

Empire Mock Trials in New York 2016

The Eureka legal debating teams final three position in the Irish National Mock Trial Final in April in Dublin earned them a place in the Empire World Finals in New York City on November 10th – 14th. Thanks to the extraordinary work of the the parents fund raising committee the team flew into New York City on November 9th to the news that Donald Trump had won the 2016 US Presidential election- an event which initially gave the heavily Democrat city a surreal and eerie feeling. Regardless of the political upheaval the girls of Eureka persevered in their endeavours practicing, sightseeing, shopping and scrimmaging while consuming plenty of bagels and burgers and Vitamin water in preparation for the main event. Leaving their Times Square base early each morning for the U.S. Federal Court House in Brooklyn the girls of Eureka went up against schools from all over the world, nations as diverse as Australia, U.K., New Zealand and South Korea as well as representatives from almost every U.S. state.

Earning a place in the prestigious World Finals was no easy feat but the hard work and relentless practice certainly paid off as the school triumphed against the number one ranked team in their division – a first for Eureka in New York- before been narrowly defeated in their final round. However the school did not leave the Big Apple empty handed with **Aoife Kate Arkins** winning a **Best Witness award** for her outstanding and emotive portrayal of a drug addled Californian. The team were most ably tutored and assisted by Cavan natives **Ms. Elaine Traynor** and her twin sister **Ms. Edel Traynor**, both qualified solicitors and their teachers **Mr. Ronan Fahy** and **Ms. Gabrielle Moran**. List of Empire Mock Trial team: **Aoife Kate Arkins, Aoife Brady, Leona Brady, Dara Caffrey, Gráinne Cullen, Aoife Farrelly, Jessica Harcourt, Clodagh Hegarty, Jennie Balfe McKeon, Jenny McCurdy & Megan O' Reilly.**