

A woman with dark hair, wearing a black blazer over a teal top, is speaking at a wooden podium. She is looking slightly to her right. In the background, there is a courtroom setting with an American flag, a judge seated at a bench, and several people seated in the audience. A large circular graphic is overlaid on the left side of the image.

San Diego County High School Mock Trial Competition

Teacher Orientation

Presented by:
Judge Laura J. Birkmeyer
September 8 and 13, 2022



What/Who is the San Diego County High School Mock Trial Committee?

Superior Court of California
County of San Diego

San Diego County Bar
Association (SDCBA)

United States District Court
Southern District of California

County of San Diego
Office of the District Attorney

County of San Diego
Office of the Public Defender

Federal Defenders of San
Diego, Inc.

United States Attorney's Office Southern
District of California

San Diego County Office of
Education

San Diego City
Attorney's Office

San Diego County Paralegal
Association

SAN DIEGO MOCK TRIAL HISTORY

In 1980, the Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) introduced the Mock Trial program, which already had a strong following in Los Angeles County, to all the counties in California. **CRF sets competition rules, provides the case, and conducts the statewide competition.**



- Currently involves 38 counties.
- Initiated in San Diego County in 2007; 5 schools competed.
- Grew over the years; 13 schools in 2010; 19 in 2012; 34 in 2020; 30 in 2022.

2022 PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Abraham Lincoln High School
Academy of Our Lady of Peace
Bonita Vista High School
Bonsall High School
Canyon Crest High School
Carlsbad High School
Cathedral Catholic High School
Coronado High School
Del Norte High School
Eastlake High School
Escondido Charter High School
Francis Parker School
King Chavez High School
La Jolla Country Day School
La Jolla High School

Mission Bay High School
Mission Hills High School
Oceanside High School
Orange Glen High School
Otay Ranch High School
Pacific Ridge School
Patrick Henry High School
Rancho Bernardo High School
Saint Augustine High School
Scripps Ranch High School
Southwest High School
The Bishop's School
Torrey Pines High School
Waldorf High School
Westview High School



WHAT IS MOCK TRIAL



- Mock Trials are rehearsed trials for the purpose of teaching about the legal system in an academic and competitive manner.
- Mock Trial materials provided by CRF: 1) a hypothetical criminal case, 2) competition rules (modified for San Diego) and scoring guidelines, and 3) date for statewide competition.
- Students have the opportunity to work with experienced attorney coaches.

- All students are offered the experience of performing in courtrooms for multiple rounds/trials (at least two as prosecution and two as defense) before attorney scorers and current or retired judicial officers.
- We emphasize the **Educational Experience** and **Professional Civility/Good Sportsmanship**.

TRIALS

This year there will be four rounds of competition and all teams will compete. Four top scoring teams will compete in the semi-final round and the two teams with the highest score will compete in the championship round. The winner of the championship round will represent San Diego County at the state finals.

Teams present both sides of the pretrial argument and trial (Prosecution/Defense) two times over the course of four rounds.

State and federal judicial officers will preside over each trial and practicing attorneys will score the competition.



WHO PARTICIPATES?



Attorney Coaches



Teacher Sponsors



High School Students



State and Federal
Judicial Officers



Attorney Scorers

STUDENT ROLES

- 1 pretrial motion attorney (pretrial attorneys cannot serve as a trial attorney during the same round, but may serve as a witness)
- 3 trial attorneys maximum
- 4 witnesses (all 4 must be called during trial)
- 1 clerk – participates with prosecution team
- 1 bailiff – participates with defense team

***We strongly recommend you recruit at least 12 – 14 students for each team.**

Minimum number of students per round: **8**

Maximum Number of Students per Round : **9**

Students can perform both as prosecution and defense.



THE **TEACHER** SPONSOR'S ROLE



"Students are influenced by television, video games, advertising, music, fashion, and their teachers. I'm looking to hire teachers that can reverse that order."

- Attend Teacher Orientation Meeting
- Promote Mock Trial in Your School and Recruit Team Members
- Register Team (by 9/29/22)
- Distribute Materials and Provide Instruction
- **Keep Mock Trial Committee Informed re: school circumstances and restrictions**
- Apply for Scholarship/Stipends if Applicable (by 11/10/22)
- Pay Fee (by 12/9/22)
- Submit (by 12/9/22):
 - Team Roster
 - Participation Agreement/Photo Release for each team member
- Coordinate Meetings and Responsibilities with Attorney Coaches
- During the Competition:
 - Award Nomination Forms
 - Photo Team Roster

ATTORNEY COACH

- At least one coach is assigned to work with each team.
- The coach's role is to advise the students on general trial techniques and procedures, as well as specific strategies for presenting the case.
- Usually requires meeting with a team at least once per week during the season.



