



# Pennsylvania Statewide Mock Trial Competition

100 South Street, P.O. Box 186 • Harrisburg, PA 17108-0186 • (717) 238-6715 • (800) 932-0311 • Fax (717) 238-7182

Dear Teacher Coach:

We are pleased to announce the opening of the 2019 Statewide Mock Trial Competition, now in its 36<sup>th</sup> year!

To register your team, please complete the enclosed School Registration Form and return it with your \$125 registration fee **NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 2, 2018**. You are permitted to register two teams from your school, or three teams with the express written permission of your District Coordinator (e-mail will suffice). The registration fee of \$125 is per team, not per school. Checks should be made payable to the Pennsylvania Bar Association (as indicated on the registration form).

Once you complete the registration materials, you may confirm your team's registration on the mock trial website ([www.pabar.org](http://www.pabar.org) → 'For the Public' → 'Mock Trial Competition') under Participating Schools. The list will be updated on a daily basis. Additionally, all case materials and rules will be made available to participants on the mock trial website. They will not be mailed separately. For your convenience, a complete competition schedule is attached.

As a reminder, background checks are required of everyone working closely with children. The Pennsylvania General Assembly amended the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) several times over the past year. The most recent changes were through Act 153 of 2014. Although there are sweeping changes made to the CPSL, this only focuses on criminal background checks and child abuse clearances (collectively "clearances").

As it relates to clearances, Act 153 requires all prospective employees, current employees, independent contractors and volunteers to get and renew criminal background checks and child abuse clearances on a ***five-year cycle***. Anyone who has clearances older than five years, or someone who has never gone through the clearance process, has until December 31, 2018 to get the clearances. Find out how your school is implementing the new laws, as each school implements its own policy as it understands the law. It is our understanding that schools will be requiring their volunteers who assist the mock trial teams (lawyers, law students, alums) to get the required background clearances.

Please get the clearances completed so that you, your volunteers, and your team will be ready when the mock trial program begins.

We look forward to working with you and your students! The Mock Trial Committee is confident that you will find this year's competition an invaluable learning experience!! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Maria Engles, PBA YLD Coordinator at 1-800-932-0311 ext. 2223 or [maria.engles@pabar.org](mailto:maria.engles@pabar.org).



Sponsored by the PBA Young Lawyers Division

## 2019 MOCK TRIAL SCHOOL COMMITMENT FORM

This form must be completed and returned **on/before November 2, 2018** to:

MARIA ENGLES  
Pennsylvania Bar Association  
100 South Street  
P.O. Box 186  
Harrisburg, PA 17108  
Fax: 717-238-7182  
[maria.engles@pabar.org](mailto:maria.engles@pabar.org)

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE:

---

NAME OF SCHOOL

---

ADDRESS

---

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

COUNTY

---

PHONE

NUMBER OF TEAMS REGISTERING (*2-3 teams maximum*) \_\_\_\_\_

**(If registering more than one team, you must provide the name and email address of the second and/or third teacher coach below. A school may enter a third team with the permission of the District Coordinator in charge of scheduling as long as the third team can be added without disruption to overall scheduling. \*The Coordinator's List is posted on the Mock Trial website.**

YOUR \$125 CHECK MUST ACCOMPANY THIS SCHOOL COMMITMENT FORM OR YOUR SCHOOL WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMPETITION. YOU ARE PERMITTED TO ENTER UP TO TWO TEAMS (or three teams if permitted by your District Coordinator). THE COST OF REGISTRATION IS \$125 PER TEAM, NOT PER SCHOOL. **PLEASE MAKE THE CHECK PAYABLE TO THE PENNSYLVANIA BAR ASSOCIATION.**

### **PRINCIPAL**

I hereby agree that my school will enter a student team in the 2019 Statewide Mock Trial Competition. I agree to encourage appropriate support and publicity within our school community and to provide faculty and students release time as necessary for all rounds of competition, including the State Finals in Harrisburg should the team advance to that level.

---

NAME OF PRINCIPAL

---

SIGNATURE OF PRINCIPAL

DATE

**TEACHER-COACH**

I intend to participate in the 2019 Statewide Mock Trial Competition as a Teacher-Coach. I agree to prepare the team and accompany the students to all rounds of competition; including the State Finals in Harrisburg should they advance to the final rounds. I understand that by returning this form I am committed to entering a team and following through until my team is eliminated. **I understand that if my team drops out of the competition at any point during the competition, I will contact my District Coordinator as soon as possible. I am also aware that if my team drops out, the \$125 competition fee will not be refunded.** I am aware that if I drop out late, my school may receive sanctions including preclusion from future competitions. I agree to fully investigate the feasibility of fielding a team at my school including surveying student interest before returning this commitment form.

---

NAME OF TEACHER-COACH(ES) \* MUST LIST ALL TEACHERS IF ENTERING MULTIPLE TEAMS

---

PHONE:

---

E-MAIL ADDRESS(ES) (REQUIRED)

**ATTORNEY ADVISOR (IF KNOWN) \*MUST LIST ALL ATTORNEYS IF ENTERING MULTIPLE TEAMS:**

---

NAME

---

E-MAIL ADDRESS (OPTIONAL – *If provided, this address will be added to the mock trial teacher-coach email list-serv.*)