POWER PAIRING MEMORANDUM
(Revised March 23, 2017)

What is Power Pairing? Power Pairing describes the process, adopted by the Steering Committee, by which the Tournament Administrator(a)s determine which schools your school will be paired 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 is matched 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 Administrator(s) to determine pairings. The purpose of this memorandum is to enhance transparency in the administration of the tournament and to guide future Tournament Administrator(s).

Preliminary Rounds: The first preliminary round match-ups will be completely random except that the Tournament Administrator(s) have the discretion to adjust side assignments to facilitate power pairing in subsequent rounds. Beginning in Round Two, schools will face other schools with similar win-loss records and will be divided into separate brackets (e.g., the 1-0 bracket and the 0-1 bracket). All schools with comparable win-loss records will be seeded based upon their cumulative average percentage scores. For seeding purposes, the cumulative average percentage scores will be capped at 54% and 46%. The top seed in each bracket will face the bottom seed, the second highest seed will face the second lowest seed, etc. If necessary, and subject to side constraints, a bracket may be adjusted to include higher seeded teams in the next lowest bracket. If a bracket is expanded, the higher seeded teams from the lower brackm

will advance to quarter-finals. To accomplish that, a high-ranking 3-0 team may be paired against a 1-2 team in Round Four.

Elimination Rounds: The eight teams with the highest win-loss record from the four preliminary rounds will advance to the quarter-final round. The cumulative average percentage scores will serve as a tie-breaker. For example, if there are two 4-0 teams, five 3-1 teams, and six 2-2 teams, then all of the 4-0 and 3-1 teams and the 2-2 team with the highest cumulative average percentage score will advance to the quarter-final round.

The eight quarter-finalists will then be seeded based upon the results of the four preliminary rounds. In the example above, the 4-0 team with the highest cumulative average percentage score would be the number one seed. The 2-2 team would be the number eight seed. In the quarter-final round, the highest seed will face the lowest seed, the second highest seed will face the second lowest seed, and so forth.

If teams which are paired against each other in any elimination round have previously faced each other in a preliminary round, the

Administrator(s) in applying power pairing principles in making assignments should be immediately brought to the attention of the Tournament Administrator(s) so that corrective action before the next round can be made if necessary and appropriate.