2022 – 2023 CASE

Each year with the help of justices, judges and attorneys throughout the state, CRF creates a fictional criminal case involving serious contemporary legal or factual issues.

People v. Franks

Franks is charged with robbery and battery of a fellow actor.

Pretrial argument centers on the Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable search and seizure. The question is whether a detective needs a warrant to search a safe in Franks' closet.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE TO YOU TODAY TO GET STARTED?

- Code to access the case materials published by CRF today: Classroom Discussion Materials, Mock Trial Fact Situation and Legal Authorities, Witness Statements, Trial Exhibits, Case Rules & Procedures and Simplified Rules of Evidence
- Hard copies of case materials available for pick-up at the court. Email us at sdmocktrial@gmail.com to make arrangements.
- San Diego List of Important Dates



CASE MATERIALS

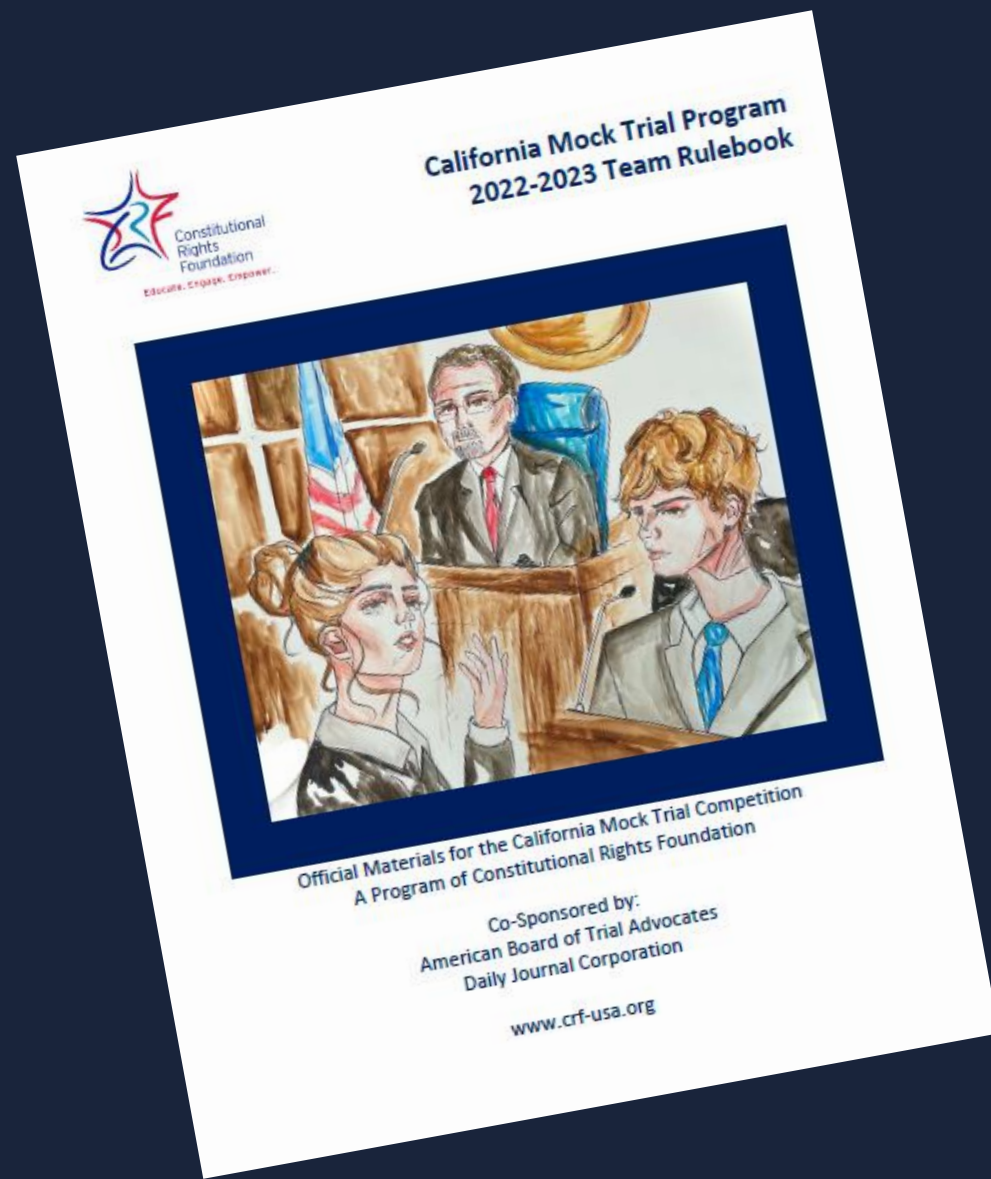
To access the case packet:

- 1) Go to sdmocktrial.org
- 2) Find the Materials & Calendar tab on the top menu bar
- 3) Click on Case Materials/Forms
- 4) Click on Case Packet and enter code

Note: CRF prohibits sharing the code with anyone outside of your team or using their materials in invitationals, tournaments and academic camps without their written permission.



