



NORTH CAROLINA ADVOCATES FOR JUSTICE HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM

Easy Steps to Starting a Mock Trial Team

- 1.** For a school team, talk with your high school's principal and find out if there is a teacher who can serve as the team's advisor. For an independent organization (Teen Court, homeschool support group, YMCA, etc.), all students must be active members of the sponsoring organization. **Each team *must* have an adult advisor.** A team consists of 7 – 8 students. There is no limit on the number of teams which a school or organization can sponsor.
- 2.** Get the team advisor to register your team(s). Please fill out and submit the Registration form by the deadline. All necessary forms and important information are available on our site <http://ncmocktrial.org/> under the heading "Competitions" → "Important forms."
- 3.** Contact a local attorney to invite them to volunteer as your team's legal advisor. If you need help, contact Program Coordinator Sue Johnson at SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com and we will try to match you up with an attorney advisor in your area. We recommend that an attorney advisor meet with their team for a minimum of five to six times of 2-3 hours each to prepare the team for competition (this will vary depending upon the attorney's availability).
- 4.** Study all of the official case materials (available on the website), including the Rules of Competition and the NCHSMT Rules of Evidence and Procedure.
- 5.** Select and assign your team roles. There are 14 roles to assign: 3 Prosecution/Plaintiff attorneys; 3 Defense attorneys; 3 Prosecution/Plaintiff witnesses; 3 Defense witnesses; 1 Bailiff/timekeeper (on Prosecution/Plaintiff side), and one Timekeeper (on Defense). Thus, some team members will have to assume two roles.
- 6.** Schedule practices and rehearsals to prepare for your day in court. As you prepare for competition, remember that no outside research is necessary since you are limited to the case materials. It is highly recommended that attorney advisors arrange at least one practice in a courthouse if possible, to familiarize students with the courtroom setting.
- 7.** Check the website (<http://ncmocktrial.org/>) and facebook page ([facebook.com/ncmocktrial](https://www.facebook.com/ncmocktrial)) regularly for updates and additional information regarding Regional and State competitions.
- 8.** If you have any questions regarding the case or competition, contact Program Coordinator Sue Johnson at SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com.