



UTAH LAW RELATED EDUCATION
645 South 200 East, SLC, UT 84111, 801.322.1802

October 15, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Prospective Mock Trial Participants and Social Studies Specialists
(PLEASE CIRCULATE WIDELY.)

FROM: Janet Hilliard and Kathy Dryer
Mock Trial Coordinators

SUBJECT: 2014 Mock Trial Program

It is time to begin planning for the 2014 Mock Trial Program. Utah Law Related Education, the Utah State Bar, and the Utah Bar Foundation are the sponsors of the 34th annual Utah Mock Trial Competition. We would like to expand participation in this engaging, interactive experience and encourage you to enlist teachers in your school and district to participate. We hope that involving additional districts will limit the burden of travel.

General Information

For those of you unfamiliar with the program, these are some of the main points. In the past, more than 1,000 students on over 90 teams have entered the competition yearly. There are separate divisions for junior high/middle school (7th, 8th, and 9th grade) and high school (10th, 11th, and 12th grade) students. This activity involves teams from throughout the State of Utah with up to 11 students per team. Each team competes at least twice. One of these trials may be in the team's home area, and one will probably involve travel.

Playoffs will be held weekdays from February 18 through March 11 and Saturday, March 1. Evening trials may be held on weekdays at the Scott M. Matheson Courthouse in Salt Lake City. Quarter-finals (twelve teams per division) will be March 14 - 18, with semi-final rounds (four teams per division) on Friday, March 21. The high school championship round will be Tuesday, March 25, with the junior high school final round on Thursday, March 27.

The competition is limited to **two teams per division per school** (up to 11 students per team). Each team, assisted by an attorney-coach (usually very helpful, but not mandatory), participates in two rounds, once as plaintiff/prosecution and once as defense. Teams meet to enact the trial before a panel of two or three attorney and/or community judges. Judging is on the basis of overall team performance. Advancement for teams is based on performance points and on the number of winning judge ballots. Awards for the winning teams will be presented at the Law Day Luncheon in Salt Lake City.

Registration and Conflict Dates

Attached is a registration form. The **deadline for registering for the competition is December 6, 2013. Please submit one form for each team you wish to register.** Additional registration forms may be downloaded from our web site at www.lawrelatededucation.org or may be filled out online with payments being made to PayPal. Along with the registration form, please send the non-refundable **registration fee of \$75 per team.** Registrations postmarked after December 6 must be accompanied by a check for \$95.00 (\$20 late fee). No registrations will be accepted after December 13, 2013. **Checks** should be made **payable to Law-Related Education Project, Inc.**

Before sending forms and fees, please be sure you and your students are 100% committed. Any school that drops out will be denied the opportunity to participate the following year. Please fill out your form completely, including **your principal's signature** and information about your team's ability to travel and participate **during school hours.**

You must identify each **date you cannot play.** Please identify "**special scheduling considerations**", such as "both teams must compete on the same day at about the same time and in the same vicinity because the school requires both teams to travel together." If you do not identify conflict dates or other essential scheduling considerations (such as testing, prom, or debate tournament) and are scheduled to play when you cannot, your team will forfeit the match. Scheduling is complex, and changes affect more than just one team. To the extent possible, teams will be scheduled to play opponents of comparable ability. Keep a copy of your registration form for your information.

The final schedule and Mock Trial Handbooks will be available at the **January 22 teacher meeting at 4:00 p.m. at the Law and Justice Center, 645 South 200 East, Salt Lake City.** Teachers and attorney coaches are invited to attend a **Mock Trial Teacher Training** following the 4:00 general teacher meeting. The attorney **CLE course** will be held from **5:30 to 7:30 p.m. the same day.**

Attorney Coaches

It is important that you identify your attorney coach on the registration form. Attorney coaches and attorney judges who attend the Mock Trial CLE course on January 22 will be offered CLE credit. If you are unable to identify your coach by December 6, please call the LRE office no later than January 7 with this information. Also, consider enlisting the help of a parent or parents to help sponsor your team, assist with practices, drive to trials, and take the pressure off you.

Handbooks

Two (2) handbooks per team are included as part of the registration fee. If you would like to order additional handbooks for students, they may be purchased for \$8.00 each, payable in advance. **You must order additional handbooks on the registration form.** The handbook and the case will be available to download from our web site (www.lawrelatededucation.org) on January 23.

You may begin your preparations for the tournament, including choosing your team, finding an attorney coach, and scheduling a court tour. Tours of Third District Court may be scheduled by visiting the Utah Courts web site at www.utcourts.gov/general/edresources. Please feel free to contact Utah Law Related Education at 801.322.1802 with your suggestions, comments, or questions. We are looking forward to another exciting mock trial season!

Attached: Registration Form (Due December 6)

