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Middle School **MOCK TRIAL** South Carolina Bar



*This is my favorite competition of the year!
Our students gain confidence, poise and
thinking/reasoning skills through this program.
It is well-organized and an awesome experience!
Thank you! —Middle School Mock Trial Teacher*

The South Carolina Bar Law Related Education (LRE) Division is inviting public, private and home schools throughout the state to participate in the 2014 Middle School Mock Trial Competition. Each participating school will enter a team comprised of at least 6-16 students and sponsored by a teacher volunteer. The LRE Division will help locate attorney coaches to assist the team in preparing the case, if needed. The LRE Division posts the fictitious case online, and each team will try both a Prosecution/Plaintiff and Defense argument using the same case.

The goals of this program are to educate students about the American judicial system and the fundamentals of litigation. Another objective is to increase cooperation, respect and support between the community and the legal profession. Through participation in the Mock Trial program students will sharpen their basic skills such as listening, speaking, writing, reading and analyzing. The goal of the Mock Trial program is not to win for the sake of winning, but to learn and practice the meaning of good citizenship in a democracy through participation in our legal system. All students who participate in the Mock Trial Competition are winners. Middle School Mock Trial is correlated to South Carolina's English language art standards for grades six through eight, which are accessible at <http://www.scbar.org/lre>.

FREE TRAINING! There is an in-person Mock Trial training for new teacher and attorney coaches. If unable to attend, check out the entire training broken down into 11 mini-webinars at the link below.

FREE WEB RESOURCES! The link below has an abundance of resources to include correlations, competition information, a discussion forum, dates, the case, a glossary, diagrams, checklists, and more!

FREE ON-LINE VIDEOS! The link below also has videos for coaches and students. Videos include a competition critique video, a video on Rule 803 and Hearsay Exceptions, a Hearsay Exceptions Song, a promotional video to use for recruitment, what scoring judges look for when judging, and an entire Mock Trial round broken into mini-segments.

FREE COACHES MANUAL! The link below also provides access to a Coaches Manual for Teachers and Attorney Coaches. It is a great reference filled with suggestions and tools for coaches of all experience levels. The manual includes lesson plans, handouts, activities, and more.

www.scbar.org/lre/msmt



South Carolina
BAR FOUNDATION
Lawyers Sustaining Justice

The Middle School Mock Trial competition is sponsored by the South Carolina Bar Law Related Education (LRE) Division and is supported by the South Carolina Bar and an IOLTA grant from the South Carolina Bar Foundation. For more information about this program, please contact Cynthia H. Cothran at (803) 252-5139 or ccothran@scbar.org.

HOW TO ENTER



REGISTRATION INFORMATION. Complete and return the attached registration form with a check for a **nonrefundable** \$100 registration fee. Names of actual students competing on the team are not needed until the Code of Ethical Conduct form/School Information Sheet form is due, which is October 3. Limit: one team per school.

ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 5, 2014, TO AVOID A LATE FEE.

Late registrations received between Sept. 6-26 require a \$50 late registration fee.

REGISTRATION FEE: REGIONALS. With the registration, enclose payment for the **non-refundable** \$100 registration fee. Payment can be in the form of check or credit card. Checks should be made payable to the SC Bar LRE Division. If paying by credit card, call with credit card information. If payment is requested through a purchase order, indicate on the registration form that a purchase order was requested and payment is forthcoming. If paid with a purchase order, each school should submit a copy of the purchase order. A registration form may be submitted without payment in order to make the registration deadline without a penalty fee. All registration fees are due no later than September 26 for the team to compete in the 2014 regional competitions.

REGISTRATION FEE—STATE. Once a school has been confirmed that its team will advance to the 2014 State Middle School Mock Trial competition, a separate registration fee of \$150 will be due two days **prior** to the competition date. Payment can be in the form of check or credit card.

COMPETITION FORMAT. Each team at the regional competition will ideally compete in three rounds consisting of trying the Prosecution/Plaintiff and Defense side. The competition has been divided into four regional competitions, with a limited number of teams from each regional competition advancing to the state competition. Upon receipt of all Middle School Mock Trial applications received no later than September 26, 2014, teams will be notified as to which region they have been assigned. Once assigned to a regional competition, the location cannot be switched. Please note the regional competitions are on **two separate dates** depending on region. The state competition will take place **Friday, December 5 and Saturday, December 6, 2014**, in Lexington. Lunch will not be provided at either level of competition. Teams are to bring prepared lunches for their team and guests to the competitions.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CASE MATERIALS. Competition rules and modified rules of evidence will be released August 2014, on the S.C. Bar's website (www.sctbar.org/lre). The case materials will be released online August 29, 2014, by 5 p.m. The electronic case materials will be available as one entire document and broken down by each individual section. **The case will be available in Nook, Kindle, iPad and other e-reader device formats.** Hard copies of the case materials will not be available for purchase. A forum

