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Application for IN-PERSON Competition



The South Carolina Bar Law Related Education (LRE) Division is inviting public, private and home schools throughout the state to participate in this year's in-person Mock Trial Competition. Each participating school enters a team comprised of at least 6-16 students for middle school and 7-14 students for high school and sponsored by a teacher coach. 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 the Prosecution/Plaintiff and Defense sides of the case. Teams ideally compete in three rounds at regional competitions. If more than 20 teams compete in the regional competitions, a state competition takes place. The top 12 teams from all of the regionals advance to a state competition.

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 sharpen their basic skills of 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. Mock Trial is correlated to South Carolina's English language arts standards.

FREE TRAINING! There will be new online Mock Trial trainings for new teacher and attorney coaches as well as an in-person training.

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

FREE ONLINE 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 attorney and teacher 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

www.scbar.org/lre/hsmt

REGISTRATION INFORMATION. Complete the online registration and authorization form, and submit \$150 registration fee. Names of actual students competing on the team are not needed at this time. A registration may be completed without payment in order to make the registration deadline to avoid a late fee.

REGISTRATION FEE—IN-PERSON REGIONALS. The \$150 registration fee 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, payment may be made online. If payment is requested through a purchase order, indicate on the registration that a purchase order has been requested and email a copy of the purchase order. All registration fees are due by the stated deadline for the team to compete in the regional competitions.

REGISTRATION FEE—IN-PERSON STATE. A separate registration fee of \$150 will be due two days prior to the competition date for all advancing state teams. All payments can be in the form of check, credit card or purchase order.

COMPETITION FORMAT. Each team in the regional competition, ideally competes in three rounds and at least once on the Prosecution/Plaintiff and Defense sides. The competition is divided into regional competitions, with the top 12 teams advancing to the state competition. If more than 20 teams compete in the regional competitions, a state competition takes place. The state competition takes place over two days. Each team in the state competition ideally competes in three rounds of competition. The top two teams compete in two championship rounds and performs both sides of the case.

MATERIALS. Competition rules and modified rules of evidence are released no later than the first business day in August on the SC Bar's website (www.scbars.org/lre). The case materials are released online the second Friday in August, by 5 p.m. Any updates to the rules or case materials are posted on the online discussion forum.

DISCUSSION FORUM. An online discussion forum is available for Mock Trial teachers, attorney coaches and students at <http://forum.scbars.org/msmt>. Teams interested in virtual or in-person scrimmages may post scrimmage requests on the forum. Questions concerning the competition, rules, and case are submitted on the online forum or by email. All questions and

answers are posted on the forum. **NO** questions are answered by telephone. The forum closes ten business days prior to the regional competition at noon.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS. LRE offers many forms of recognition for implementation of SC Bar LRE programs. Teachers are eligible for the LRE Teacher of the Year Award with \$1,000 in nondesignated funds; individuals such as SROs, administrators and nonteachers are eligible for the LRE Citizen of the Year Awards and an attorney can be nominated for LRE Lawyer of the Year Award and be recognized in front of their peers. High School Mock Trial seniors may apply for \$1000 scholarships as nondesignated funds to apply toward higher education. Applications and nomination forms for all of these awards are available online. The deadline to submit nominations and applications are due the fourth Wednesday in March. Questions about awards and scholarships can be directed to dlanier@scbar.org or (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 or alumni within the community. If an attorney coach cannot be obtained through these outlets, the SC Bar can help with the search. There is no guarantee an attorney coach can be secured. Attorney coaches should obtain and follow the school's policy on adult/children interaction. An attorney is a volunteer for the school and not the SC Bar. Attorney coaches receive pro bono credit for the hours volunteered with a school.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COMPETITION. In the event it becomes necessary for a team to withdraw from the competition, the team must inform the State Coordinator immediately, but no later than the stated deadline to withdraw, with submission of a withdrawal form signed by the lead teacher coach and school principal. Failure to inform the State Coordinator causes extreme hardship to the other schools competing and impacts preparations and judge recruitment: ***Absent extenuating circumstances for in-person competitions, failure to appear at a competition without prior notification and/or withdrawing after the drop deadline subjects that team to a one-year suspension from the competition.***

22/23 COMPETITION DATES

IN-PERSON

Middle School

Regionals - November, 5, 2022
State - December 2 and 3, 2022

High School

Regionals - February, 25, 2023
State - March 10 and 11, 2023

Nationals - Little Rock, Arkansas
May 18 - 20, 2023

HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS ONLY

The SC Bar Law Related Education (LRE) Division has incorporated Courtroom Sketch Artist and Courtroom Journalist elements into the Mock Trial program at the regional level only. Courtroom sketch artists and journalists are subject to all Mock Trial rules, restrictions and eligibility requirements. They compete solely on their own efforts and are **NOT** considered part of their school's competing Mock Trial team.

