

SAN DIEGO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

TEACHER ADVISOR KICKOFF
2026–2027 SEASON

Judge Anthony J. Campagna
September 8 & 10, 2026



Leave ready to launch your team

01 Know the season at a glance

02 Leave with a simple registration checklist

03 Know exactly where to get help



Nine partners. One student experience.

**Superior Court of California
County of San Diego**

U.S. District Court
Southern District of California

San Diego County
District Attorney

**San Diego County
Public Defender**

U.S. Attorney's Office
Southern District of California

Federal Defenders
of San Diego, Inc.

**San Diego City
Attorney's Office**

San Diego County
Bar Association

San Diego County
Office of Education

A program built to grow

Teach Democracy's statewide program now reaches 38 counties.

1980 STATEWIDE PROGRAM BEGINS

2007 SAN DIEGO COUNTY LAUNCHES

40+ SCHOOLS AND GROWING



40+ schools. One countywide community.



PUBLIC • PRIVATE

**Students from all
over San Diego
County**

**ONE SHARED
COURTROOM
COMMUNITY**

**Different schools.
One standard of
preparation and
civility.**

The courtroom becomes a classroom



- Argue a real case in real courtrooms
- Work with experienced attorney coaches
- Perform for attorney scorers and judges
- Build advocacy, teamwork and civility

AT LEAST TWO ROUNDS FOR THE PROSECUTION • TWO FOR THE DEFENSE

One season. One county champion.

4 → 4 → 2 → 1

FOUR PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

TOP FOUR ADVANCE TO SEMIFINALS

TOP TWO ADVANCE TO FINALS

COUNTY CHAMPION

Represents San Diego at the State Competition



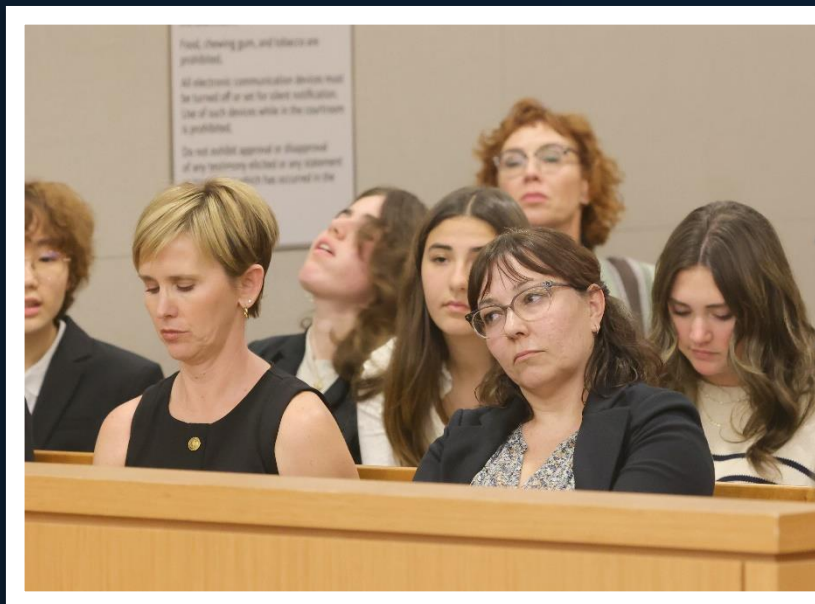
It takes a courtroom community



ATTORNEY COACHES



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



TEACHER ADVISORS



JUDICIAL OFFICERS



ATTORNEY SCORERS

Build a flexible team of 12–14 students

CORE ROLES

- Pretrial attorney (1)
- Trial attorneys (2–3)
- Witnesses (4)
- Clerk/timekeeper (prosecution)
- Bailiff (defense)

Team maximum: 25 students

8 MINIMUM • 9 MAXIMUM PER ROUND

Students may perform on both the prosecution and defense sides.