discussion board is available for all Mock Trial teachers, attorney coaches and students who have Internet access at <http://forum.sctbar.org/msmt>. Teams interested in scrimmaging may post scrimmage requests on the forum. Questions concerning the 2014 Mock Trial competition should be submitted in writing via U.S. mail, fax or e-mail. All questions and answers will be posted to the forum. **NO** questions will be answered by telephone. The forum closes seven business days prior to each competition day.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS. LRE offers many forms of recognition for implementation of S.C. Bar LRE programs. Schools that implement LRE programs are eligible to apply for \$2,500 in non-designated funds; teachers are eligible for \$500 in non-designated funds; individuals such as SROs, administrators, and non-teachers are eligible for LRE Citizen of the Year Awards in the amount of \$500 in non-designated funds; attorneys can be nominated for Lawyer of the Year and recognized in front of their peers; and high school mock trial seniors may apply for \$500 scholarships as non-designated funds to apply toward higher education. Application and nomination forms for all of these awards are available online. The deadline to submit nominations and applications is March 18, 2015. Don't wait until the last minute to start preparing the scholarship packet. Questions about scholarships can be forwarded to Donald Lanier at dlanier@sctbar.org or call (803) 252-5139.

ATTORNEY COACH. It is strongly encouraged that each team have an attorney coach to assist with the mechanics of a trial and to provide a better understanding of the law and its application. Schools may look to an attorney coach from a previous year; among PTA members, alumni or other volunteers; or within the community. Attorney coaches should be notified that they receive pro bono credit for the hours that they volunteer with a school. If an attorney coach cannot be obtained through these outlets, the S.C. Bar can help with the search. However, there is no guarantee that an attorney coach can be secured.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COMPETITION. In the event that it becomes necessary for a team to withdraw from the competition, the team must inform the state coordinator immediately, but **no later than Friday, September 26, 2014**, with submission of a withdrawal form signed by the lead teacher and school principal. The form is included in the case materials. Failure to inform the the state coordinator promptly of the withdrawal of a school from the competition will result in extreme hardship to the other schools assigned to a region and to the other individuals who have volunteered their time to assist with the competition. **Absent extenuating circumstances, failure to appear at a competition without prior notification and/or withdrawing after the drop deadline will subject that team to a one-year suspension from the competition.** Please note that registration fees are non-refundable.

2014 COMPETITION DATES

Regional Competitions

Coastal and Piedmont: November 8
Lowcountry and Midlands: November 15

State Competition

December 5 and 6
Lexington, SC

COMPETITION DATES ARE NOT SUBJECT TO CHANGE!



S.C. BAR

MOCK TRIAL Training Application

**FREE
TRAINING**
& FREE VIDEO WITH TRAINING

SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

9 A.M.-5 P.M. COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

Training is limited to new Mock Trial teachers and attorney coaches. Experienced Mock Trial teachers and attorney coaches will be permitted to attend based on space availability.

Please type or print.

Name: _____ Position/Title: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary E-mail Address (required): _____

Secondary E-mail Address: _____

School Phone Number: (_____) _____ Cell Number (required): (_____) _____

REGISTRANTS' INFORMATION:

NAME	TITLE	YEARS OF MOCK TRIAL EXPERIENCE	E-MAIL	CELL #
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Fax registration form by August 29, 2014, to Marian Kirk at (803) 771-0419.

If you miss this training or would like a refresher, the training will be featured as video clips under the Mock Trial section on the LRE website at www.scbar.org/lre.

- The training segments include:** (In person on 9/11/14 or available as online web resources 24/7.)
- The Basics
 - Objections, Hearsay and Impeachment
 - Judging and Scoring
 - New Teacher Coach Basics
 - Trial Presentation
 - Time Limits and Timekeeping
 - Random Pairing and Powermatching
 - Competition Forms
 - Team Composition and Roles
 - Dispute Settlement
 - Preparing for Competition Day

Training Cancellation Policy: If an individual is confirmed in a training and does not show up or cancel within 48 hours of a training, it is our policy that this person will not be allowed to attend another LRE training for a period of one year.



2014 S.C. BAR MIDDLE SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

Authorization Form

Our school is registering a Mock Trial team with the South Carolina Bar's Middle Mock Trial competition. By signing this authorization form, we (principal and lead teacher coach) agree to abide by the rules of the Mock Trial competition as contained in the competition handbook. Should it become necessary to withdraw from the competition for any reason, I agree that I will inform the state coordinator **no later than September 26, 2014**.

As **principal**, I understand that the lead teacher coach signed off on this Authorization Form is directly responsible for the Mock Trial team. I understand that the lead teacher coach responsibilities and deadlines (indicated below) and understand that as principal, I will routinely follow-up with the lead teacher coach throughout the team's preparation. This will ensure the team is preparing the entire Mock Trial season as teams need much preparation, understanding, and rehearsal time. If at any time the lead teacher coach is replaced, the SC Bar will be notified immediately and an updated Authorization Form will be submitted.

