

2014 IDAHO HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL INFORMATION

What is Mock Trial?



The *Idaho High School Mock Trial Competition*, sponsored by the **Idaho Law Foundation**, teaches students in grades 9-12 about the law and the legal system through a simulated trial. The program provides an opportunity for students to learn from practicing attorneys; for teachers to work closely with attorneys to reinforce legal concepts in their classrooms; and for attorneys to share their expertise and legal skills.

How does Mock Trial work?

Mock trial teams consist of 6 to 9 students, a teacher-sponsor, and an attorney-coach. Each participating junior high (9th grade only) or high school can sponsor up to 2 teams. A team will use its members to play different roles when presenting either the plaintiff or defense case, but the same students must participate in **BOTH** plaintiff and defense.



Teams register for the competition beginning in October. Once registered, teams receive case materials starting November 15, which include: a fictitious case that will be used for both regional and state competitions, the *Rules of Competition & Procedures*, and *Simplified Rules of Evidence*.

The main roles of the teacher-sponsor include: 1) Selecting the student team members; 2) Partnering with the attorney-coach to help students learn the facts of the case and create strategies for trial; and 3) Making logistical arrangements for the team to participate in a regional and, if qualified, state competition.

The main role of the attorney coach is to provide an attorney's perspective on the case through: 1) Becoming familiar with and teaching the mock trial materials 2) Helping the team develop trial strategies for both the prosecution and defense.

Each team competes in one of three regional competitions. In regional competitions, each team competes in three trials. 12 winning teams from the regional competitions will move on to the state competition in Boise where all teams participate in four trials over two evenings. Four teams move on to the semi-final rounds and two teams to the championship round.

When does the Mock Trial season occur?



Mark these dates on your calendar:

- ✓ **Tuesday, October 15, 2013:** 2014 Mock Trial Registration Begins
- ✓ **Friday, November 15, 2013:** 2014 Case Materials Published (MUST BE REGISTERED TO RECEIVE MATERIALS)
- ✓ **Sunday, December 15, 2013:** Early Registration Deadline
- ✓ **Friday, January 31, 2014:** Regular Registration Deadline
- ✓ **Friday, January 31, 2014:** Late Drop Deadline (to receive deposit refund)
- ✓ **Saturday, March 8, 2014:** Regional Competitions in Caldwell, Coeur d'Alene, and Blackfoot
- ✓ **Wednesday to Friday, March 19 to 21, 2014:** State Competition in Boise
- ✓ **Thursday to Saturday, May 8 to 10, 2014:** National Competition in Madison, WI

What support does the Idaho Law Foundation offer?



To help support participation in Mock Trial, the **Idaho Law Foundation's Law Related Education Program** offers the following support:

- ✓ Assisting teams to recruit an attorney-coach;
- ✓ Providing training and orientation sessions for teams;
- ✓ Offering meals and snacks at the state competition;
- ✓ Covering lodging and some transportation costs for teams who qualify for the state competition and have to travel from outside of the Treasure Valley (NOTE: The Law Foundation will pay for buses that travel from either Northern Idaho or Eastern Idaho to Boise, but if teams decide not to travel on Foundation provided buses they will need to pay for their own transportation);
- ✓ If possible, contributing a stipend for the team who wins the state competition to help pay for participation in the national competition; and
- ✓ Reducing fees for teams having difficulty paying for registration (upon team request).

What are some newer mock trial competition elements?

- ✓ **Court Room Sketch Artist Contest:** This year the mock trial competition will include a *Courtroom Artist Contest*. Artists will submit sketches that depict actual courtroom scenes. Artists from schools who don't have mock trial teams may register separately for the contest. Schools with mock trial teams may enter one student per team. While a courtroom artist can be part of a team, he or she may not play any other role on the mock trial team. For more information about the *Courtroom Artist Contest* see the *Courtroom Artist Information Sheet*.
- ✓ **Training:** The *Law Related Education Program* will be offering a series of podcasts and/or webinars that cover topics such as developing a case theory, opening and closing statements, witness preparation and questioning, and handling objections.
- ✓ **Mentors:** Experienced coaches can serve as mentors to less experienced coaches.
- ✓ **Scrimmages:** LRE will help pair teams for scrimmages prior to competitions.
- ✓ **Referral Discount:** As an incentive to increase participation, LRE is encouraging teams to help us recruit new schools to participate. Each team may receive 25% off of their registration fee for each new team they recruit, up to a total of 4 teams.

How do I get my school involved?



The teacher-sponsor should fill out the *2014 Registration Form* (available at www.idaholawfoundation.org) and return it with the appropriate payment to:

**Mock Trial Competition
Idaho Law Foundation
P.O. Box 895
Boise, ID 83701**

If you have any questions, contact Carey Shoufler, Law Related Education Director, at (208) 334-4500 or cshoufler@isb.idaho.gov.