

## **POWER PAIRING MEMORANDUM**

(Revised 4/23/14)

**What is Power Pairing?** Power Pairing describes the process, adopted by the Steering Committee, by which the Tournament Administrator determines which schools your school will compete against during the preliminary and elimination rounds of the Santa Clara County Mock Trial Tournament. The goal of power pairing is to help ensure that your school competes against schools that have a comparable win-loss record during each of the preliminary rounds. Not only does power pairing serve an educational purpose, it also helps ensure that the eight strongest teams advance to the elimination rounds, and that the two strongest teams advance to the final round. It also minimizes the discretion afforded to the Tournament Director to determine pairings. The twin purposes of this memorandum are to enhance transparency in the administration of the tournament and to educate future Tournament Administrators.

**Preliminary Rounds:** The first preliminary round match-ups will be completely random except

The eight quarter finalist teams will then be seeded based upon the results of the four preliminary