

In Mrs. Kriegel's mock trial class, students take a case to trial. They are assigned either as a witness or an attorney, then fight the case in class like a real trial.

The trial that was just completed was Linn Pauling vs. the state of New Mexico. Linn Pauling was charged with the controlled substance homicide of Ronnie Riley. The attorneys for the prosecution were Mattie Wiseman, Kaliopé Whitty, and Alyssa Lane. The attorneys for the defense of Linn Pauling were Matthew Simpson, Amber Cummings, and James Jimenez.

The story of this case takes place at a cabin in the woods in Cory County, New Mexico. The cabin was caught ablaze by a meth lab located in the shed that caught fire. The fire only took the life of Ronnie Riley. There was a toxic level of meth found in his system and no smoke in his lungs, meaning Ronnie died of a meth overdose before the fire reached him. Linn Pauling was arrested for controlled substance homicide for supposedly selling the meth to Ronnie, leading to said overdose.

The prosecution's witnesses were Detective Sam Stone, Sydney Riley, and Kasey Acres. Detective Sam Stone was the investigating officer, Sydney Riley is the parent of Ronnie Riley, and Kasey Acres attended the party where Ronnie died. The defense's witnesses were Linn Pauling, Jayce Johnson, and Dr. Donald Mathis. Linn Pauling is the defendant. Jayce Johnson is the cousin of Kasey Acres and attended the party as well. Dr. Donald Mathis was an expert in crime scene investigation.

The prosecution had many reasons why they believed Linn Pauling sold the meth to Ronnie. The strongest evidence was a conversation over email believed to be about a meth deal due to the slang used in the conversation. Police also found over \$18,000 in a safe in Pauling's closet. Also, there are claims of Linn Pauling's vehicle being seen flee the scene.

The defense believed that Ronnie owned the meth lab in the cabin and the email conversation was just talking about the party to be had at the cabin. Linn Pauling didn't attend this party because she had to stay home and care for her paralyzed 11-year-old sister. The money found in her safe was from years of savings and working multiple jobs.

After a three-day long trial, the jury found the defendant not guilty of controlled substance homicide.

As of January 9<sup>th</sup>, the class is working on the case of Townsend vs. the State of New Mexico. Carrie Townsend is charged with the murder of Terese Jameson. She was accused of putting horsemeat in her famous burgers by Terese Jameson. When Jameson confronted Townsend about the issue, Jameson disappeared. She was later found in the dumpster behind the restaurant with a wound in the back of her head, likely by a brick being thrown at her.