

## JUDICIAL QUESTIONS: ANSWERED

By Su Hong, Margaret Wang (both Stillwater HS), and Sydney Caswell (Westmoore HS)

This Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, YAG delegates from Brink, Capitol Hill, Charles Page, Classen SAS, Cleveland County Home School, Durant, Edmond Memorial, Guthrie, Highland East, Bishop McGuinness, Moore, Northeast Academy, Northwest Classen, Putnam City, Putnam City West, Ponca City YMCA, Star Spencer, Stillwater, Stillwater Jr. High, Weatherford, and Westmoore gather for the YMCA Youth and Government State Conference. YAG consists of four branches: News Media, Youth Commission, Legislative, and Judicial. Today we focus on Judicial. While they are here, their job is to perform a mock trial—but it's more than just a mock trial.

Attorney teams must be prepared to prosecute and defend the suspect in this year's case: a double homicide suspect who has pleaded the fifth. They must work to catch the other team off-guard to prove their case to the judge and jury. Elyssa Mann and Davidson Nguyen, an attorney team from Brink Jr. High, say that they have spent many late hours preparing their case.

Witnesses must become their character. They must make it absolutely believable that they are who they are pretending to be. When she was in Youth Commission, Francesca Luse from Highland East Jr. High said that from what she saw, witnesses seemed to have more fun than attorney teams. They have lots of fun, but without the witnesses, there would be no case what so ever.

Judges must be leaders. They must be the people that the attorney teams can look up to know which objections are relevant and which must be overruled. Being a judge is a huge responsibility and honor.

Judge Ashley Lugrand of Cleveland County [home school] said that one of her favorite parts of being a judge was presiding over the court.

The YMCA Youth and Government Judicial Branch is full of members that know what they are doing and are able to do it well. All of these factors, combined with fun, make an intense trial imitation that is as real as it gets.



Legislators discuss a bill.

## GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES SPEAK ON IMPORTANT ISSUES; BOXERS INCLUDED



Stuart Downey

- Camaraderie—the highest point of the Oklahoma YAG Program.
- Wants to expand YAG to more schools across Oklahoma.
- Increase size of branches to allow for more collaboration and ideas.
- Will spread YAG throughout the other organizations he's involved in.
- Boxers or Briefs? Briefs!



Michelle Upton

- Originality—the highest point of the Oklahoma YAG Program.
- Wants to increase numbers of YAG members and expand to more schools.
- More recognition for News Media
- Increase donations and scholarships to lower costs and increase numbers.
- How long to fix her hair? Not very!