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**High School Students Prepare for Court**

Regional SC Bar Mock Trial event set for Feb. 25

[YOUR CITY], S.C. (DATE RELEASED)— [SCHOOL NAME] will compete in the 40th annual SC Bar Regional High School Mock Trial Competitions on Feb. 25 and 26 at the [[LOCATION NAME FOUND HERE](https://www.scbar.org/public/students-educators/middle-school-mock-trial/msmt-locations/)].

Students will present the plaintiff and defense sides of a fictitious civil case before a panel of local volunteer lawyers and judges.

[INSERT QUOTE FROM COACH/STUDENT/VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY HERE ABOUT PREPARTION AND WHY THIS COMPETITION IS IMPORTANT]

Students will fill the roles of attorneys, witnesses, bailiffs and timekeepers in the fictitious criminal case, *State of SC vs. CJ Lannister*, in which Lannister pled not guilty to murder and guilty but mentally ill to arson. Students will present the case before a panel of local volunteer lawyers and judges. Each team will be judged on its presentation skills, rather than the legal merits of the case.

A total of 12 teams from the five regional competitions will advance to the state competition March 11-12.

“Through this program, students not only learn about the court process, but critical thinking, problem analysis and teamwork,” said Cynthia H. Cothran, the SC Bar’s Law Related Education Director. “The best thing to see is students growing up in the program. I have watched middle school students participate in High School Mock Trial, go to college, enroll in law school and then become South Carolina attorneys.”

The Mock Trial Program is sponsored by the SC Bar’s Law Related Education (LRE) Division, which was developed in 1976 to improve the ability of teachers to instruct law related education. The program is supported by the Bar’s LRE Committee and made possible through a SC Bar Foundation Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts grant and the SC Bar.

**About the South Carolina Bar:**The South Carolina Bar is dedicated to improving the legal profession, the law and the administration of justice for all South Carolinians. It serves more than 17,000 lawyer members and provides resources to educators and citizens of the Palmetto State. Learn more at www.scbar.org.

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