***The Holy Office v. Galileo Galilei***

**Stipulated Facts:**Born in 1564 in Italy, Galileo Galilei became a brilliant scientist and lecturer. He made several inventions, including the telescope. He was also a devoutly religious Roman Catholic. Galileo learned of and supported the theory of Nicolaus Copernicus that suggested that the sun was the center of the universe and that the earth revolved around the sun once a year on its axis. The accepted view was that the earth was the center of the universe and that the sun rotated around the earth.

In 1616, the Pope, the spiritual leader of the Roman Catholic Church, summoned Galileo to Rome to warn Galileo to abandon his opinion about the earth rotating around the sun; and, “in the case of his refusal to obey, the Commissary of the Holy Office is to enjoin him to abstain altogether from teaching or defending this opinion and even from discussing it.” The accounts and writings are not certain whether there was a formal injunction or order banning Galileo from holding, teaching, or defending the opinion that the sun is the center of the universe and that the earth moves. Due to the way the Injunction of 1616 was entered into the records, there is some suspicion that the Injunction was put into the record by Galileo’s enemies at a later time.

In 1623, a new pope, Urban VIII, was elected. He was more open-minded. The new Pope’s private secretary wrote to Galileo, urging him to resume publication of his ideas. Galileo began work on a book, *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems*. Galileo submitted his book to the Vatican’s chief licenser, Niccolo Riccardi, who promised his help to get the book published. Urban stated that if the book treated the contending views hypothetically and not absolutely, the book could be published. The chief licenser demanded certain revisions be made. After the revisions were submitted, the licenser granted permission for the book to be published.

The first copy of Galileo’s book came off the press in February 1632 and quickly sold out. However, in late summer 1632, Rome ordered publication of the book to be suspended. Pope Urban VIII withdrew his support for Galileo, claiming that Galileo had deceived him.

**Crime:**Galileo was charged with violating the 1616 injunction against teaching, defending, or discussing the Copernican theory; this carried the possibility of imprisonment and death.

**Roles:**

**Lawyers for the Prosecution:** Jessica Telfort, Anthony Costa

**Witnesses for the Prosecution**

Pope Urban VIII, Leader of the Roman Catholic Church: Jack Caporelli

Tommaso Caccini, Dominican Monk: Andrew Torres

Cardinal Bellarmine, Inquisitor: Sem Notis

**Lawyers for the Defense:** Tim Strojney, Alec Guerrini

**Witnesses for the Defense**

Galileo Galilei, Defendant and Scientist: Joshua Targete

Benedetto Castelli, Monk and Professor of Mathematics: Joey Celia

Sister Maria Celeste, Galileo’s daughter: Alyssa Rose

**Jury:** Maggie Scanlon, Julia Pottey, Tom Reynolds