As **lead teacher coach**, I understand that I am directly responsible in meeting all deadlines as to not jeopardize the team's eligibility and carrying out the duties of the lead teacher coach as stated as follows:

Deadlines to Meet:

- Registration Paperwork Due (without late fee).....September 5, 2014
- Registration Paperwork Due (with \$50 late fee).....September 26, 2014
- Registration Fee DueSeptember 26, 2014
- Drop Deadline.....September 26, 2014
- Code of Ethical Conduct Form / School Information Sheet DueOctober 3, 2014
- Respond with Conference Call Date Selection.....October 17, 2014
- Participate on conference calls at selected dates/timesOctober 31 10 a.m. or 3 p.m.
- Respond with Final Team Confirmation.....Immediately

As lead teacher coach, I will fulfill the following responsibilities:

- Promote Mock Trial for purposes of recruiting students;
- Seek an attorney coach;
- Conduct auditions;
- Hold weekly meetings and practices;
- Work with the students to ensure they are prepared for sessions with the attorney coach;
- Complete, collect and submit necessary paperwork prior to deadlines;
- Meet with parents prior to the competition;
- Arrange travel to competition(s);
- Monitor forum discussions for updates to the case, rules, and/or competition;
- Respond to emails from the SC Bar in a timely manner not to exceed 4 days from receipt; and
- Remain in communication with the SC Bar and the authorizing administrator on the status of the team's progress throughout the Mock Trial season.

We understand that as the lead teacher coach and principal, that our failure to inform the state coordinator promptly of the withdrawal of our school from the competition will result in an extreme hardship to the other schools in our region and state as a whole, as well as to the other individuals who have volunteered their time to assist with this effort. We also understand that, absent extenuating circumstances, our team's failure to appear at the regional and/or state competition without prior notice by the drop deadline of September 26, 2014, to the state coordinator will result in a one-year suspension from the competition. We further agree that our team will participate in each round of the competition. We also understand that refusal to advance, once confirmed to the State and/or Battle of the Carolinas competition, may result in sanctions against our school, up to and including a permanent ban from the competition.

School Name: _____

Lead Teacher Coach Name: _____

Lead Teacher Coach E-mail Address: _____ Cell Phone Number: (_____) _____

Lead Teacher Coach's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Principal's Name: _____

Principal's E-mail Address: _____ Direct Phone Number: (_____) _____

Principal's Signature: _____ Date: _____

This form must be accompanied with payment. Payment is non-refundable.

Send completed form, signed administration authorization form and payment to:

**South Carolina Bar LRE Division • P.O. Box 608 • Columbia, SC 29202-0608
(803) 252-5139 • Fax: (803) 771-0419**



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S.C. BAR MIDDLE SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

Registration Form

Please supply the following information to register your school for the 2014 Middle School Mock Trial Competition. **The registration deadline is September 5, 2014**, without a late registration fee (late registration deadline with late fee is Sept. 26, 2014). Please type or print.

School Name: _____

Grade Levels at School: _____

County: _____ School Phone Number: (____) _____

School Address (no P.O. boxes): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Teacher/Sponsor (Main Contact): _____ Planning Period Hours: _____

Direct Phone Number: (____) _____ Ext: _____ E-mail: _____

Cell Phone Number: (____) _____ School Fax Number: (____) _____

Additional Teachers/Sponsors Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Department Chair Information:

English Department Chair Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Social Studies Department Chair Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Art Department Chair Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Name of Local Newspaper: _____

Name of Feeder High School(s): _____

Attorney/Coach (If more than one, please list names on reverse.): _____ Bar # _____

Name of Firm/Practice: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-mail Address: _____

_____ **Check here if school does not have an attorney/coach at this time and would like assistance in locating one.**

_____ **Check here if school is seeking an attorney/coach and will provide contact information shortly.**

_____ **Registration for one team (postmarked by September 5, 2014)** **\$100** _____

_____ **Late registraton fee (\$50) (September 4 – September 26, 2014)** **\$50** _____

_____ **Sample Mock Trial Video at \$10 per copy (filmed 2005) *free if attend training*** **\$10 each** _____

Total Due: _____

Mode of Payment:

ChecksMake checks payable to S.C. Bar LRE Division

Purchase Order Submitted with Check to Follow (Separate P.O. for each school.)

Credit Card, called into Donald Lanier (803) 252-5139

***A copy of the school's purchase order may be submitted with the registration application, with check to follow. The registration fee must be paid in full no later than September 26, 2014.*

****ATTACH AUTHORIZATION FORM****

**The authorization form should be submitted at the same time of
submitting the team registration form.**

Send completed form, signed administration authorization form and payment to:

**South Carolina Bar LRE Division • P.O. Box 608 • Columbia, SC 29202-0608
(803) 252-5139 • Fax: (803) 771-0419**