took the Miami-Dade finals to advance to a state competition, Silverstein said it was Panter's

enthusiasm that inspired the 2010 Killian team to its highest finish in several years, adding, "His enthusiasm and interest, two to three hours after school, week after week, really made a difference for us this year."

The real test, however, is not if a student follows a legal career, Silverstein said.

"It's their ability to stand on their feet, to think, and make a logical and clear statement. That's the bottom line, no matter what a student may do in later life."