

Mock Trial Matters



NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP



Calendar

- April 1—National case release date
- April 1—2010 Bid proposal deadline
- April 12—Deadline to register a team
- April 16—Hotel Reservation deadline
- April 30—Pre-Order Event Tickets by this deadline
- May 2—Case question deadline
- May 4—Final Q&A posting
- May 9—Practice rooms available at hotel
- May 10—Practice Rms available; State Coordinator's Rd Table; State Coordinator's Mtg; Timekeeper Orientation; General Orientation; Opening Team Reception "Mexican Fiesta!"
- May 11—Rounds 1 & 2; Judicial Reception; Rodeo/BBQ
- May 12—Rounds 3 & 4; National Championship Rd; Awards Banquet & Dance
- May 13—Ballots available to State Coordinators for pick-up; Happy Mother's Day!

36 Days and Counting...

The case has been posted for four full days now and teams around the nation are digging in to the newest national mock trial problem. Everyone is excited, but none more so than the 2007 Dallas Host Committee, led by Judy Yarbro. "There are many surprises and fun things planned for the weekend, but none will be as exciting as watching the best of the best compete in the courtrooms in Dallas! We hope that this will be a fun, and challenging, weekend for all of the teams," said Judy recently.

The hotel room block is filling up fast, so if you have not blocked rooms for your state champion team, or if your team hasn't already booked their rooms at the hotel, those reservations should be made by **Monday, April 16th**. Reservations may be made online, directly through the hotel by going to <http://dallasregency.hyatt.com/groupbooking/dfwrnhsc2007> or by calling the Hyatt Regency at 214/631-1234.

The Dallas Host Committee is eager to welcome teams to the 24th Annual National High School Mock Trial Championship. The opening ceremonies and pin-exchange will be a Texas tradition: a Mexican Fiesta! It is planned for Thursday evening at the elegant and historical Union Station. Don't forget to bring state pins or other trinkets to trade with other students. Who'll have the most pins at the end of the night?

On Friday and Saturday, the preliminary rounds will be held at the newly renovated George Allen Courts Building. The courthouse is conveniently located approximately 4 blocks from the Hyatt Regency. Teams will take the underground tunnel to Union Station and then cross the street to the courthouse. Bring umbrellas, because it might be raining and you'll be walking outdoors from Union Station about

two and a half blocks to the entrance of the courthouse. The championship round will be held at the historic "Old Red" Courthouse across the street from the George Allen Courts building. "Old Red" was built in 1892-93 in the Romanesque Revival style and is the fifth courthouse to sit on this particular site in downtown Dallas. It's on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Texas Historic Landmark. It has recently undergone renovation, as well, and will be the perfect venue in which to crown our newest national champion team!

On Friday evening, teams will get a true taste of Texas—barbeque and rodeo! The Mesquite Rodeo is celebrating its 50th anniversary this season and we'll get to experience exciting events like bull riding, saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling and barrel racing. On Saturday evening, "Mock Trial—Texas Style... It's a BLAST!" will conclude with a formal, sit-down awards banquet. Outstanding Advocates and Witnesses will be recognized and the top ten teams in the nation will be honored. Afterwards, plan to stick around to be entertained and dance the night away with the "Cat-Daddies" in the Landmark Ballroom. This very cool band is largely composed of lawyers who really know how to jam.

And don't forget Dallas' own "Big Lou", before the banquet, will take team photos on Saturday evening. Teams will be assigned times, so please plan to arrive approximately 5 minutes before the scheduled time.

It's only 36 days and counting—and it WILL BE A BLAST!!! See you in Dallas!

Where to Find it in Dallas



The **BLUE** star indicates the location of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The **RED** star indicates the location of the George Allen Courts Building.

The “Old Red” Courthouse is located across Commerce Street from George Allen.

This list does not constitute a recommendation for any of the businesses listed below. **Caveat emptor**. Call ahead in order to find out hours of operation, seating capacity, directions, menu choices, reservation or appointment requirements and other pertinent information. These businesses are **NOT** necessarily within walking distance of the hotel; some are only blocks from the hotel and many are accessible by DART and the free trolley service. An additional detailed list of restaurants, sorted by neighborhood and easily accessible by DART or trolley, will be included with a team’s registration materials upon check-in at the tournament.

