



NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

MOCK TRIAL MATTERS

CALENDAR

January 1— [National Registration Open](#)

January 15— [State Membership Fees Due](#)

January 15— [Preliminary Interest form](#)

April 1— [National Case Release](#)

April 15— **Deadline**

- 1) Team registration
- 2) Event ticket orders
- 3) Tournament schedule adjustment
- 4) Last day to update registration.
- 5) Mandatory Coordinator Survey due.

April 22— **Deadline**

Payment for registration and event tickets.

TBA— **Practice Room Schedules, Photo Schedules, Rules Questions.**

May 11— State Coordinators Meeting; Timekeeper Orientation; Coaches Orientation and Team Pin Exchange.

May 11-13— National Tournament Hartford, CT.

May 12— Rounds 1 & 2; Judges' Reception; Student Event.

May 13— Rounds 3 & 4; Championship Round; Awards Gala & Dance.

May 14— Team Packet Pick-up.

* The full schedule for the weekend can be found at: [NHSMTC Schedule](#)



Hartford Is Gearing Up For Nationals 2017!

Staff and volunteers from Civics First, Inc. and the 2017 National Mock Trial Host Committee are hard at work planning your 2017 National High School Mock Trial Championship that will be held from May 11 to 13 in Hartford, Connecticut. All of the

logistical information you will need for the competition and social events is housed on the event website at www.2017nationalmocktrial.org. You can also get up to date information on the [Civics First Facebook page](#), [Twitter @CivicsFirst76](#) or [Instagram @civicsfirst76](#).

On the website you can find information about traveling to Hartford and links to the host hotels. You can also access information about registration, events, and our courthouse where all the competition rounds will take place. Some sections are still under construction. Volunteers can sign up anytime! The team registration page will be live in January.

In the meantime, there are a couple of things you can do to help us get ready:

- Share this website with any attorneys or judges who might be interested in coming to Hartford to judge for the 2017 championship, as well as non-judge volunteers.
- Coaches should be prepared with team member information when registering. It is imperative that we have an accurate count of observers per team due to the smaller size of some of the courtrooms.

Civics First looks forward to hosting you this coming May. We are excited to share our state's capitol with the mock trial nation, highlighting our courts and our state as we plan a memorable event for teams, their families, state coordinators, and the many volunteers who will visit us. We can't wait to share our plans with you so please stay tuned.....

See you in the Constitution State in May! If you have any questions, contact Beth DeLuco at nationals@civicsfirstct.org or (860) 357-5300.

HOTEL INFORMATION



Marriott Hartford Downtown
200 Columbus Blvd.,
Hartford, CT 06103

Price per night:
\$169.00
For reservations:
Click [here](#)



Hilton Hartford
315 Trumbull St.,
Hartford, CT
06103

Price per night:
\$159.00
For reservations:
Click [here](#)

TRANSPORTATION— Air

All teams and attendees are responsible for making their own transportation arrangements to attend the event. The nearest airport is Bradley International Airport (BDL) located just a short 15 minute drive from downtown Hartford. There is also an Amtrack stop at Union Station in Hartford which is only a few blocks from the hotels.

The host state is currently working to arrange a shuttle service from the Airport to downtown Hartford, stay tuned for details!

JUDGING PANEL SIGN-UP

We need your help to make this opportunity the best possible experience for the students. Please reach out to your judges and attorneys and ask them to volunteer at Nationals. We promise it will be a great experience! There will be a special reception for all the judge and attorney volunteers on Friday night.

[Click here](#) for more information.

NOT A JUDGE OR ATTORNEY? WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP!

We are looking for non-legal volunteers to help make Nationals a success! Consider sending a link to those who volunteer for your state program. Non-legal volunteers can be courtroom liaisons, courthouse volunteers, help with the registration table, help with the evening events, provide directions for visitors or help with team and judge meals. [Click here](#) for more information.

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||| **New information will be added to the [NHSMTC 2017](#)** |||
||| **website regularly.** |||
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Nationals 2018 Host Nevada

Don Christensen, Host Director

Planning is underway for the 2018 National High School Mock Trial Championship in Reno, Nevada. The “Biggest Little City in the World” is ready to host more than 1,500 students, coaches, family members and volunteer judges, team officials and organizers. A Steering Committee is in place to oversee competition logistics, volunteer recruitment and budgeting. The Committee is ahead of schedule on most projects, including the drafting of the case to be argued during the competition.



Fundraising efforts are going strong. The Nevada Bar Foundation has donated \$50,000 to host the event and has received \$20,000 and \$30,000 grants from two private foundations in Reno. Additional fundraising events have taken place with more in the planning stages.

Reno has much to offer. Downtown Reno has several attractions all within walking distance of the host hotel, including the Reno Aces Ballpark. The Steering Committee has identified the following locations for team events and receptions.

