Princeton University
Fall Moot Court Court
Information Packet

October 11 & 12, 2013

Tournament Directors:
Tumise Asebiomo
Layton Hopper
George Papademetriou

princetonmootcourt@gmail.com

Princeton Mock Trial | 1 Whig Hall | Princeton, New Jersey | 08544
Princeton Mock Trial is pleased to invite you to our annual High School Fall Moot Court Tournament! Every year, our tournament fills up to capacity very quickly, and we always have a waitlist. Be sure to register your teams as soon as possible.

**WHAT IS MOOT COURT?**

Moot court is a simulation of an appeals court or Supreme Court hearing. Teams of two “attorneys” prepare and present arguments on a legal case (like the constitutionality of health care) to a judge or judge panel. You’ll learn real case law, legal precedent, and how to argue like a Constitutional lawyer.

**The Tournament:**

There are four preliminary rounds, followed by single-elimination out-rounds with the top 16 teams. The final two teams face off in front of a panel of nine justices, in a simulation of the Supreme Court.

**The Case:**

This year’s case can be found at [http://www.mocktrial.princeton.edu/moot-court](http://www.mocktrial.princeton.edu/moot-court).

**The Teams:**

There are two students on each moot court team of “attorneys.” You’ll both work together to present arguments for your side against another team.

**The Rounds:**

Two teams compete against each other each round. One represents the petitioner and the other represents the respondent. The petitioner is the person who appeals the lower court decision. The respondent is the person who argues that the lower court decision was correct. Over the course of the tournament, teams will represent both sides.

Each team will have 20 minutes to speak during a round. The petitioner speaks first, and may reserve up to 8 minutes of their time for a rebuttal. The respondent then speaks for the entirety of their 20 minutes. Finally, the petitioner gives a rebuttal. Students should split up the speaking time evenly.

You should prepare at least 10 minutes of your presentation beforehand, but be careful not to fill up the entire 20 minutes with prepared material. You will have to respond to the points that the opponent made, and answer questions
from the judge(s). During both team’s presentations, the judge will interrupt with questions. You should be well versed in the case law provided and able to think on your feet. The number of questions asked will vary from judge to judge. The judge will not ask questions in the first or last minute of a team’s overall time.

A good presentation will address each constitutional question and explain why your side offers the correct interpretation. To do this, rely heavily on both the Constitution and the case law provided. Be very clear about how you are interpreting the laws and precedent.

The Judging:

Preliminary rounds will have one judge. Elimination rounds will have panels of three or five judges. The final round has nine judges. Judge panels in late elimination rounds will be top members of the Princeton Mock Trial team.

When the round is over, the judge will score each individual attorney on argument and presentation and score the team on teamwork. An attorney’s argument score is based on the content of their presentation. To receive a high score in this area, you should be thorough, convincing, and well prepared to answer questions. It should be clear that a lot of thought has gone into your presentation.

Presentation is scored separately from argument. When scoring on presentation, the judge will take into account factors like how engaging you were, how smoothly you spoke, and how much you relied on note cards.

Finally, the teamwork score will be based on the level of collaboration between you and your partner. To score well, distribute the amount of speaking time equally between both attorneys, both when presenting prepared material and when fielding questions from the judge. Additionally, make frequent transitions between speakers. Having one attorney talk for the first half of the allotted time and handing it over to his or her partner for the second half will not yield a high teamwork score.

These five scores will be added up for both sides and compared to determine the winner. In addition to selecting the winning team, the judge will pick a top attorney from the round. The top attorney does not necessarily have to be from the team that won. The top attorney designations will be used to calculate individual attorney awards. Individual attorney awards are given at the end of the tournament along with team awards.
REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Once you register through the link provided, you will receive an electronic invoice via email within one week. The invoice will contain a link to a Princeton University secure online credit card payment site, where you can complete your registration electronically. The registration form can be found at the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1NgK63_Mu08lAdK9ImE9kuiS2ood5Lt3x0nrTmtc45Lc/viewform

The preliminary registration deadline is September 13, 2013. The final deadline for registration is September 28, 2013.

Note: Your registration is invalid until payment is received.

Once you register, you will receive an electronic invoice via email within one week. The invoice will contain a link to a Princeton University secure online credit card payment site, where you can complete your registration electronically.

This year's registration fees:

Per-School Fee: $25
Per-Entry Fee: $75 (add $25 late fee if after September 13, 2013).

For example, if you are registering 4 teams, your total is $25 + (4 x $75) = $325.

Once payment is received, you can request a full refund within 24 hours. After 24 hours, any drops will be refunded 50%. There are no refunds after October 1.

If you prefer to pay via check, please contact asebiomo@princeton.edu.

JUDGING

Important: Each school MUST provide one judge for every four teams the school is bringing (i.e. if your school is bringing 8 teams, you must provide 2 judges; if your school is bringing 9 teams, you must provide 3 judges).

Qualified judges include teachers, advisors, school staff, or parents familiar with the moot court competition. All judges must be fluent in English and over twenty-one years of age.

If you are unable to provide a judge, you may hire one for the entire tournament at the cost of $50. Judges are committed to four rounds.
SCHEDULE

Friday, October 11, 2013

12:00 PM    Registration Opens – Whig Hall
1:15 PM     Opening Ceremonies – Senate Chamber, Whig Hall
            Judges Training Session – Basement, Whig Hall
1:45 PM     Round 1 Pairings – Senate Chamber, Whig Hall
2:00 PM     Round 1 Begins
3:30 PM     Round 2 Begins
5:00 PM     Round 3 Begins

Saturday, October 12, 2013

8:00 AM     Report to Whig Hall
8:30 AM     Round 4
10:00 AM    Return to Whig Hall – Attorney awards and announcement of
            advancing teams
10:30 AM    Round of 16
12:00 PM    Lunch Break
1:00 PM     Quarterfinals
2:30 PM     Semifinals
4:00 PM     Final Round – Senate Chamber, Whig Hall
CONTACT INFORMATION

Tumise Asebiomo  Tournament Director  (540) 355-0073
Layton Hopper  Tournament Director  (812) 480-6266
George Papademetriou  Tournament Director  (609) 705-2483

Follow us on Twitter at http://twitter.com/PrincetonMT!

LODGING OPTIONS

The Westin Princeton
201 Village Boulevard
Princeton
(609) 452-7900

The Hampton Inn Princeton
4385 US 1 South
Princeton
(609) 951-0066

The Holiday Inn
100 Independence Way
Princeton Township
(609) 520-1200

The Marriott Courtyard
3815 U.S. 1
Princeton Township
(609) 716-9100

The Nassau Inn
10 Palmer Square
Princeton Township
(609) 921-7500
Tiger Transit from Parking Lot 23 to Whig Hall

After parking your vehicle in Lot 23, find the bus stop in the center of the parking lot. Take the Central Line Shuttle bus up campus from Lot 23 to the Clio Hall Stop. Here, you will find twin marble buildings built in the Greek temple style. Whig Hall is the easternmost of these buildings.