Be sure to check out the “**Dallas Hotspots**” section of the tournament website for suggestions on site seeing and shopping.

Transportation

Visit the Dallas Convention and Visitor’s Bureau website for details on various transportation options in Dallas:

http://www.dallascvb.com/visitors/visitor_resources/transportation

- DART (Dallas Area Rapid Transit) Light Rail
- Free Trolley Service (McKinney Avenue Trolley/M-Line)

Restaurants At Hotel

- Antares Restaurant atop Reunion Tower
- Parrino’s Oven
- Centennial Café
- Coffee’s Post

<http://www.dallasbar.org/nationalmocktrial/>

Restaurants Near Hotel (and/or accessible by DART or trolley service)

- Alonti Cafe & Catering - 901 Main Street # C104, Dallas (214) 761-3120
- Blimpie - 1201 Main Street # 215, Dallas (214) 698-0011
- Cafe on Six - 1100 Commerce Street # 645, Dallas (214) 747-2666
- Campisi's Restaurant—1520 Elm Street (Stone Street Gardens) (214) 752-0141
- Chipotle Mexican Grill - 208 N. Market Street, Dallas (214) 939-5272
- Ciao Bella—1502 Elm Street (214) 742-3552
- Corner Bakery Cafe - 301 N. Market Street # 100, Dallas (214) 651-8650
- Daily News Cafe & Grill - 306 S. Houston St, Dallas (214) 749-1068
- Dakota's -600 N. Akard Street (214) 740-4001
- Enchilada's Restaurant & Catering Co - 901 Main Street, Dallas (214) 748-8585
- Founders Grill - 302 S. Houston Street, Dallas (214) 749-5100
- Grandy's - 901 Main Street # C106a, Dallas (214) 655-2677
- Iron Cactus—1520 Main Street (214) 749-476
- John Boys - 525 S. Griffin Street # 100, Dallas (214) 748-7777
- Landry's Seafood House - 306 N. Market Street, Dallas (214) 698-1010
- Lombardi's Restaurant - 311 N. Market Street # 103, Dallas (214) 747-0322
- Luqa (Dallas Rooftop Gardens) - 1217 Main Street (214) 760-9000
- Mainstreet Market - 901 Main Street, Dallas (214) 747-1233
- Mc Donald's - 1000 Commerce Street, Dallas (469) 227-8533
- Mei Blossom - 901 Main Street, Dallas (214) 761-6406
- Melters - 901 Main Street, Dallas (214) 747-1233
- Morton's the Steakhouse - 501 Elm Street # B100, Dallas (214) 741-2277
- Porta di Roma- 1623 Main Street (214) 752-0855
- Press Box Grill - 1623 Main Street (214) 747-8226
- Record Grill - 605 Elm Street, Dallas (214) 742-1353
- Sol Irlandes—1525 Main Street (214) 744-9400
- Stephan Pyles -1807 Ross Ave (214) 999-1229
- Subway Sandwiches - 306 S. Record Street, Dallas (214) 742-7827
- Taco Express - 907 Elm Street, Dallas (214) 749-1222
- Ten Sports Grill - 1302 Main Street (214) 748-1010
- Tuk Tuk - 1520 Elm Street (Stone Street Gardens) (214) 749-1538
- Urban Market & Café—1500 Jackson (214) 741-3663
- Woodways Cafe - 711 Elm Street # 102, Dallas (214) 741-3420
- Zodiac (Neiman Marcus) - 1618 Main Street (214) 741-6911



Copy Center

- Fed Ex Kinko's Office & Print - 1999 Bryan Street, Dallas (214) 969-6883

Drug Stores

- CVS Pharmacy - 901 Main Street # P150, Dallas (214) 742-1044
- Eckerd Drugs - 901 Main Street, Dallas (214) 742-1044

Grocery Stores

- Albertsons - 3524 McKinney Avenue, Dallas (214) 528-0356
- Manor House Market - 1222 Commerce Street Dallas (214) 741-2349
- Tom Thumb Food & Pharmacy - 6333 E. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas (214) 823-9916
- Whole Foods Market - 2218 Greenville Avenue Dallas (214) 824-1744

Minor Emergency Clinics

Should a serious emergency arise, call 911.

