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Members of the Burleson Teen Court participated in the Texas Teen Court Competition April 13 and one team come home with a third place award. The competition was hosted by Texas Wesleyan Law School.

The team of Jennifer King and Trey Johnson (attorneys) and Natalie Purvis (witness/defendant) won third. The team of Blair Roy and Tabithia Leon (attorneys) and Joshua Yarian (witness/defendant) placed seventh out of 20 teams.

The competition gives volunteer youth attorneys, bailiffs, clerks and jurors the opportunity to conduct mock trials with Class C misdemeanor defendants from local Teen Courts. The competition is designed to test the research skills, questioning, and improvisational ability of the teens, as well as knowledge of the law and criminal procedure.

Ten local teen court programs competed in this year's competition, comprising a total of 20 teams vying for the first place trophy. The competition consisted of three preliminary rounds, using two different mock cases, to determine the top two teams overall, who faced off in the final and deciding case before the entire group. First and second place awards were given, as well as a jury award, to the team that had the most cumulative support from the teen volunteers acting as jurors in all of the cases. The competition included Coppell, Fort Worth, Burleson, Cedar Park, Lewisville, Odessa, Collin County, Granbury, Longview, and Georgetown.

Teen Courts are an alternative sentencing program for teens who are charged with Class C misdemeanors. The teen must plead guilty in municipal court and agree to serve whatever "sentence" is handed down by the teen court. The only adult in Teen Court is the judge. Attorneys, jurors and bailiffs are all teenagers. If the teen defendant successfully serves his/her sentence, the misdemeanor will be wiped from the teen's record.

Assisting the Burleson Teen Court were Teen Court Coordinator Merissa Olvera, Municipal Court Judge Markie Cooke, Director of Court Services Constance White, and Officer Jay Davis.