

2019 IDAHO MOCK TRIAL *CODE OF CIVILITY & ETHICS*

The mission of mock trial is to promote an understanding of and appreciation for the rule of law and the United States judicial system. In our judicial system, trials are a search for truth, which depend on standards of honesty, integrity, and exemplary behavior by all who participate.

These standards should be an integral part of each team's mock trial program and are designed to encourage teams to meet their civic and ethical obligations to themselves and other participants, both of which are hallmarks of the mock trial program. To that end, those participating in the mock trial program (including team members, courtroom artists, coaches, parents, spectators, and/or anyone else associated with a team), agree to the following:

- Our participants will act and speak in a civil and courteous manner during mock trial events, in trials, and in communications and interactions with others, including other participants, mock trial judges, and competition staff and volunteers.
- Our participants will play fair and be gracious in both victory and defeat.
- Our participants will be considerate of time constraints, including arriving on time to competitions and competition rounds, and not deliberately undermining opposing counsel's time limits with excessive interruptions or obstructionist behavior during trials.
- Our participants will be fully honest in all communications and not knowingly misrepresent, mischaracterize, misquote, miscite, or unfairly extrapolate the facts of the case or the rules of the competition.

In addition, everyone attending a mock trial event must comply with all rules and procedures related to the competition. This includes certain housekeeping rules that show our respect toward the spaces that Idaho courthouses so graciously allow us to occupy during competitions. These include:

- Refrain from bringing food or drink into any courtroom.
- Stay in designated competition areas.
- Use trash cans and pick up after yourselves in courtrooms, restrooms, and all common areas.
- Do not rearrange courtrooms or courtroom furniture without the express permission of competition staff; and if given permission, ensure everything is returned to its previous space and position at the end of the trial.

Those who do not follow the rules and procedures of the Idaho Mock Trial Competition and this *Code of Civility & Ethics* can be sanctioned up to and including forfeiture or disqualification without a refund of paid fees.

This document must be shared with and reviewed by everyone associated with a team participating in mock trial events, and a coach from each team must sign the online acknowledgement form on or before the team's regional competition.