- Baylor University Hospital—3500 Gaston Avenue, Dallas 75246 (214) 820-0111 (main operator); (214) 820-2505 (ER)
- Primacare Medical - 6359 E. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas (214) 828-0448
- U. S. Healthcare Minor Emergency Care - 1450 Empire Central, Suite 100, Dallas (214) 905-5000



2007 Board Candidates

There are two board slots up for election in May. The first announced candidate for one of those slots is the **Hon. George Carley** of the Supreme Court of Georgia. Justice Carley is running for re-election to the board and has attended every national tournament as a judge, except one, since 1990. The other announced candidate is the **Hon. Richard Sievers** of the Nebraska Court of Appeals. Judge Sievers became involved with our national program during the 2001 tournament in Omaha and has since volunteered to judge at every national competition.

Both Justice Carley and Judge Sievers will submit a short written statement that will be emailed to all coordinators in advance of the coordinator's meeting in May. The March 15th deadline for submitting a nomination for board candidacy has passed, but according to our by-laws, a nominating petition may also be received by the board chair by the end of the May board meeting (Thursday morning), accompanied by the signatures of three current state coordinators. Nominations may also be made from the floor during the coordinator's meeting Thursday afternoon. Each candidate will be allowed time to make a short oral presentation before the voting takes place.

Rules Changes Posted

The updated version of the Rules of the National High School Mock Trial Championship and the National High School Mock Trial Championship Rules of Evidence was recently posted to our website at www.nationalmocktrial.org. Teams may download a copy by clicking on the "Rules of the Competition" link on the left hand side of the main page. Notes are imbedded within the rules regarding all updates made during the October 2006 meeting of the Board of Directors. A full updated set of the rules will also be included with the case materials on the Dallas website. Additionally, a separate document outlining the rules that have been modified for the 2007 tournament can be found alongside the case materials on the Dallas website.

Case or Rules Questions?

Teams should filter their questions about the '07 case and rules through the State Coordinator and the state coordinator should submit those to Judy Yarbrow at jyarbrow@dallasbar.org. Questions and answers will be posted each Friday afternoon under the Case section of the Dallas tournament website (see site for details). The deadline to submit case/rules questions is **4 pm CDT on Wednesday May 2nd**. The final posting of the Q&A will be **Friday, May 4th**.

Delaware Tournament Update (2008)

Delaware is preparing an entertaining visit for the 2008 National High School Mock Trial Championship participants on May 8 - 11, 2008 in Wilmington. We will start with dinner, dancing, games and a pin exchange at the host hotel, The Doubletree. On Friday evening, the students will board the Delaware River and Bay Authority's Twin Capes for a fun-filled evening on the Delaware River while the judges and special guests will enjoy a reception at the world-renowned Winterthur Museum. Winterthur is the home to one of the country's foremost collections of American antiques. We will conclude with a gala banquet and closing ceremonies at the Chase Center on the Riverfront followed by a dance back at the Doubletree. The Steering Committee is excited about hosting this prestigious event and looks forward to welcoming everyone to the Delaware, "the First State".

Georgia Tournament Update (2009)

The Georgia High School Mock Trial Committee is looking forward to hosting the National Tournament in Atlanta in May 2009! We have an exciting tournament planned, from the team pin-exchange reception at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta on Thursday, to a visit to the new Georgia Aquarium on Friday evening, to a lovely judging panel reception at the State Bar of Georgia's headquarters, to a wonderful Awards Banquet at the host hotel. All tournament rounds will be held at the Fulton County Courthouse. Come and enjoy our southern hospitality and a great educational experience—you're in for one "peach" of a tournament!

