



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT™
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

AMELIE HODGES' FORENSIC FILES:

**THE CASE OF
"THE FAITH HEALING FATHER"**

IN THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

**DON COLESON, APPELLANT
V.
THE STATE OF TEXAS, APPELLEE**

**CASE MATERIALS FOR THE
YMCA TEXAS YOUTH & GOVERNMENT
2011-2012 APPEALS COMPETITION**

Appellate delegates,

Let me begin by welcoming you all to what is, in my opinion, the best section in YAG. I am so glad that you have chosen to do appeals. It is a small, but immensely rewarding section where one can expect to find lively debate and discourse, not just between the attorneys, but the justices as well.

Appeals is a fantastic section because it will sharpen your debating skills, broaden your horizons, and above all keep you on your toes. To excel in appeals you have to be able to critically examine both sides of an issue and be prepared to defend and destroy it in turn.

If I have one piece of advice to pass on to both new and returning delegates it is this: don't be intimidated. Don't be intimidated by the briefs, or the case precedent, or even the justices. If you spend your time worrying about these things you'll miss out on all the fun that this section provides. When it comes to the briefs and the case law, there are many, many resources available to you to ease the process; all you need do is ask. As, for the justices, while I know from experience how daunting it can be to present a case, just remember, they have all been in your shoes and are there now to help you succeed.

So let's have another fun filled year in which we help one another to grow in both mind and body. And encourage your friends to join. The bigger the section, the better the debate will be!

With that being said, I implore you to keep the debate respectful. It is imperative to remember who you represent: your school, your Y, your district, and our generation. As we compete, remember the four core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility.

Sincerely,

Michelle Willoughby
Youth Chief Justice 2011-2012

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