Student Pin Exchange:	National Automobile Museum
Team Event:	Whitney Hotel Basecamp (rock climbing)
Judges Reception:	National Judicial College
Announcement of Final Teams:	BELIEVE Sign
Closing Reception/Awards Gala:	Reno Ballroom or Silver Legacy Expo Hall

The National Judicial College brings judges from across the country for training at its facility in Reno. In addition to hosting the Judge’s Reception, the College is also working with the Steering Committee to schedule a judges training in the days before the competition. We anticipate many of those judges taking an extra day or two to stay and judge the competition.

Sleeping accommodations are set. We have selected the Silver Legacy Resort and Casino as the host hotel for the competition. Located within blocks of the downtown courthouses, the Silver Legacy is completely connected to two other resorts and hosts an array of entertainment and dining options on site and within walking distance.

A room block has been set aside and favorable rates negotiated for the 2018 NHSMT competition.

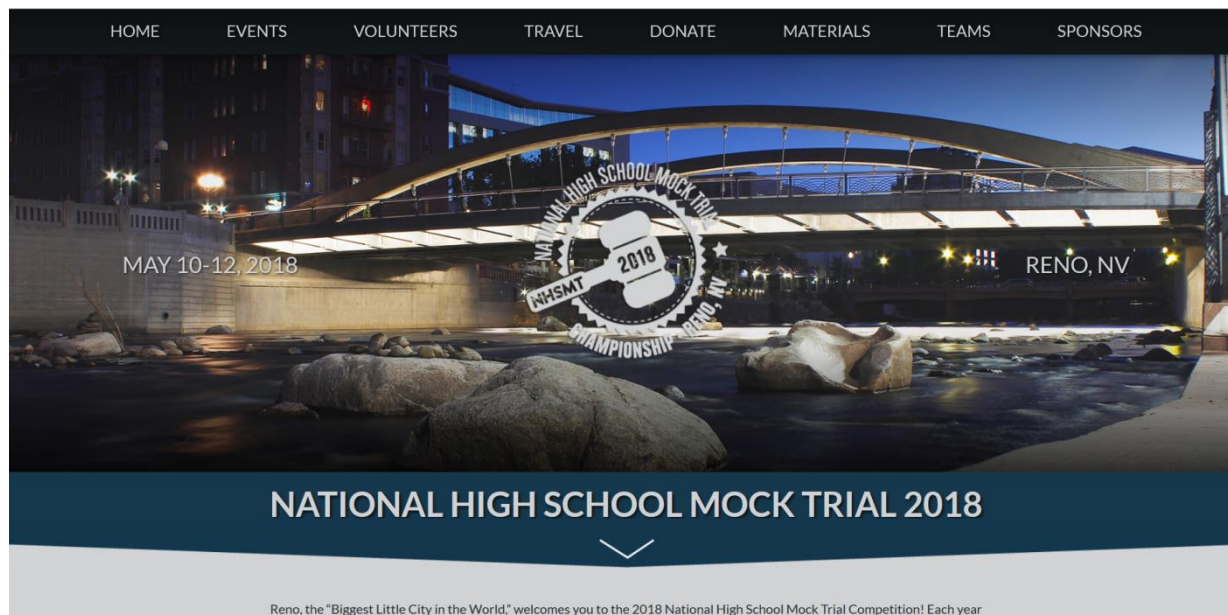
- Midweek Rate (Sun. – Thurs.): \$79
- Weekend Rate (Fri. and Sat.): \$119

Group reservations can be made by calling 800-687-8733. Please be sure to use the group code **NHSMOCK** to receive the rate.

Courtrooms are reserved. Competitors will be spread across 24 courtrooms in multiple venues within a few blocks of each other: the Second Judicial District Courthouse, the Mills B. Lane Justice Center and at the Bruce R.

Thompson Federal Courthouse, with space and seating available for competitors and observers. Reno City Hall has also been made available at no cost as an operations center.

We're going online. A dedicated website for the 2018 competition is under development and is set to go live soon. The site will house all information related to the competition and include online registration forms, judging and liaison volunteer forms, and an online donation portal. The site is populated with rotating photos of downtown Reno. It is also geared with a younger audience in mind, featuring live streaming from Instagram followers using the #natlmocktrial handle.



Forging Ahead. In the upcoming year, the Steering Committee's focus will shift its primary focus to communications regarding the competition, recruitment of attorneys to serve as scoring judges, and obtaining assistance from local volunteer groups to help shepherd students between events and courthouses. This will include continuing dialogue with members of our local and statewide judiciary, local and specialty bar associations, and informing/inviting attorney participation.