A Word From Our Chair



**John Wheeler has served as
Chair of the National Board of
Directors since 2005.
He is the Director of the Iowa
Center for Law and Civic
Education in Des Moines**

Ah Spring! When young men and women's fancies turn to ... Mock Trial!

We just completed our 25th High School State Tournament in Des Moines a few weeks ago. It's the start of a multi-year celebration including the high school and middle school programs in Iowa, the national college competition (AMTA), and the National High School Mock Trial Championship (25th Anniversary in Atlanta in 2009!). I can think of no better way to illustrate to the general public the motivation, drive, determination, and enormous skill level of high school students than this annual celebration of the mind. I can't tell you how excited I am to see these talented young people in action next month!

As I wrote in the last newsletter, we have been working on two curriculum projects – a textbook and an interactive web-based practicum. Both should be in the “show and tell” stages for the Dallas competition. We look forward to getting your input on how each might be used successfully in your state. The Mock Trial Coordinator's “Talk About” session on Thursday, May 10 should give us a chance to start the discussion.

An additional topic for our discussion will be hosting the competition. We're excited about the competitions planned for 2008 in Wilmington, Delaware and 2009 in Atlanta, Georgia. We're looking for a few good communities to step forward to bid to host in 2010 and beyond. Former host directors will be available to address any questions you might have and to offer ideas on budgets, coordinating committees and all of the other details that go into making a successful tournament.

Please come with your questions, comments and input. I look forward to seeing you in Dallas in just a little over a month!

Happy Trials!

Case Library

If you have not submitted the mock trial case used during your state competition this season, please send the case in an electronic format (PDF preferred) to **Pete Jones** at pjones@morrisjames.com before the national tournament in Dallas. So far, cases have been received from Alabama, Arizona, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah and Washington.

If you adapted your 2007 case from another state, be sure to acknowledge your own team of adaptors, the original writers of the case and, if applicable, the writers of the version from which you adapted your competition materials. We want to make sure that all credit is given where that credit is due. Help us acknowledge the time and effort these dedicated case writers spend creating outstanding case materials for students nationwide.



<http://www.dallasbar.org/nationalmocktrial/>

News and Notes from Around the Nation



Colorado: On March 3–4, 2007, the Colorado Bar Association High School held the Mock Trial Tournament state finals. Students tried a civil case involving an accident where a pickup truck and train collided at a crossing in rural Adams County, killing the 17-year-old driver of the truck. Teams came from as far as Durango, Fort Collins and Colorado Springs, and worked to prepare for this tournament since September. **Aurora Central** will be the first team to ever compete at the State Tournament from Aurora Public Schools. Colorado Supreme Court **Justice Alex Martinez** presided over the championship round. Adams/Broomfield County **Chief Judge Harlan Bockman**, Adams/Broomfield County **Judge Michael Cox**, Industrial Claim Appeals **Judge David Cain**, **Sharon Holbrook**, President of the Adams Bar, and President of the Denver Bar Association, **Paul Chan** and **Awilda Marquez**, the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association President scored the championship round. **Evergreen High School** won the state title and will represent Colorado at the national tournament.

Georgia: The Georgia program wrapped up its 19th annual mock trial competition on March 11th. **Jonesboro High School** won the state title for the 2nd year in row and has now become the winning-est team in the history of the Georgia program, with five state championships. **JoAnn Yao** (Baldwin High School) was named the Overall Winner in our Journalism Contest this season and **Yeojin Jung** (Kennesaw Mtn. High School) was named State Champion Court Artist. Both students will travel with the Jonesboro team to the national tournament. Our website was renovated in February and we're very excited about the new look and new organization—it is much more user friendly and so far, reviews have been great! We're in the planning stages for our 20th Anniversary season in 2008 and will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of our Law Academy this fall, as well.

Indiana: **John Adams High School** of South Bend will represent Indiana at the National competition in Dallas. John Adams High School has won Indiana's State competition every year since 1998 (except in 2000).

Kentucky: Kentucky's State Champion is **Montgomery County High School**. This was Montgomery County's fourth year in a row winning the State Finals and competing at Nationals.

