



What is high school mock trial?

History of the Program

- The Texas High School Mock Trial program was started in 1979 by the Dallas Bar Association
- The state is divided into 20 regions and each region is run by a Regional Coordinator -> the winners from each region go to the State Competition in Dallas, TX
- During the 2017 ompetition year we had more than **160 schools, 1,800 students, and over 400 volunteers** involved with the program
- Competitions are always held in real courtrooms and judged by local licensed attorneys

What is mock trial?



- A team of 6-10 high school students are gathered by a team advisor to work on a fictional case released each October by the mock trial committee.
- Each team must learn both sides of the case study (Prosecution/Plaintiff and Defense) and students must play the roles of both attorneys and witnesses in a 'mock' trial.
- Members work together to learn the facts of the case and create strategies for trial and then compete in a regional competition.
- Regional winners compete at state competition for the opportunity to represent Texas at the National High School Mock Trial Competition!

What does competition look like?

Sample Competition Schedule

8:30am - 9:00am	Registration and report for Assignments
9:30am - 11:45am	ROUND ONE
11:45am – 12:45am	Break for Lunch
12:45pm	ALL teams report for courtroom assignments.
1:00pm - 3:15pm	ROUND TWO
3:30pm	Finals Announcements



Why participate in mock trial?

You don't have to want to be an attorney!



- ❖ Improve your ability to analyze facts and present a compelling argument.
- ❖ Improve your public speaking skills and the ability to think on your feet.
- ❖ Improve your overall self-confidence.
- ❖ Access to a creative space where you can take part in a 'dramatic representation' of your case.
- ❖ Earn scholarship awards at the state competition level! *Also available in some regions.*



“A mock trial team is much more than a group of smart people who come together and pretend to try a case. It is truly a family that dedicates everything for the value of legal education and for each other.” - Regina Campbell, Skyline High School – 2016 Texas State Competition Outstanding Attorney

How to get Started

- ❖ A team advisor – a teacher, an attorney, or even student leaders – will need to register his or her team online and pay the registration fee by the deadline, **December 15, 2017**.
- ❖ Notify the school principal and others at the school who may be interested in starting a team of your participation, so that more than one team does not register.
- ❖ Secure assistance from a local attorney or judge to help with courtroom decorum and trial skills – even for one day this is helpful!
- ❖ Once the team is registered for the competition, teams are provided with a copy of the case materials for the year and these contain the rules, procedures, and the case problem itself. **The case for the 2018 competition year will be released online on October 1, 2017.**

Major Dates

- ❖ August: Online Registration Opens
- ❖ October: Case is Available Online
- ❖ December 15: Team Registration Closes
- ❖ January 15 – February 15: Regional Competitions take place
- ❖ March: State Competition in Dallas, TX





For more information visit us online or contact your regional coordinator.

www.texashighschoolmocktrial.com