



2009 PENNSYLVANIA STATEWIDE HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

Robin and Sandra Hansbra vs. Plane's Park & Polish, LLC

TO: Teacher Coaches
FROM: Ryan C. Blazure and Jennifer J. Walsh, Mock Trial Co-Chairs
RE: 2009 MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION
DATE: November 14, 2008

Thank you for registering to compete in the 2009 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 (<http://www.pabar.org/public/yld/meetings/yldstatewidemock.asp>).

If you cannot access the website documents, please request paper copies from Maria Engles at the PBA (maria.engles@pabar.org; ph. 1.800.932.0311 ext. 2223; 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 currently posted on the Mock Trial website.

Teacher Email List – An e-mail listserv of mock trial teacher coaches (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 important information about the competition, including case supplements. We will also use the listserv to inform you about important developments and exciting future plans concerning the High School Mock Trial Competition. Please be sure to read those e-mails carefully!

2009 Rules of Competition – Please review changes to Rules of Competition 4.2 (Witness Gender and Physical Traits), 6.4 (Electronic Communication), 7.4 (Announcing a Winner), 8.2 (Regional Competition) and 9.2 (Dispute Resolution).

2009 Rules of Evidence - There are no substantial changes.

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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 by your Regional or District Coordinator between November 14 and December 12, 2008 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 19, 2008**. This form is posted on the website. As a reminder, the fewer conflict dates you provide, the more likely they are to be honored. Also, please be reminded that if you fail to submit the conflict dates form, and a trial is scheduled on a date for which your school has a conflict, that trial may not be rescheduled, and your team may have to forfeit that trial.
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) as soon as they arise. Schedules for this year's competition will generally be completed by the end of January, 2009.
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 Robin and Sandra Hansbra vs. Plane's Park & Polish, LLC case materials for more information on how to submit questions. You will receive an e-mail notification each time the questions and answers have been updated.
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 forms 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 are scheduled to commence, please contact your coordinator **immediately** to advise the coordinator of your team's situation and intentions regarding the competition.
9. Please stress with your team the educational aspect of this program. While the format of this program is competitive, the goal of mock trial participation is to provide the students with a unique educational experience. And finally, have fun!

GOOD LUCK and THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!

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