Mississippi: The Mississippi High School Statewide Mock Trial Competition was held March 2nd and 3rd in the capitol city of Jackson with the 20 teams comprised of the winners of our four regional competitions. The Statewide champion is the team from **Long Beach High School**, Long Beach, Mississippi. This team is from our coastal district and they are still living through the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina eighteen months after the storm. They have focused and worked very hard to achieve this goal and we are so proud that they will be representing our state at the national competition.

New Mexico: The Center for Civic Values' New Mexico High School mock trial program has awarded its second annual **Gene E. Franchini** mock trial scholarships to **Caroline Chapdelaine** of **Cibola High School** and **Cristina Strunk** of **Sandia High School**. Each recipient was selected based upon the application she submitted, which included a personal statement about the impact of mock trial in her life and two letters of recommendation. This year's scholarships were \$750 each and were presented to the students in a surprise announcement at the 2007 mock trial awards banquet and dance on March 17 at the Hyatt Regency in Albuquerque.

Pennsylvania: This year, 286 teams from 251 high schools competed in the district and regional levels of Pennsylvania's mock trial competition - one of the largest in the nation. Following the local competitions, 12 high school teams advanced to the state mock trial championships. All 12 teams competed in two quarterfinal rounds on Friday, March 30. The winning teams of the quarterfinals included **State College Area High School** (Centre County) and **Woodland Hills High School** (Allegheny County). **Greensburg-Salem High School** of Westmoreland County topped **Scranton Preparatory School** of Lackawanna County on March 31st to win the Pennsylvania Mock Trial Championship for the third consecutive year.

Texas: The Texas High School Mock Trial Competition instituted a new award during the 2007 season. The **Most Professional Team Award** was given for the first time during the state tournament in March and went to **Hooks High School** (Hooks, TX). The award was very well received by all participants at the tournament and the Texas program will continue making this award presentation in future seasons.

To submit news and notes about your state's mock trial program for the next newsletter, contact Stacy Rieke.

National High School Mock Trial Championship, Inc.

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We're on the Web!

www.nationalmocktrial.org

Mock Trial Matters Newsletter

To submit items contact

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For a complete list of Committee assignments, visit our website. To volunteer for Committee service, contact John Wheeler.



The National High School Mock Trial Championship is committed to the study, understanding and appreciation of the American justice system. The mock trial format presents a hypothetical legal case to teams of students who play the roles of witnesses and attorneys. Students participating in mock trials gain an understanding of our society's approach to dispute resolution and justice in general with a hands-on experiential approach. Critical thinking, formulation of ideas and opinions, oral presentation, effective advocacy and even value definition are all required skills to successfully argue a case.

Judging Panel Volunteers Needed for the 2007 National Tournament in Dallas!

Contact Judy Yarbro, Dallas Host Director,

jyarbro@dallasbar.org or (214) 220-7409

for more information or to request a volunteer form

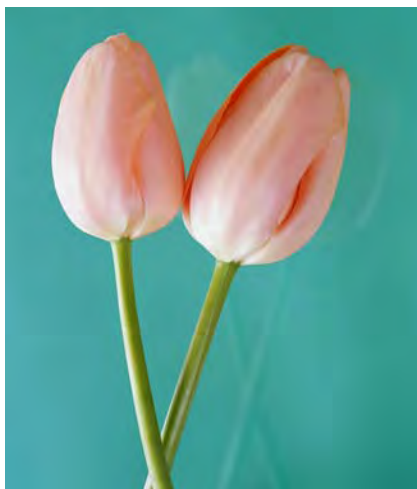
OUT-OF-TOWN VOLUNTEERS

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR VOLUNTEER FORM BEFORE MAY 4th

Thank you!

May It Please the Court DVD and Print Guide

The *May It Please the Court* DVD and print guide is available for purchase from the Georgia mock trial office for \$25. An order form may be printed from the national website. This popular resource includes many helpful hints on establishing, organizing and running a mock trial team, as well as practical aides for putting together a cohesive mock trial presentation or incorporating mock trials into a classroom setting.



Have a wonderful and safe Spring Semester!