

Students drink up the law during mock trial at school

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BOCA RATON — At 9:30 on a Monday morning, alcohol certainly captures the attention of teenagers.

More than 50 students filed into a lecture hall at Spanish River High School to hear Stewart Klager's ninth-grade law class present a mock trial about drinking to kick off Law Week. It was the first such trial the school has had in six years.

As the trial unfolded, students learned that a fictional popular student, Dana Ivy, crashed into Fred Beavis' car after leaving a graduation party Ivy's parents hosted.

Beavis, who was injured in the crash, sued Ivy's parents, alleging they were liable for his injuries because they supervised the party, where beer cans were found later.

For nearly an hour, two teams of student lawyers volleyed questions at witnesses about Ivy's drinking.

"If you were just in a car accident, Mr. Beavis, are you in a position to judge whether Dana Ivy was drunk?" said one of Ivy's lawyers, Austin Rinder.

Meanwhile, the prosecution brought in a string of Ivy's ex-girlfriends, some with names such as Victoria Secret, who testified that Ivy had gotten into two previous car ac-

cidents because of drinking.

The jury sided ultimately with Beavis, though one student said she disagreed because the Ivys did not serve alcohol at the party. Everyone in the audience clapped at the verdict.

Then **Kenneth Lipman**, a lawyer who volunteered to play the role of judge, told the class that the jury's verdict was wrong. Oops. Silence ensued.

"The facts must meet the law. The law required the Ivys serve the alcohol, but the counsel for the plaintiff Beavis said in her closing argument that the Ivys did not serve the alcohol," **Lipman** said.

But he commended the lawyers for doing a very good job, given the difficulties of poking holes in witness testimony during cross examination.

Beavis' lawyer Stephanie Loewenstern said that, despite **Lipman's** analysis, she thought the trial went well, given that students prepared their case in a week.

Reed Schlesinger, 15, who played one of Ivy's defense attorneys, said he learned something new.

"We should have talked more about how the parents did not serve alcohol at the party."