Nationals 2019 Host Georgia

Michael Nixon, Host Director



Welcome to Athens, Georgia, the Classic City; steeped in history and home of the University of Georgia (UGA), the oldest land grant university in the country, chartered in 1795. A true southern college town, Athens is a unique mix of the past, present and future, and we are excited to be your host for the 2019 National High School Mock Trial Championship. The Georgia High School Mock Trial Program, along with the State Bar of Georgia and its Young Lawyers Division, is already hard at work making plans for the 2019 Nationals, to be held the weekend of May 16-18.

Teams will be immersed in the city's history throughout the weekend as the competition's events take place both in the picturesque downtown and on the campus of the University of Georgia. But it isn't just antebellum history that can be found here; Athens is also the site of the first powered flight in the state of Georgia as well as the birthplace of several music groups, including the B52s and R.E.M. There is so much to see and explore, and we will highlight more as the event draws closer.

The Hilton Garden Inn will serve as the headquarters for team registration and information, with students being housed in one of three hotels in the middle of downtown Athens. Competition rounds will take place at the Athens-Clarke County Courthouse and the Classic Center, the city's jewel of a convention center. The Classic Center will also play host to all of the practice rooms, various meetings on Thursday and the Awards Gala Saturday night.

The 2019 competition will be a unique experience for the mock trial family in that it will be one of the first visits to a true southern college town and we are excited to share this unique part of Georgia and the south to everyone in 2019!

Nationals 2020 Host (Insert your state here!)

JUST DO IT....We promise we'll be there to help!!!

If you haven't experienced the excitement of hosting the National High School Mock Trial Championship, maybe now is the time to JUST DO IT!!

If you know this excitement but it has been too many years, maybe it's time to JUST DO IT AGAIN!!

The Board is looking for Hosts for 2020 and beyond and wants you to know there are resources available to you!!!

- Seed money to begin your fundraising
- Mentors who have "been there, done that"
- A "how to" guide with timelines, forms, etc.
- Technical assistance with the website
- Don't have enough courtrooms, no problem. We are open to using alternative venues, if necessary.
- Publicity and social media highlighting your involvement!

Hosting the NHSMTTC is a great way to grow your program by providing volunteer opportunities to judges, attorneys, and community members, and to help them learn what an amazing, educational program mock trial is.

Just thinking about it? Want to learn more? Contact mgwidenhouse@rudolfwidenhouse.com or susan.nusall@azflse.org

REMEMBER: The NHSMTTC can take place only when a state answers the call and hosts it.

Committee Reports

The National High School Mock Trial Championship, Inc. is an all-volunteer organization. There are no paid staff members who coordinate the activities of the NHSMTTC. The governing body of the NHSMTTC, Inc. is the Board of Directors of the NHSMTTC. The 2015-2016 Chair of the Board is Dewain Fox (AZ), Vice Chair is Laura Wesley (CA), Treasurer is Paul Kaufman (PA) and Secretary is Rebecca Britton (NC). You can see full committee reports on the NHSMTTC website under the member login page.

Nominating Committee David Berlin, Committee Chair

A scheduled election will be held during the State Coordinators' meeting on May 11 in Hartford. There are 4 at-large Board positions up for election this year. The at-large positions expiring in May are currently held by Ronald C. Appleby (NJ), David Berlin (NM), Paul Kaufman (PA) and Laura Wesley (CA).

The 2015 Host Director, Gordon Widenhouse Jr. (NC), term expires in May 2017 and has been filled by 2019 Host Director, Michael Nixon (GA). The Host Board Director, currently held by Susan Nusall (AZ), will expire in May 2017. These individuals will be replaced when a state is awarded a bid to host the National competition and when the chair re-appoints Ms. Nusall or appoints someone new.

Board members are required to attend (in person) the two regularly scheduled board meetings in October and May each year. According to the by-laws, interested candidates are to submit their letter of intent to run to the Chair. He has, however, designated that Nomination Committee Chair (David Berlin) be sent the letters. They are to be received no later than March 15, 2017. Submissions can be emailed to dंबरl@duhigglaw.com.

Long-Range Planning Committee Laura Wesley, Committee Chair

In October, coordinators were invited to take a survey to discuss the future of NHSMTC and how the organization should spend its resources. At the October Board meeting, the committee reported to the board of the survey results. 62% of the survey respondents reported that more seed money would assist in their ability to host a future NHSMTC. An increase in seed money was discussed but keep in mind that the organization should always keep at least \$150,000 in reserves in case it was ever called upon to host a national competition.