WHAT ABOUT THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY TEAM RULEBOOK?



- It's in the works!
- CRF just released their Rulebook on September 1.
- The San Diego County HSMT Committee is modifying to address local practices/issues including:
 - Problems that arose with time-keeping
 - Penalties – mandatory vs. discretionary
 - Discouraging hyper-technical assertions of rule violations.

Expect the San Diego County Rulebook in October.
Will be posted on website.

HOW TO REGISTER YOUR TEAM

Register at: sdmocktrial.org

Deadline to register is:

September 29, 2022



TEAM REGISTRATION FEE - \$400



- This fee must be paid in full and received no later than December 9, 2022 or the team will not be eligible to compete.
- To pay fee, go to our website at sdmocktrial.org.
- Once you complete and submit the form, you will be routed to PayPal to submit payment. If you are unable to pay fee with a credit or debit card, please let us know via our email at sdmocktrial@gmail.com.
- Application for a scholarship to pay the fee will be available at sdmocktrial.org. Applications must be received no later than November 10, 2022.



REQUESTING AN ATTORNEY COACH

- DO YOU NEED AN ATTORNEY COACH???? The Mock Trial Committee will solicit and connect you to a volunteer attorney coach.
- Deadline to register your team and to request an attorney coach is **September 29, 2022.**
- Coaches must also “register,” so if you have a coach or coaches with whom you are already working, they must submit a coach registration form found on our website. **Deadline for coaches to register is October 7, 2022.** In order for an attorney coach to participate during the 2022-2023 mock trial season, each coach must attend a Coach Orientation meeting.
- Reminder: Conflict of Interest Policy for Attorney Scorers.

TEAM ROSTER AND PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT/PHOTO RELEASE

- A Team Roster and signed Participant Agreement/Photo Release form (for each team member) must be uploaded to sdmocktrial.org on the Materials & Calendar page in the Team Registration section **no later than December 9, 2022.**



- All forms will be available at sdmocktrial.org after October 3rd, on the Materials & Calendar page in the Team Registration section. Failure to submit by deadline may lead to disqualification of the team.
- Each team will be required to bring a “photo trial team roster” to each round of the competition.

HOW WE COMMUNICATE IS KEY!

Website: sdmocktrial.org

- Information about the program
- Announcements
- Place to register, pay fee, apply for scholarship, submit all required forms, and team roster (one-stop shopping!)
- Shared answer to teacher and coach questions

Email: sdmocktrial@gmail.com for all questions. We will respond promptly. Some questions take more time to answer.



Other: Follow us on  [SDMocktrial](#)

Note: We will not directly email students. They are encouraged to check the website and send questions via teachers or coaches.

NEW BRANDING FOR 2022

PRESENTING THE
NEW MOCK TRIAL
LOGO



SPEAKING OF WHAT'S NEW . . .

CRF Rules for 2022-2023:

Emphasize prohibitions on scouting, filibustering/running of time, defines the penalties for forfeiting a round, permits two “small” schools who have not previously had a team to form a single mock trial team to compete for a two-year period.

The Committee will be offering a clinic on the important role of the timekeeper for students, coaches and teachers.

And....



EXCITING NEWS!!!

Due to a generous grant and donations to SD Justice Foundation for use by the San Diego County High School Mock Trial Committee, specific funds will be available to support schools new to mock trial, as well as those who have participated in the past to:

- Provide additional scholarships to cover the \$400 team registration fee
- Provide a limited number of stipends for schools who do not otherwise compensate their teacher sponsor for the mock trial role
- Transport teams via bus to and from the court on competition days

Applications for these supports will be available on our website beginning September 26, 2022 and will be due November 10, 2022 for scholarships and stipends.

WE WANT TO SUPPORT YOU

- Mandatory meeting in November/early December to review rules, scoring criteria, and competition requirements.
- Tutorials and tips available online.
- We encourage communication from schools that may be struggling; we can provide mentor teacher sponsor, attorney coaches, and direct you to materials.



COMPETITION DATES

- Round 1 – February 9, 2023
- Round 2 – February 15, 2023
- Round 3 – February 22, 2023
- Round 4, Award Ceremony, Semifinal – February 25, 2023
- Championship – February 28, 2023

San Diego County
High School
Mock Trial Competition

A FEW FINAL THOUGHTS

This is a competition, but the primary goal is individual growth for each student. The learning process and the experience is our number one priority.



Good citizenship and sportsmanship is paramount . . .

...as is having
some fun!



HOW TO CONTACT US



619-844-2344



sdmocktrial@gmail.com



sdmocktrial.org



SDMockTrial



QUESTIONS?