Courtroom Sketch Artists will create sketches depicting actual courtroom scenes observed at the assigned regional competition. The courtroom sketch artists observe trials in which his/her school is competing at the regional level. Only one sketch may be submitted by each artist on white paper no smaller than 8.5 x 11 inches and no larger than 11 x 17 inches in black and white or pastel with any dry medium used. Sketches are submitted at the end of the competition day at the beginning of the closing assembly. Sketches are judged on the following criteria: accuracy of proportion, realism, authenticity with regard to traditional courtroom sketching, figure/ground relationship and use of contrast. All submissions become the property of the SC Bar and may be used by the LRE Division for any purpose it deems appropriate, including but not limited to reproduction and dissemination.

Courtroom Journalists type articles describing the actual courtroom presentations observed at the assigned regional competition. Typed articles are approved by the lead teacher and e-mailed to the SC Bar no later than 5 p.m. the first Monday following the competition. Articles submitted are solely completed by the student competitor and may not be edited/alterd by any other source. The courtroom journalists observe trials in which his/her school is competing at the regional level. Article entries are typed with one inch margins throughout, double spaced and typed in 12 point Arial font. Laptops are not permitted in the courthouse. Articles are judged on the following criteria: accuracy, clarity, objectivity, fairness, style, grammar and spelling. All submissions become the property of the SC Bar and may be used by the LRE Division for any purpose it deems appropriate, including but not limited to reproduction and dissemination.

REGISTERING WITH A MOCK TRIAL TEAM: Up to two students per category from the same high school may register along with the registered Mock Trial team. (See Rule 3.1 on Team Eligibility.) Teams do not have to register student participants at the time of initially registering a team. Artists and journalists may not double as bailiffs, timekeepers or any other team role. Courtroom artists and journalists along with their sponsors must stay for a minimum of the first round. Registration is due January 12, 2023 on the School Information Sheet.

REGISTERING SEPARATE FROM A MOCK TRIAL TEAM: Up to two students per category may compete from any high school (private or public) and/or home school even if a school does not have a Mock Trial team registered in the Mock Trial competition. If students register without a Mock Trial team, a teacher sponsor is required. Students along with their teacher sponsors are randomly assigned to courtrooms throughout the day. Students and their sponsors must stay for a minimum of the first round. To register on a separate application, contact Cynthia H. Cothran at (803) 252-5139 or ccothran@sbar.org. Registration is due January 12, 2023.

DECLARATION OF STATE CHAMPION: The student in each category with the highest score from all the regions is declared the state champion. The winner of the Courtroom Sketch Artist and Journalist competitions is announced up to two weeks following the regional competition.

NATIONAL ADVANCEMENT: The winning state courtroom artist is eligible to advance to the national competition with an adult chaperone. The SC Bar will pay the registration fee, but all other expenses are the responsibility of the artist. The winning state courtroom artist confirms participation with the state coordinator no later than March 17, 2023.

Online Trainings

Online Trainings will be available 24/7 starting in September. Watch your inbox for more details.

The training segments include:

- 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

FREE In-Person Training

September 1, 2022 in Columbia

[APPLY FOR TRAINING HERE](#)