Additionally the coordinators reported that funds should be used to help the host site with some of the tasks associated with hosting such as the national website, registration system, etc. It was discussed that the board would look into what it would cost to create and maintain a registration system as well as a website that could be passed on from host to host. The second highest priority as reported in the survey is providing a platform to collect and house PowerPoints, agendas, videos, volunteer and school recruitment fliers, for use by state coordinators. The board is looking into the technical aspect of storing and organizing the sample documents on the NHSMTC website. The plan is to have samples in place by May and then a process for collecting resources from coordinators to share with other members. Lastly, if there are any remaining funds, funding for a mini grant program would be considered. An ad hoc committee was created to start the process of creating criteria for a mini grants program that would support innovative ideas to support new components of individual state mock trial programs or grow existing programs.

Policy Committee Cynthia Cothran, Committee Chair

At the Board's October meeting, the following language was added to policy number **38. Policy for Responding to Questions:**

NEW: If the host director has any questions about the competition, the question(s) should be proposed to the Board Chair or Board Host Director.

Log-on to the [NHSMTC website](#) for an updated copy of the NHSMTC Policy Manual.

Rules Committee Pete Jones, Committee Chair

At the Board's October meeting in Hartford, a few rule changes were approved.

- First the Board adopted a set of Rules for the Artist competition.
- Second the Board amended Rule 4.14 to make it clear that in the Championship Round a team may not object to being videotaped, tape recorded, live streamed or photographed by the host organization.
- Finally the board examined team competition and amended Rules 1.4 and 3.2. Under the present rules there were 8 official team members who could serve as a witness and/or attorney. In addition to the present 8 official team members the rules allowed for a 9th person to act as a time keeper who was limited to the time keeping role only. The board has amended its rules so that 9 will be

the maximum number of official team members. Any timekeepers must come from this official 9. Subject to Rule 3.2 and 3.4 any member of the official team can be a witness, attorney and/or timekeeper. Any timekeeper must continue to go through the training outlined in Rule 1.4.

Log-on to the [NHSMTC website](#) for the amended rules.

2017 Justice Gene Franchini Golden Gavel Award

Nominate Someone Outstanding for the 2017 Justice Gene Franchini Golden Gavel Award. It is that time of year again to consider nominating someone in your state who has demonstrated exemplary dedication and commitment to the goals and ideals of the National High School Mock Trial program. It is real easy to nominate someone in 500 words or less describing why you feel your nominee should be considered for the 2017 Justice Gene Franchini Golden Gavel Award.

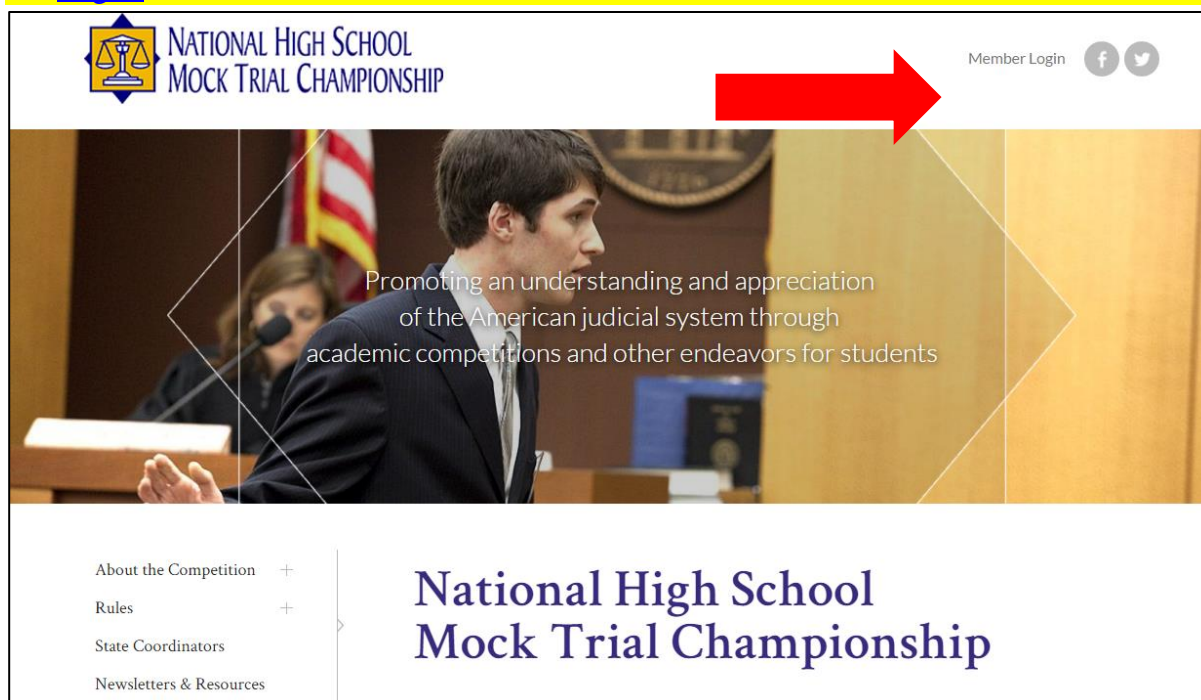
Things to consider when making the nomination include the nominee's qualifications such as length of service/participation in the National High School Mock Trial Championship; the extent of that participation; the importance or significance of the nominee's contributions; and how these qualifications help to further the goals and mission of the NHSMTC. Up to five letters of recommendation may also be included in the nomination packet. All nominations are due by March 1, 2017. If you have any questions, contact Cynthia H. Cothran at ccothran@schar.org.

