



**2006 PENNSYLVANIA STATEWIDE
HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION
*COMMONWEALTH v. TEABERRY OLSON***

TO: Teacher Coaches
FROM: William J. Higgins, Jr., Mock Trial Chairperson
Jennifer J. Clark, Young Lawyer's Division Chair
RE: 2006 MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION
DATE: November 28, 2005

Thank you for registering to compete in the 2006 Pennsylvania Statewide High School Mock Trial Competition, sponsored by the Young Lawyer's Division of the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA/YLD)!

All the materials you will need to prepare for this year's Competition are posted on the PBA's mock trial web site, at www.pabar.org, under the Young Lawyer's Division link (www.pabar.org/yldstatewidemock.shtml).

If you cannot access the website documents, please request paper copies from Louann Bell at the PBA (louann.bell@pabar.org [ph. 1.800.932.0311 ext. 2276; fax 717.238.7182])

IMPORTANT ITEMS and CHANGES:

NOTE to Philadelphia Schools: Some of these changes may not apply to your competition. Please consult the Philadelphia Rules of Competition that are posted on the web site.

Teacher Email List - A mock trial teachers e-mail list (mocktrial@list.pabar.org) will once again be utilized to communicate with you using the e-mail address you provided on your registration forms. We will utilize this list to send you information on the competition, including case supplements.

2006 Rules of Competition – The only substantial change to the Rules of Competition is a new section addressing the process for resolving disputes or errors that occur during trials or immediately thereafter. The new section, set forth in Rule 9.2, provides a comprehensive and formalized process for raising and resolving disputes and errors.

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with these new procedures since this process of dispute resolution must be utilized to raise any complaints concerning a trial.

2006 Rules of Evidence - There are no changes.

REMINDERS:

1. New Teacher Orientation - All teacher coaches without prior mock trial experience must attend a teacher orientation session. The orientation sessions will be scheduled locally between November 21 and December 16, 2005, in each District (or Region where there are no Districts). **New teachers should contact their district or regional coordinators for the date and time of the session.** A coordinator's list is posted on the mock trial web site.
2. Conflict Dates Form - Please return your Conflict Dates Form to your district and regional coordinators no later than **December 16, 2005**. This form is posted on the website. As a reminder, the fewer conflict dates you provide, the more likely they are to be honored.
3. Schools with Multiple Teams – You must submit rosters, for each team entered, to your regional coordinator prior to the start of trials. These rosters may not be changed at any point after the competition starts, including the state competition, except for compelling reasons and with the permission of the regional coordinator.
4. Schedules - Please direct all questions about competition scheduling to your coordinator(s). Schedules are generally completed around mid- to late-January.
5. Questions about the Case - Answers to properly submitted questions will be periodically posted on the web site in a supplemental memo. Please review the contact page in the Commonwealth v. Teaberry Olson case materials for more information on how to submit questions.
6. Documents to bring to Trial - Every team must bring to *every trial* a signed copy of the Code of Ethical Conduct *and* a Trial Roster. Both documents are posted on the web site.
7. Attorney Advisor - If you do not have an attorney advisor or if your attorney advisor is not fulfilling his/her responsibilities, please notify your coordinator as soon as possible.
8. Withdrawing Teams – If you registered for the competition but feel you may not be able to compete or will not be prepared by the time trials commence, please contact your coordinator immediately and let him or her know of your situation and of your team's intentions.

9. Please stress with your team the educational aspect of this program. While the format of this program is a competition, the intent of the YLD is to provide high school students with a unique educational experience. We hope that you have fun with this program and that it is a positive and enjoyable experience for your students.

GOOD LUCK and THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!