Your role makes the season possible

BEFORE THE SEASON

- Recruit team members
- **Registration by September 25**
- Distribute materials and teach the case
- Coordinate with the attorney coach

KEY DEADLINES

**Registration Fee and/or
Transportation Scholarship request: October 16**

Final fee, roster & participation agreements: November 20

EACH ROUND

Bring photo Trial Team Lineups
and award nomination forms.



Coaching turns practice into performance

- Teaches trial technique and courtroom procedure
- Sharpens presentation strategy
- Meets with the team at least once each week

A consistent weekly rhythm builds confidence.



One portal. Everything in one place.

SCAN NOW

Bookmark the portal for the season.



sdmocktrial.org





Need an attorney coach? Tell us early.

Submit the Registration
Form—or email us as soon
as possible.

sdmocktrial@gmail.com

Five dates to calendar now

ROUND 1 • Thu, January 21

ROUND 2 • Wed, January 27

ROUND 3 • Tue, February 2

ROUND 4 + AWARDS + SEMIFINALS
Sat, February 6

CHAMPIONSHIP • Tue, February 9

San Diego County
High School
Mock Trial Competition

You already have the essentials to begin

- ✓ Important dates
- ✓ Materials available on request
- ✓ Portal, registration and support links



People v. Martz: case brief

A community-college student faces a felony speed-contest charge after another driver crashes and suffers serious injuries, plus a misdemeanor racing-club charge.

PROSECUTION THEORY

The prosecution says Nova Martz raced Val Foley at an intersection on May 22, 2026. Foley lost control, struck a light pole, and remains non-responsive.

Witnesses describe a history of racing challenges, an engine revving before the start, unusually rapid acceleration, and Martz's claimed connection to the Kangaroo Ratz.

DEFENSE THEORY

Martz says there was no race and that the drivers were traveling together to a fast-food stand.

The defense says mechanical problems explain the revving and apparent acceleration. A witness says Foley taunted Martz, but Martz did not respond.

PRETRIAL QUESTION

The defense seeks dismissal of the illegal-racing-club count, arguing that the city ordinance violates due process and Martz's First Amendment right to freedom of speech.

Access the case packet in three steps

1013LEC26

- 1 Go to sdmocktrial.org
- 2 Open Competition Materials
- 3 Choose the 2026–2027 Case Packet

You'll be redirected to Teach Democracy to enter the password.



NEW FOR THIS YEAR
TWO CHANGES TO KNOW BEFORE ROUND ONE

Rule 3.9 amendment: timing & calculation

COUNTY COMPETITION — NEW OPTION

- The clerk/timekeeper may use a cell phone as a timing device and/or calculator.
- If a cell phone is used, it must remain in airplane mode throughout the round.

OTHER OPTIONS REMAIN AVAILABLE

- Students may use a stopwatch or another digital timing device.
- Students may calculate by hand.

STATE COMPETITION

Cell phones are prohibited. Plan to use a non-phone timing device and calculate without a phone.

REGISTRATION & SECOND TEAMS

One policy. Clear expectations.

- One regular competition team per school
- Capacity is set for each season
- Eligible alternates always receive priority
- A ghost team is a limited even-field exception

One regular team per school

WHY THIS POLICY?

The competition prioritizes access for as many schools as possible.
Each school may enter one regular competition team.
A second team may participate only as a ghost team under the limited conditions that follow.

DEFINITIONS

REGULAR TEAM — the first team entered by a school.

ALTERNATE TEAM — a fully registered first team not initially admitted because capacity was reached.

GHOST TEAM — a second team added solely to create an even field.

FIRST PRIORITY — A school's first team, initially admitted or called from the alternate list, always outranks a ghost team.

Capacity is set for each season

WHAT SETS CAPACITY?

Courtrooms, judges, scorers, volunteers, administration, scheduling, format, and other logistics
Capacity may change each season

BEFORE ANY SELECTION DRAW

The Committee determines capacity in advance.
The decision is based on operational and logistical factors.
Every selected ghost team counts toward total capacity.