[Click Here to Download a Nomination Packet](#)

NHSMTC Case Library

Have you submitted your 2015 or 2016 case to the National Case Library? Our case library is a great asset and available for FREE to all our members. The cases are great to share with your schools that are new to mock trial or to reuse for your own state competition! We also have many states that depend on the case library to continue their mock trial program. Please help to keep the case library growing by adding you case in three easy steps! :

1. [Log-in](#) to the website



The screenshot shows the website header with the logo on the left and "Member Login" with social media icons on the right. A red arrow points to the "Member Login" link. Below the header is a banner image of a student in a courtroom with the text "Promoting an understanding and appreciation of the American judicial system through academic competitions and other endeavors for students". At the bottom left is a navigation menu with links: "About the Competition +", "Rules +", "State Coordinators", and "Newsletters & Resources". At the bottom right is the text "National High School Mock Trial Championship".

2. Select “Add A New Case”:

of the American judicial system through academic competitions and other endeavors for students

The screenshot shows a website interface with a sidebar on the left and a main content area on the right. The sidebar contains a list of navigation links: About the Competition, Rules, State Coordinators, Newsletters & Resources, Awards, Champions, Contact Us, Members Area, and National Championship Photos. The main content area has a heading 'Members' and a list of links: Case Database, Instructions for Adding a New Case, Add New Case, Member Download Area, and Board Download Area. A red arrow points from the 'Add New Case' link in the sidebar to the 'Add New Case' link in the main content area.

3. Complete the information requested and select upload (you also can click on Instructions for adding a new case for easy-to-follow instructions):

July

Appellate
 Primary School
 Middle School
 High School
 College

Witnesses Per Side *

Academic Year *

Time Requirement *

Issues

File No file chosen

The screenshot shows a form for adding a new case. It includes a dropdown menu for 'July', a list of checkboxes for case types (Appellate, Primary School, Middle School, High School, College), and three text input fields for 'Witnesses Per Side', 'Academic Year', and 'Time Requirement'. There is a large text area for 'Issues'. At the bottom, there is a 'File' section with a 'Choose File' button and the text 'No file chosen'. A red arrow points from the 'Choose File' button to the 'ADD CASE' button.

Don't remember your member log-in information? Reset your password using the button on the Member Login page. If you still have problems, contact Dewain Fox at dfox.nhsmtc@cox.net or Michael Nixon MichaelN@gabar.org. <http://www.nationalmocktrial.org/casesearch.cfm>

National Courtroom Artist Contest



Calling all student artists! The Courtroom Art Contest is a competition that allows artistically talented students the opportunity to participate in the Mock Trial Program. After a successful pilot of the contest at the 2016 NHSMTTC in Idaho, we are proud to announce the Courtroom Art Contest will take place at the 2017 NHSMTTC in Hartford, Connecticut. Please considering starting a contest in your state and sending a winner to Nationals. Last year rules, rubric and training video can be found on the NHSMTTC website. The website will be updated with resources in January.

NHSMTTC Championship Round DVDs

The championship DVDs are a great resource for your state team. Order a DVD by contacting previous NHSMTTC hosts:

- 2014 championship round DVD 2014 (WI-Civil case) email kwilcox@wisbar.org
- 2016 championship round DVD 2014 (ID-Civil case) at <https://form.jotform.com/61414955011953>

State Coordinators Survey & Membership Dues



NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

DUES REMINDER

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP MEMBERSHIP

Membership dues of \$250 are due **January 15th** from each participating mock trial program. Please note the membership dues are separate and in addition to your state champion team's \$500 tournament registration fee. The tournament registration fee is due April 22, and made payable to CivicsFirst. [Click here](#) for payment and registration information. Both fees are required for participation in the tournament.

Checks for the MEMBERSHIP DUES should be made payable to NHSMTC, Inc. and mailed to:

NHSMTC, Inc.
Paul Kaufman, Treasurer
220 E. Homestead Ave
Collingswood, NJ 08108

Email: Paul.Kaufman2@usdoj.gov

Return payment with the form below:

State/Territory/Country: _____

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

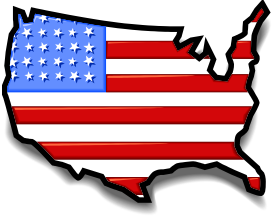
Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

As a reminder, in order to be eligible to participate at Nationals, each state must:

- 1) Complete the National Coordinator's Survey by April 15^h (The survey will be emailed to coordinators in early 2017) AND
- 2) Pay a \$250 membership fee, due January 16th. The membership fee is separate and in addition to a team's \$500 tournament fee due April 22nd.