	MIDDLE SCHOOL	HIGH SCHOOL
Competition Rules Released	Aug. 01, 2022	Aug. 01, 2022
Case Released	Aug. 12, 2022	Aug. 12, 2022
Registration Deadline (no late fee)	Aug. 26, 2022	Sept. 30, 2022
Registration Deadline (w/\$50 late fee)	Sept. 08, 2022	Oct. 14, 2022
Artist/Journalist Registration	Jan. 12, 2023	Jan. 12, 2023
Training For Coaches - IN-PERSON	Sept. 01, 2022	Sept. 01, 2022
Training For Coaches - VIRTUAL	24 Hour Access	24 Hour Access
PAYMENT	Sept. 23, 2022	Dec. 08, 2022
SUBMISSION DEADLINES:		
Code of Ethical Conduct/School Info.	Oct. 06, 2022	Jan. 12, 2023
Talent Release Forms & Recording Option	Oct. 06, 2022	Jan. 12, 2023
Team Picture	Oct. 14, 2022	Jan. 26, 2023
Drop Deadline for Regionals	Oct. 06, 2022	Jan. 12, 2023
Drop Deadline for State	Nov. 11, 2022	Mar. 03, 2023
Regional Assignments/Team Codes	Oct. 11, 2022	Jan. 18, 2023
FORUM DISCUSSIONS:		
Opens for All Teams	Aug. 12, 2022	Aug. 12, 2022
Closes for Middle School Regionals	Oct. 21, Noon	Oct. 21, Noon
Re-Opens	Nov. 07, 2022	Nov. 07, 2022
Re-Closes for Middle School State	Nov. 18, Noon	Nov, 18, Noon
Re-Opens for High School Teams	-----	Dec. 5, 2022
Closes for High School Regionals	-----	Feb. 10, Noon
Re-Opens	-----	Feb. 27, 2023
Re-Closes for High School State	-----	Mar. 03, 2023
ZOOM:		
Deadline to Make Zoom Selections	Sept. 22, 2022	Dec. 08, 2022
New Coaches Mtg. (10 a.m. or 4 p.m.)	Oct. 11, 2022	Jan. 24, 2023
Regional Coaches Mtg. (10 a.m. or 4 p.m.)	Nov. 03, 2022	Feb. 15, 2023
State Coaches Mtg. (4 p.m.)	Nov. 29, 2022	Mar. 07, 2023
COMPETITION DATES (IN-PERSON):		
Regionals	Nov. 5, 2022	Feb. 25, 2023
State	Dec. 2 and 3, 2022	Mar. 10 and 11, 2023
Nationals - Little Rock, Arkansas	-----	May 18 - 20, 2023

Our school is registering in an in-person Mock Trial team with the South Carolina Bar's virtual Mock Trial competition. By signing the online authorization form, we (principal, lead teacher coach and assistant teacher coach) agree to abide by the rules of the Mock Trial competition as contained in the competition materials. Should it become necessary to withdraw from the competition for any reason, we agree that we will inform the State Coordinator ***no later than the stated deadline***.

As **principal**, I understand the lead teacher coach designated on the Authorization Form is directly responsible for the Mock Trial team. I understand the lead teacher coach responsibilities and deadlines and understand 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 or assistant teacher coach is replaced, I will notify the SC Bar immediately and update the coaching information.

As **lead teacher coach or assistant teacher coach(s)**, I understand that I am directly responsible for meeting all deadlines noted on previous page as to not jeopardize the team's eligibility and carrying out the duties of a teacher coach as follows:

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

- Submit registration paperwork and payment;
- Promote Mock Trial for purposes of recruiting students;
- Seek an attorney coach and work with the students to ensure they are prepared to work with the attorney coach;
- Conduct auditions and hold weekly meetings/practices;
- Complete, collect and submit necessary paperwork prior to deadlines;
- Meet with parents prior to the competition;
- Arrange meetings to prepare for virtual competition format;
- Ensure all team members are accounted for;
- Monitor forum discussions for updates to the case, rules, and/or competition;
- Respond to e-mails from the SC Bar in a timely manner not to exceed 4 days from receipt; and
- Remain in communication with SC Bar and school's principal on the team's status throughout the Mock Trial season.

We understand as the principal, lead teacher coach and/or assistant teacher coach, our failure to inform the State Coordinator promptly of the withdrawal of our school from the competition results 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 results in great hardship. We understand that if our team drops out after the deadline due to the virtual format, there will not be a one year suspension from participation. We further agree that our team will participate in each round of the competition. We also understand that once confirmed to the state competition should one take place, refusal to advance to the next level of competition may result in sanctions against our school, up to and including a permanent ban from the competition.

22/23 Mock Trial Registration Link

REGISTRATION LINK

Middle Schools due Aug. 26 (\$150) with no late fee
Middle Schools due Aug. 27 - Sept. 8 with additional \$50 late fee

High Schools due Sept. 29 (\$150) with no late fee
High Schools due Sept. 30 - Oct. 13 with additional \$50 late fee

22/23 Authorization Form Link

AUTHORIZATION FORM LINK

Must be initially completed by lead teacher coach. A link upon completion will be sent to the leader teacher and can be forwarded to additional teachers and principal for signature. Registration is not complete until all signatures are submitted.

22/23 Payment Portal Link

PAYMENT PORTAL LINK

Registration Fee \$150
Late Fee \$50
Timecards \$25

***ALL TEAMS MUST HAVE A PURCHASED SET OF TIMECARDS TO COMPETE THIS YEAR.**

If your school purchased a set of timecards in prior years, a new set is not required for purchase - but must be brought to competition.