

The New Jersey State Bar Foundation’s High School Mock Trial Competition

offers a wonderful way to expand the horizons of achievers and unlock the potential of your students. The competition is not intended to train students to become lawyers, but to help them learn to read, write, speak and think better (skills which are absolutely essential to their future), and to learn about how disputes are resolved through our system of justice.

The mock trial cases utilized each year tackle relevant and vital issues. Past cases have dealt with sex discrimination; sexual harassment in the workplace; educational malpractice; a hate crime; drug smuggling; adoption; fraternity hazing; a student who is barred from playing baseball because of an artificial eye implant; death by vehicular homicide; road rage; a student injured in a fire in an illegal casino; an honor student charged with felony murder, conspiracy to commit burglary and conspiracy to commit computer theft; bullying; a murder charge in connection with a reality TV show; food safety; performance-

enhancing drugs; illegal downloading of music files; kidnapping; distracted driving/walking; bias crime; product liability; reckless driving; negligence; self-defense; defamation; the opioid epidemic; a roller coaster accident; and the killing of a police dog in the line of duty.

Many local newspapers cover mock trial contests throughout the state. The articles that they publish help to enhance the academic reputations of participating schools and communities.

The Mock Trial Competition provides a concrete, interactive learning experience which cannot be obtained solely through textbooks or a one-shot classroom exercise. Throughout the years mock trial has helped both vocational and college-bound students to gain confidence and expand their academic skills, and has also helped to provide the extracurricular edge a student needs to get into the college of his or her choice.

Visit the New Jersey State Bar Foundation online at njsbf.org.

Here’s what some teachers who have participated in mock trial have to say:

“Mock trial is one of the best real-world academic experiences students can have. There are so many different skills the students need to demonstrate, from thinking on their feet, to listening skills, to public speaking and courtroom procedures. At the very least, many of the students will get called for jury duty at some point in their lives, and will have a better understanding of the court process.”

HEATHER DEL BAGNO
Former Teacher-coach
Hopatcong High School
Sussex County

“Walking into the New Jersey Law Center with my public high school students, and competing in the Mock Trial Competition, was one of the most satisfying experiences in my career as a teacher. The NJSBF cannot be thanked enough for creating and facilitating this incredible program that enriches the education and future of so many of New Jersey’s students.”

LOUIS RUSSO
Former Teacher-coach
Vineland High School South
Vineland

★ ★ ★
2020–2021

The Vincent J. Apruzzese High School Mock Trial Competition



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Your school is invited to enter the New Jersey State Bar Foundation’s High School Mock Trial Competition



For more information, contact
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njsbf.org

Imagine...

...an academic activity so exciting and compelling that students willingly spend after-school hours and weekends to work on it.



IMAGINE AN ACADEMIC ACTIVITY SO CHALLENGING AND DIVERSE THAT IT BRINGS OUT THE BEST IN A WIDE VARIETY OF STUDENTS.

Imagine an academic activity that helps students to read, write, speak and analyze while learning about a cornerstone of democracy—the justice system.

Best of all, this activity is available to public and private high schools in New Jersey free of charge. Since 1982, the Vincent J. Apruzzese High School Mock Trial Competition has taught more than

113,000 students the fundamentals of our court system while developing critical thinking and public speaking skills. Through playing the roles of witnesses and lawyers in mock trials, students have learned firsthand about the American system of justice by trying their cases before judges and attorneys. Each team consists of 10 contestants plus alternates.

The Vincent J. Apruzzese High School Mock Trial Competition is made possible by funding from the IOLTA Fund of the Bar of New Jersey, and is sponsored in cooperation with the New Jersey State Bar Association and New Jersey's county bar associations.

THE NEW JERSEY STATE BAR FOUNDATION sponsors this competition annually in cooperation with New Jersey's 21 County Bar Associations and the New Jersey State Bar Association. As a public education service, the Foundation provides a workbook with complete competition information for contestants as well as a mock trial instructional video. Teams are



matched with attorneys who volunteer to work with teachers and students in preparation of their cases. The deadline to enter is October 23, 2020. Competitions take place on the local level in January and/or early February 2021.

Students compete initially at the county level. County champions continue at the regional level, and regional winners vie for the semi-finals and ultimately the statewide championship finals. If in-person trials are not possible this year, we will transition online to a Zoom platform.

Teacher Training

The Foundation will provide a free webinar for teacher- and attorney-coaches to help prepare for competition. The webinar will be held via Zoom in the fall. Teachers attending will receive professional development hours.

Courtroom Artist Contest

The Foundation sponsors a courtroom art contest for high school students in connection with our Vincent J. Apruzzese Mock Trial Competition. Art students whose schools enter the Mock Trial Competition are eligible to participate. A free instructional webinar, presented by professional courtroom artists, will be offered to high school art teachers and art club moderators in the fall.

For more information

For more information about the competition, please visit our website, njsbf.org. Download the 2020–2021 High School Mock Trial Workbook from the Vincent J. Apruzzese Mock Trial Competition page in October, and register online for our free coaches' webinar and art moderators' webinar.