The funds collected through the membership fee have been earmarked specifically for costs borne by NHSMTC, Inc. for hosting or aiding in the hosting of the national championship.



News and Notes From Around the Nation

California

By Lourdes Morales, Constitutional Rights Foundation



The Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) is concluding its 39th Annual Los Angeles County Mock Trial competition. This November, over 2,600 high school and middle school students headed to court to try the case of *People v. Awbrey*. This year's case is the trial of Cameron Awbrey, a restaurant owner, who is being charged with human trafficking and false imprisonment of Lin Stark, an immigrant from the country of Tanterra.

Special thanks to Carlos Monagas from the Riverside District Attorney's Office and Joshua Hanks, Attorney at Law in Riverside for all their help with the revisions and recording the "California Mock Trial Simplified Rules of Evidence" webinar. This great webinar is now available on our webpage, see link below.

<http://crf-usa.org/mock-trial-program/mock-trial-webcasts>

CRF is excited to host its 36th Annual California Mock Trial State Finals in Riverside, March 24-26, 2017. The program currently involves 36 California counties and over 8,000 students. For more information about CRF or the Mock Trial Program, visit our website at www.crf-usa.org.

Georgia

By Michael Nixon, State Bar of Georgia

The Georgia High School Mock Trial Competition is in its 29th season with 124 teams registered for the competition. The Regional Competitions will take place in 16 locations around the state the weekend of January 28, with 48 teams advancing to the District Competitions on February 18. From there, the eight District Champions will meet for the State Finals Competition March 4 to determine which team will be representing Georgia in Boise.

The season started with our 19th annual Law Academy in Atlanta over the weekend of September 15-18. Forty-four students spent the weekend honing their trial preparation and practice skills with attorneys and judges in the program, finishing with the Student Bar Exam. The students had to craft and present a 3-minute closing argument for the weekend's case in the three days of the Academy.

The 2017 case is an original problem written by Georgia's Problem Subcommittee. During the semi-final game of Georgia's high school co-ed softball championship, Joey Cobb was attempting to throw out Bryson Harper at the plate from left field. However, Joey's throw connected with the Harper's head, knocking him/her out on the spot.

(Harper's helmet had flown off rounding third base, which was not an uncommon occurrence for Harper.) Harper claims that Joey's throw was intentional and offers Joey's well-known arm and accuracy as proof of Joey's ability. Harper and Joey have a long history of competition, both during the school year and on the same summer travel league. Other witnesses in the case include Casey Dansby, the shortstop on the field at the time; Coach Jamie Dugan, Harper's 3rd base coach (and the head coach of the summer travel team everyone plays on); Aubrey Williamson, the local radio play-by-play announcer who was working the PA system for the game; and Gerry/Geraldine Brand, a college/pro scout. Joey hit Harper; that's indisputable. Was it intentional?

Illinois

By **Katy Karayannis**, Illinois State Bar Association

The 2016 ISBA High School Mock Trial Invitational was held on April 2 and 3, 2016, at the University of Illinois' College of Law in Champaign. Thirty-eight schools from across Illinois participated in the event. The winning team was Timothy Christian High School, which went on to compete in the National High School Mock Trials in Boise, Idaho.

The 2016 Invitational was successful due to the hard work of the ISBA's Standing Committee on Law-Related Education, Mock Trial Coordinator, Katy Karayannis, and the many judges, attorneys, law students, undergraduate students, and others who generously volunteered their time to assist with the program. The program was also made possible by the sponsorship of the ISBA, Illinois LEARN, and the Illinois Trial Team of the University of Illinois, and by the generous support of many others. The ISBA's Standing Committee on Law-Related Education appreciates all of these supporters and invites any attorney, judges, or other legal professionals to join us next year for the 2016 ISBA High School Mock Trial Invitational at the University of Illinois' College of Law in Champaign on March 11 and 12, 2017.

A full list of participating schools, sponsors, and volunteers, information about volunteering, and general information about the 2017 Mock Trial Invitational, as it becomes available, can be found at: <http://www.isba.org/teachers/mocktrial>.

Kansas

By **Mitch Biebighauser**

The Kansas Mock Trial program continues to work on stability and growth. The program is looking to put down institutional roots among a rotating coordinator position to have a better year to year transition. Additionally, the program is looking to grow by recruiting new schools. The program has reached out to a coach to take on the role of recruiting from low population areas. The idea is to found a "united" team for a regional area by pulling in a few students from several area schools to form a united regional team. Lastly, the Kansas program will be working toward building a better relationship among teams. First, by providing more information to teams about expectations for competitors about how to be successful. Second, by establishing a stronger relationship with coaches about competition structure.

