



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Teen Court Academy Graduates

New Braunfels, TX – New Braunfels Municipal Court proudly announced the graduates of the first Teen Court Academy: Marielena Castro, Rion Clark, Sebastian Coronado, Rachel Emerson, Brooke Hansen, Ashton Jeffers, Amanda Laird, Joshua Padilla, Destini Pulliam, Allison Rhea, Haley Rubey and Raquel Vasquez.

The Teen Court Academy was established April 2016 to provide teens training and experience with legal concepts, critical thinking, presentation skills, as well as real world experience with trial processes and the criminal justice system. Judge Rose Zamora, Presiding Municipal Court Judge, and Norma C. Herrera, Juvenile Case Manager, conceived the idea and enlisted the help of several community leaders as faculty to develop the curriculum. We are pleased to recognize the following leaders who were immensely supportive and dedicated their time, wisdom and knowledge to make the Academy a success: Wade Arledge, Jennifer Dillingham, Jesus Herrera, Keira Kilday, Matt Kyle, Paul Mullen and Judge Charles A. Stephen.

The 12 Teen Court Academy graduates spent 10 weeks attending two-hour sessions weekly to prepare them to become a Volunteer Teen Attorney in Teen Court. The curriculum covered the following topics: Court Systems, Trial Processes, Roles of Attorneys, Criminal Offenses, Case Preparation, Opening and Closing, Cross and Direct Examination, Rules of Evidence, Objections and Perjury, Punishments, Ethics, Leadership, Public Speaking, Resume Writing and Interviewing.

In addition, several of the participants volunteered their time at the County and District Courts as observers and interns in the Criminal Justice System. Because team work was an important part of participating in the Academy, the also Academy offered a team building activity at the *Escape Haus*.

“We are very proud of the Teen Court Academy’s first graduates,” said Judge Zamora. “They have proven to be skillful, intelligent, and motivated young leaders. The New Braunfels Municipal Court intends to continue the Teen Court Academy to train youth to be leaders, volunteers, and mentors in the community.”

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Optional photo attached.