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**For Immediate Release**  
**Blumstein**  
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## **Kansas High School Students Participated in Kansas Constitution Bee**

**Arlington, VA** – Kansas high school students competed in the first annual Kansas Constitution Bee, a state-wide contest that tests high school students' understanding of American history and civics on Saturday.

Jennifer David, a student at Hays High School in Hays won first place and \$750. Will Quaney, a student at Hayden High School in Topeka won second place and \$500.

Bobby Knight, a student at Lawrence High School in Lawrence won third place and \$250.

Rebecca Hensley, a student at Wellington High School in Wellington won fourth place and \$200.

The Bee, which culminated in a recognition luncheon and a final competition among the top 10 regional winners at the Wichita Hyatt, is sponsored by the Bill of Rights Institute, a nonprofit educational organization based in Arlington, Va., and underwritten by the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation of Wichita.

"These students demonstrated knowledge of our Founding period and a firm understanding of the Founding documents and our constitutional government," said Victoria Hughes, President of the Bill of Rights Institute. "We're proud to honor these students and their teachers, whose great dedication to teaching these concepts has had a lasting impact."

"Our goals for this event are to encourage learning about our nation's founding documents and principles, and to provide students with useful knowledge they can apply in their daily lives," said Susan Addington, grants manager for the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation. "This first Constitutional Bee exceeded our expectations and we look forward to partnering with Bill of Rights Institute on this annual event."

Students from four regions corresponding to Kansas' Congressional districts began competing for winning spots in the Kansas Constitution Bee at the classroom level last fall. Regional competitions followed in February and March. The competitions assessed the students' knowledge of five civic knowledge categories, including the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, famous people and events from United States history, Supreme Court decisions, current events, and civic values and skills.

Saturday's Kansas Constitution Bee finals included written and oral examinations that required students answer questions about American history and current events. The four students with the highest scores then competed in a third and final round: the "Civic Conversation" roundtable discussion.

These students were asked the following question 30 minutes prior to the discussion: "Discuss the American ideal of liberty as express in the four documents and in the United States today." They were then asked to relate the question to the Magna Carta, the Massachusetts Body of Liberties, the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the United States' Bill of Rights. Students addressed the question in an opening statement and participated in a 30-minute roundtable discussion with other finalists, speaking before contest officials, parents and teachers.

The students were judged according to their knowledge and understanding of the question and historical documents, as well as their contributions to the civil discourse.

The contest is being held for the first time in the state of Kansas, and the Bill of Rights Institute aims to carry the program to other states in the future.

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### **About the Bill of Rights Institute**

*Founded in 1999, the Bill of Rights Institute is a nonprofit education organization. The mission of the Bill of Rights Institute is to educate young people about the words and ideas of America's Founders, the liberties guaranteed in our Founding documents, and how our Founding principles continue to affect and shape a free society.*

### **About the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation**

*Established in 1952, the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation focuses its resources on not-for-profit organizations in Kansas that significantly enhance the state's quality of life through arts and arts education, environmental stewardship, human services, enablement of at-risk youth, and education. The foundation is named for Fred C. Koch (1900-1967), who co-founded what is now Koch Industries, Inc., and his wife, Mary R. Koch (1907-1990). More information can be found at [www.fmkfoundation.org](http://www.fmkfoundation.org).*