Minnesota

By **Kim Basting**, Minnesota State Bar Association

It's all about Diversity & Inclusion, while growing the program! We are encouraging participation and collaborative support more than ever. We have a growing, diverse community and want to foster this growth. We are excited to have a specific position on the Mock Trial Committee for a Diversity & Inclusion member appointed by the MSBA. We've been busy coming up with ideas on how we can reach out to the inner-city youth and their prospective schools to educate and get them involved with our program. Minnesota has 128 teams competing; 49% are in rural areas outside of the Twin Cities, 36% are in the Twin Cities metro suburbs, and 15% are in the inner-city schools. We've also focused on recruitment of diverse members to serve as judges, coaches, and on the Mock Trial Committee.

To meet these goals and increase awareness, we offer grants to help offset the costs for schools to participate. We've also launched a program through which schools can apply for courtroom attire donations for members of their team who are in need. We cannot guarantee that every application will be answered with a donation, but we sure hope to satisfy as many as possible. We've been soliciting and collecting suit donations from our MSBA members.

Once we have an opportunity to gauge the need from teams, we may try to solicit businesses to offer significant clothing discounts to our students, however, that is down the road. This program is being organized by Wynne Reece, MSBA Mock Trial Committee member and attorney coach, and Breck School (2010 NHSMTC).

Since Civic Education is being stripped out of schools, we've also added a segment in our training for students. This year our focus is on the upcoming election, specifically the Minnesota Supreme Court. Students will learn the importance of our judicial system and why voting for judges is important. We will have a new topic every year that relates to what is happening in our community.

Nevada

By **Kathleen Dickinson**, State Bar of Nevada

Nevada's 2016-2017 High School Mock Trial season is off to a great start. We have 21 teams competing in Southern Nevada February 11th 2017 at the Regional Just Center in Las Vegas and 10 to 11 teams competing in Northern Nevada February 17th 2017 at the Bruce Thompson Federal Courthouse in Reno. The top eight teams (four from each region) will compete March 3rd and March 4th in Reno at the Bruce Thompson Federal Courthouse. Our new Mock Trial Coaches are finding our workshops that are online, useful along with our 2015-2016 Championship round:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLM-Oe6kFkCe22qyoz9a03TojIxazN7ztI>
and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnH5KRC8FbQ&feature=youtu.be>

We have a couple of Faith Lutheran High School Mock Trial Alumni who are very active in their Universities making sure that UNR and UNLV have Mock Trial Competitions. Alumni Marissa Coleman wrote us "I wanted to let you know that I was the sole founder and organizer of collegiate mock trial at the University of Nevada, Reno this past year. This is our first season and we're already two teams strong and competing all over the west coast. Amusingly, this means both Presidents of undergraduate Mock Trial at UNR and UNLV are Southern Nevada Mock Trial alums (UNLV is run by Isabella Balle, another former Faith Lutheran competitor). They are willing to help out our Nevada High School teams too.

On another note, Nevada is busy preparing to welcome everyone to Reno for the 2018 National High School Mock Trial Competition. You will enjoy the case, the Truckee River, and lots of wonderful activities. Welcome all!

New Jersey

By **Sheila Boro**, New Jersey State Bar Foundation

This year we have a mock trial case that is about a mock trial competition! After years of trying, Metropolitan High School's mock trial team finally defeated longtime rival Greenward Academy in the Metropolitan County finals, only to find their victory dampened by allegations of cheating. Did a student blogger from Greenward defame senior Shea Simmons, a star student-attorney from Metropolitan, causing Simmons to lose a much needed college scholarship? The case, *Shea Simmons v. Delaney Barnes and Cameron Winchell*, was adapted with permission from the Nebraska State Bar Foundation from its 2011-2012 mock trial case, *Phoenix O. Perdante v. Dalton Academy*. The New Jersey State Bar Foundation's 2016-2017 Mock Trial Workbook, which contains the case, rules and procedures, can be downloaded from our website, www.njsbf.org.

The New Jersey State Bar Foundation sponsored an annual workshop for teacher- and attorney-coaches in October where last year's championship teams enacted this year's case. The Foundation also sponsored an October workshop for art teachers for our Courtroom Artist Student Competition.

New Mexico

By **Kristen Leeds**, Center for Civic Values

Things are heating up here in New Mexico. We will have our qualifying competition in February and our State final competition in March. This year we have introduced a courtroom artist competition and are very excited! This year's case and other information can be found at www.civicvalues.org.

