



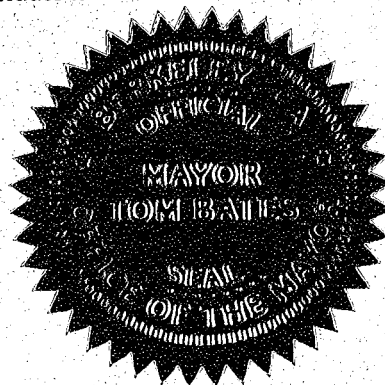
IN RECOGNITION OF THE ROSA PARKS ELEMENTARY MOCK TRIAL

- WHEREAS,** on June 13th, 2013 a group of 5th graders from Rosa Parks Elementary School conducted a mock trial at U.C. Berkeley School of Law that had been organized by Ty Alper, a Berkeley parent and clinical law professor at Berkeley Law, and his colleague, James Stevens, a recent Berkeley Law graduate; and
- WHEREAS,** Alper and Stevens worked intensively with sixteen 5th grade students who volunteered to come to school an hour early for 14 class sessions that spanned a variety of legal skills, including public speaking, persuasive advocacy, direct examination, and cross-examination; and
- WHEREAS,** although the basic fact pattern of the case was provided to them, the students were required to use their creativity in writing their own witness examinations, opening statements, and closing arguments, without knowing what the students on the other side of the case were planning to do; and
- WHEREAS,** the student conducted the trial in the Berkeley Law moot courtroom in front of the presiding judge, former Alameda County Superior Court Judge Demetrios Agretelis, as well as more than 100 spectators; and
- WHEREAS,** the video of the trial has now been viewed almost 900 times on YouTube and has prompted calls from other Berkeley elementary schools as well as schools across the country for materials and advice about how to replicate the experience of these students, all of whom are now thriving in their first year of middle school.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Mayor Tom Bates, on behalf of the City of Berkeley recognize

Ty Alper, James Stevens and Their Mock Trial Students

for developing and participating in an incredibly engaging project that taught valuable skills that will translate into all aspects of the students' lives.



Tom Bates
Tom Bates
Mayor

October 29, 2013