



Mock Trial Training

Preparing for Competition Day

SC Bar Law Related Education (LRE) Division
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South Carolina Bar
Law Related Education Division



Funding of this program is through the SC Bar and SC Bar Foundation's IOLTA grants.

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Competition Dates – 2018/19

Middle School Competitions:

Regionals: November 10, 2018
State: Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 2018

MS Regional Locations:

Conway, Georgetown, Greenville, and Lexington

High School Competitions:

Regionals: February 23, 2019
State: March 8 – 9, 2019
Nationals: May 16 - 18, 2019
(Athens, Georgia)

HS Regional Locations:

Columbia, Conway, Georgetown, Greenville, and Lexington

The High School Mock Trial State champion **MUST** compete in the national championship!



Competition Day Regional Competition Day (Sample)

Regional Agenda	
8:00	Team Registrations
8:30	Arrival Deadline
9:00	Round #1 (must be in room 15 minutes prior to the round)
10:30	Break / Lunch Option #1 for Teams (teams on their own for meals, snacks and drinks)
11:45	Pairings Posted
12:00	Round #2 (must be in room 15 minutes prior to the round)
2:00	Break / Lunch Option #2 for Teams (teams on their own for meals, snacks and drinks)
2:45	Pairings Posted
3:00	Round #3 (must be in room 15 minutes prior to the round)
5:45	Closing Assembly
6:30	Departure – Teams on Their Own for Dinner

Competition Day State Competition Day (Sample)

State Agenda	
Friday	
10:45	Team Registrations
11:20	Opening Remarks
12:00	Round #1
1:45	Break
3:00	Pairings Posted
3:15	Round #2
6:00	Departure – Teams on Their Own for Dinner
6:30	Social (Pizza and Drinks) – Optional for an Additional Fee
Saturday	
7:45	Team Check-In
8:30	Round #3
11:45	Awards Assembly
12:30	Dismissal of All Teams Not Advancing to the Championship Round
12:30	Box Lunch for Top Two Teams and Their Guests
1:15	Championship Round #1
3:45	Break
4:00	Championship Round #2
6:45	Closing Assembly and Presentation of Gavel
7:15	Departure – Teams on Their Own for Dinner

Important Dates – 2018/19

	MIDDLE SCHOOL	HIGH SCHOOL
REGISTRATION OPENS	August 1, 2018	August 1, 2018
CASE RELEASED ON-LINE	August 31, 2018	October 31, 2018
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION WINDOW	August 1, 2018 thru March 13, 2019	August 1, 2018 thru March 13, 2019
REGISTRATION DEADLINE -- without late fee	September 11, 2018	October 12, 2018
REGISTRATION DEADLINE -- with late fee of \$50	September 25, 2018	November 15, 2018
FULL PAYMENT NO LATER THAN	September 28, 2018	December 5, 2018
DROP DEADLINE -- without being banned from next year's competition	October 3, 2018	January 10, 2019
REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS	October 9, 2018	January 18, 2019
REGIONAL COMPETITIONS	November 10, 2018	February 23, 2019
STATE COMPETITION	Nov. 30 – Dec. 1, 2018	March 8 -9, 2019
NATIONAL COMPETITION		May 16-18, 2019

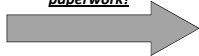
Important Paperwork

Possibly Required by School / School District

SC Bar Requires:

- Registration Form
- Administration Authorization Form
- Payment/ Purchase Order
- School Information Sheet
- Signed Ethical Conduct Form
- Signed Talent Release Forms (allows for photos and videos to be taken and published)
- Team Rosters

Check with your school and/or school district on ALL required paperwork!



School/School District Requires:

- Permission for New Class or After School Activity
- Permission Form for Field Trip / Competition
- Parental Permission Form for Students to Participate in Field Trip / Competition for Regional and State
- Transportation Request
- Payment Request
- Request for Additional Funds to Support Snacks, Mileage, etc.