North Carolina

By **Susan H. Johnson**, Program Coordinator, Carolina Center for Civic Education

2016 has been a busy year in North Carolina. Our fourth annual summer mock trial camp, held in Chapel Hill at the end of July, brought together more than 60 students and coaches, with campers coming from as far away as Wisconsin and Florida. Legal professionals instructed the participants on every aspect of mock trial, and college "mockers" mentored the student teams as they prepared to argue one side of the camp case in the culminating trial scrimmages.

Even more exciting, this year marks the 25th anniversary of the start of our statewide mock trial program. CCCE President Gordon Widenhouse was instrumental in initiating this remarkable opportunity for our youth, and he and our Board are excited to mark this milestone accordingly. Plans are in the air for a spring soiree, bringing together alumni, volunteers, and supporters to celebrate!

Our 25th anniversary case, *Gabriel Torres v. Arcadia Police Department*, presents our students with ethical quandaries they face in their daily lives: bullying; acceptance of differences (in abilities, interests, religion, and ethnicity, school safety and school discipline, and reasonable versus excessive force. As one team advisor wrote to us a few weeks ago, "The conversations that have (and will) take place during practice, preparation and competition are about far more than simply mock trial. They are about how we want our society to function...I want to convey

my sincere appreciation for the way you have used your platform to promote dialogue on these fundamental issues.”

Lastly, because of the growth in the program during the last few years, we added a ninth regional site for the 2016-17 season. More than 70 teams have already enrolled (deadline is Dec. 9), and we expect our final numbers to exceed 90 teams. Several schools are fielding three teams for the first time ever, and a number of new schools and clubs have joined the program this year. We look forward to seeing the case brought to life on February 4, 2017 and again at state finals in Raleigh on March 10-11.

Ohio



By Caitlyn Smith, Ohio Center for Law-Related Education

The Ohio Center for Law-Related Education (OCLRE) is happy to introduce the 34th annual Mock Trial Case, where this year students will consider a case of defamation of a public official by a news station. In Ohio, Governor Pat Justice is a popular incumbent in a re-election bid for Governor. During the campaign, Trillium High School’s We the People club invited Governor Justice to speak during the lunch hour. Their principal, Principal I.M Veritas, was a rival of Governor Justice in college, and once the two were alone, an argument ensued, and the Governor left the school angrily. As the Governor left, Principal Veritas suffered a fatal brain aneurysm and died. A student reporter heard the argument and reported to a local news affiliate CAT News that the Governor had killed the principal. While it was disproven quickly, the story went viral. Governor Justice lost the election, and has now filed a civil suit against CAT News, alleging defamation. The former Governor will seek to prove that the station published the story with reckless disregard to the truth, and that the story damaged his/her reputation and cost him/her the election.

The first competition will take place in 27 districts across the state on January 20th, and the Regional competition will take place in nine locations across the state on February 10. Our annual state competition will take place on March 9-11 in Columbus, Ohio. The Ohio channel will livestream the final round, in the Ohio Statehouse on March 11th. The Ohio State champion will represent Ohio in the National competition in Hartford, Connecticut. More than 3500 students from close to 200 high schools will try for a chance to represent Ohio at Nationals this year. OCLRE is lucky to benefit from the assistance of over 1000 volunteers across the state. We currently have volunteer coordinators in 27 cities across Ohio who make the competition possible. Additional volunteers help write the Ohio Mock Trial case, serve on our competition committee, and serve as judges for each level of the competition. One such volunteer is Jessica Paine, who has been a District and Regional coordinator for Cuyahoga county (Cleveland-area) for several years, and recently served as a member of our competition committee. Cuyahoga county hosted teams in close to fifty courtrooms, and coordinated over 200 volunteer judges.

For more information regarding Ohio Mck Trial or other OCLRE programs, please visit <http://www.oclre.org> or reach out to me at csmith@oclre.org.

Virginia

By Matthew Rossetti, Virginia Law Related Educational Institute

The Virginia Law Related Education Institute is pleased to announce that our statewide competition is scheduled to be held at the College of William and Mary Law School on the weekend of April 1, 2017. The mission of VLRE is to provide analytically based law related educational opportunities to students in the Commonwealth of Virginia. By partnering with the Center for Law and Courtroom Technology at William and Mary Law School, VLRE is taking its first steps towards expanding and enhancing the Virginia high school mock trial experience.

Please view our website at <http://valawreed.wixsite.com/home> for additional information about Virginia high school mock trial and VLRE. You can also follow us on Twitter at virginialre and on Facebook at valawreed. We look forward to working with everyone as we move forward!



NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

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**For a complete list of assignments, visit our website nationalmocktrial.org*

MISSION

The mission of the National High School Mock Trial Championship, Inc. is to promote an understanding and appreciation of the American judicial system through academic competitions and other endeavors for students.

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