The Committee's capacity and admission determination is final.

Two deadlines determine eligibility

SEPTEMBER 25 — SCHOOL REGISTRATION

All timely schools are treated equally; earlier submission, payment, or materials do not create priority. Even if preliminary demand looks high, every timely school remains eligible and should continue preparing.

NOVEMBER 20 — COMPLETE FINAL PACKAGE

Competition fee or scholarship request • completed team roster • all required participation agreements
Missing an entire required category may be treated as withdrawal.

MINOR TIMELY DEFECTS — The Committee will notify the school and allow a reasonable time to correct.

If demand exceeds capacity, a draw sets priority

RANDOM DRAW

Every fully registered team receives a priority position.

Teams are admitted in draw order; the remainder form the alternate list in that same order.

A team not initially selected receives a full fee refund before competition begins.

ALTERNATE RESPONSE

Confirm continued interest within 5 business days and remain ready through the finalization date.

When offered a vacancy, accept and submit or resubmit the fee within 5 business days.

A decline, nonresponse, or missed payment removes the team and advances the offer.

Offers stop at capacity, exhaustion of the list, or the finalization date.

A ghost team is the last resort

A GHOST TEAM MAY BE SELECTED ONLY WHEN

Regular teams are below capacity
The number of regular teams is odd
No eligible alternate remains available

VOLUNTEER BY NOVEMBER 20

The school's regular team must be admitted and remain in the competition.
No separate fee or complete second-team materials are required merely to volunteer.
If selected, certify and submit the roster, agreements, and other eligibility items within 5 business days.
A random draw ranks eligible volunteers; if one declines or becomes ineligible, the offer moves down the list.

A selected ghost team counts toward total capacity.

Ghost participation stays conditional

FIELD CHANGES

Ghost-team participation remains conditional on maintaining an even field. If the providing school's regular team withdraws, its ghost team is removed and does not become the regular team. The Committee may retain, remove, replace, or reinstate a ghost as withdrawals require; after finalization, scheduling adjustments may be necessary.

COMPETITION & AWARDS

The ghost competes in Rounds 1–4; scores by and against it count like other preliminary scores. It cannot advance; the spot passes to the next-highest eligible regular team. Its members cannot receive individual competition awards.

BARTICK AWARD — The ghost team and its members remain eligible.

One final deadline keeps your team ready

NOVEMBER 20

Completed team roster

All required participation agreements

Fee payment or approved scholarship

BRING TO EVERY ROUND
A Trial Team Lineup
with student photos.

Built-in support removes common barriers

SCHOLARSHIPS

Registration • Transportation

EXHIBITS

Provided for every trial

Prosecution checks them out and leaves them in the courtroom

E-SCORESHEETS

Team score and win/loss record

A Call for Artists!!!!

The Committee is considering incorporating sketch artists into the San Diego County Competition

If you know a budding artists who you'd like to include on your team, please contact us at sdmocktrial@gmail.com

This is a pilot program for 2026-2027 and will depend on the level of interest.

More details to come!

Make the fee part of your final package

FINAL REGISTRATION DUE
November 20, 2025

PAY BY
Debit/Credit
Venmo • PayPal • Check

FEE-WAIVER SCHOLARSHIP
Request by October 16, 2025





Every student has the opportunity to be recognized

TEAM HONORS

1st & 2nd place

INDIVIDUAL HONORS

Pretrial attorney • attorney • witness
clerk & bailiff • round MVP

CIVILITY

Judge David Bartick Award

EVERY PARTICIPANT

Certificate of participation



If your team gets stuck, tell us early

We can connect you with:

- Resources and FAQs
- Experienced teams willing to lend a hand
- Materials and competition guidance

The committee wants every school to have a workable path to compete.





QUESTIONS?
LET'S MAKE YOUR TEAM HAPPEN.