Code of Ethical Conduct

- All team members including teacher coaches, attorney coaches, and students must sign the Code of Ethical Conduct form prior to the regional competitions.
- When signing the form, the signature confirms agreement and that names have been spelled correctly.
- Competition rules and courthouse rules must be followed at all times.
- Teams can be disqualified for violating ethical conduct agreement.
- Examples of things covered on Code of Ethical Conduct Form include: no cell phones, no knives, no food/beverages in courtrooms, quietness in/outside of rounds, civility, team sportsmanship, etc.

Code of Ethical Conduct Form (sample)

Code of Ethical Conduct Agreement and Student Information Form

Everyone on the March 21st team is required to read this agreement and sign up to their listed names on this sheet. The school/district is responsible for providing a copy of this agreement to all participants in the competition. The school/district is responsible for providing a copy of this agreement to all participants in the competition. The school/district is responsible for providing a copy of this agreement to all participants in the competition.

School Name: _____

Lead Teacher Name: _____

Lead Teacher's Phone: _____ **Cell:** _____

		HS ONLY - Courtroom Artists & Journalists Competitors	
Students	Competitors	HS ONLY - Courtroom Artists & Journalists Competitors	
		Artist 1	Journalist 1
	1		
	2		
	3		
	4		
	5		
	6		
	7		
	8		
	9		
	10		

Dress Attire for Students

- Attorneys – professionally, as if appearing in court
- Witnesses - as if appearing in court, not as character being portrayed (*ex. Doctor in suit not in scrubs*)
- Journalists - professionally, as if appearing in court
- Artists - professionally, as if appearing in court
- All Roles - intended to be gender neutral to allow anyone to be assigned to any role
- Costuming – not allowed



Trial Communication

- Coaches, teachers, alternates and observers have no communication with teams during the trial and stay behind the bar.
 - (*includes emergency recess and/or scheduled recess*)
- Team members in front of the bar may only communicate among themselves, which includes notes among themselves.
- Attorney coaches and teachers are discouraged from having contact with scoring and presiding judges on the day of the competition to prevent the appearance of impropriety.
- Timekeepers may not communicate unless approved by the presiding judge.
- Courtroom artists and journalists may not communicate during the trial.



Non - Communication

- Tone
- Pitch
- Eye Contact
- Facial Expressions
- Body Language
- Walking Pace
- Positioning
- Movement



Viewing a Trial

- No one can watch any team except for their own; otherwise, the team will be disqualified.
 - *Except artists and journalists that are randomly assigned by the SC Bar.*
- No person shall display or speak anything of their origin.
- Everyone sitting behind the bar is required to be in a seated position.



Viewing a Trial

- All official team members, coaches, and visitors will be required to wear lettered nametags.
- Middle School Badge Limit: 16 badges
- High School Badge Limit: 14 badges
 - ± up to 4 badges (2 artists / 2 journalists)
 - 18 badges
- There are only **24 visitor badges** allotted per team. Team members exceeding the allotted amount of team badges are to wear visitor badges.



Team Codes/Identity

- No school names, logos, or colors on any items should be brought into the courthouse.
- School identity should be kept confidential from the scoring judges



Video Cameras and Pictures

- Video cameras and pictures permitted with full consent.
- A team may refuse video and/or pictures with no reason required or stated.
 - *For example, "Our team requests no video be taken during this round, but our team is fine with photos."*
- No flash pictures.
- Pictures taken from seated position with no movement around the courtroom.
- Depending on the courthouse used, teams may be notified in advance of no video or pictures allowed.



Parents' Meetings

- Discuss rules and share the "What to Expect at the Competition" information;
- Nominate one person to operate a video camera;
- Discuss communication rules applying to visitors (including not addressing the court for any reason);
- Discuss travel plans; and
- Plan for snack and prepared lunch.
 - (No grilling, cooking, or heating devices permitted on courthouse grounds.)
- Discuss Code of Ethical Conduct Agreement with parents and planned visitors.



Withdrawing from Competition

- A Team Drop Form must be submitted in order to withdraw a team from competition.
- A Team Drop Form is signed by the lead teacher coach and the school principal.
- If a team withdraws from the competition after the drop deadline, the team automatically forfeits eligibility to compete the following competition year.
- Registration fees are non-refundable.



Questions?

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