



2020 NEW YORK STATEWIDE HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL TOURNAMENT

Dear Educator:

The New York State Bar Association's Law, Youth & Citizenship Program and the New York Bar Foundation, in conjunction with _____, are pleased to announce that New York's Annual High School Mock Trial Tournament for senior high school students (grades 9-12) will be held this winter. General coordination of the activities is being provided by the New York State Bar Association's Law, Youth and Citizenship Program.

SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY RESPONSIBILITIES

Senior high schools in _____ **County** wishing to participate may enter a single team of at least eight students, headed by one or more teacher-coaches. Other students can participate by serving as back-ups to members of the school's first team. Junior high school students (grade 8 or below) will not be eligible for this year's tournament. We recommend that a team have several additional students to act as substitutes, when the need arises.

Selection of team members (three attorneys, three witnesses), two back-ups, and the coach/coaches are the responsibility of the school, as is transportation to and from the contest sites. The Tournament is open to all students currently in grades 9-12. If a school chooses to limit student participation for reasons of supervision or safety, this should be accomplished through an equitable "try-out" system, not through disallowing participation by one or more entire grades. Each team entered in the Mock Trial Competition is expected to conduct several practice sessions prior to the contest.

CONTEST FORMAT/SCHEDULE

The New York State High School Mock Trial Tournament will be a two-round elimination tournament (each team will compete in at least two rounds, once as plaintiff/prosecution and once as defendant). Lawyers or trial judges will preside over the enactments in each contest round. Conducting a statewide tournament will require beginning the local competitions in early February so that the regional tournaments can be completed by **no later than April 30**.

BAR ASSOCIATION ASSISTANCE

If a team does not have an attorney advisor, the _____ **County Bar Association** will secure one for any participating team. He or she will be available to assist the teacher-coaches as well as members of the team preparing for their trial enactments.

On the following date and time, _____, an orientation session for teacher-coaches will be held at the following location, _____.

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY. This meeting will feature a briefing on changes, if any, in contest rules and procedures, a blind drawing to determine sides in the first two trials, and distribution of tournament materials. Coffee and soda will be provided.

MOCK TRIAL MATERIALS

Each school entering the tournament will receive materials, as follows:

- 1. A statement of the facts of the case
- 2. A set of witness statements
- 3. A discussion of rules of evidence and legal sources
- 4. A description of rules, policies and procedures governing the Tournament
- 5. A list of participating teams and teacher-coaches;
- 6. A calendar of Tournament trial dates
- 7. An agreement to abide by the following entity’s Tournament Rules,

_____, for your signature.

The materials specified in items 1 through 4 and additional supporting information will be made available at www.nysba.org/mtcase once the case is released.

AWARDS

Members of each participating team will receive a commemorative certificate acknowledging their participation in the Tournament. In addition, a special certificate will also be awarded to each winning team member for the county and regional tournaments. In recognition of outstanding achievement, certificates will be presented in Albany to all schools that compete in the Finals of the New York Statewide High School Mock Trial Tournament. The first and second place teams in the final round will each receive a plaque acknowledging their achievement and placement in the State Finals, which will be sent to their respective schools.

ENTRY DEADLINE

An entry form is attached which must be received by us by no later than the following date:

_____.

Please submit your entry form by email or fax to:

➤ Name: _____

➤ Email: _____

➤ Fax: _____

We look forward to your school’s participation in this outstanding educational program.

Very truly yours, _____

Dated: _____