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Application for Competition



The South Carolina Bar Law Related Education (LRE) Division is inviting public, private, home schools, and co-ops throughout the state to participate in the Mock Trial Competitions. Each participating school enters a team comprised of at least 6-16 students for middle school and 7-16 students for high school and sponsored by a teacher coach. The LRE Division will help locate attorney coaches to assist the team in preparing the case, if needed. The LRE Division posts the fictitious case online, and each team will try the Prosecution/Plaintiff and Defense sides of the case. Teams compete in three rounds at regional competitions. The top 12 teams from across the state advance to a state competition.

The goals of this program are to educate students about the American judicial system and the fundamentals of litigation. Another objective is to increase cooperation, respect and support between the community and the legal profession. Through participation in the Mock Trial program, students sharpen their basic skills of listening, public speaking, writing, reading and analyzing. The goal of the Mock Trial program is not to win for the sake of winning, but to learn and practice the meaning of good citizenship in a democracy through participation in our legal system. Mock Trial is correlated to South Carolina's English language arts standards, and social studies standards.

FREE TRAINING! There will be online Mock Trial trainings for new teacher and attorney coaches as well as an in-person training.

FREE WEB RESOURCES! The website has an abundance of resources to include correlations, competition information, dates, the case, a glossary, diagrams, checklists and more!

FREE ONLINE VIDEOS! Videos include a competition critique video, a video on Rule 803 and Hearsay Exceptions, a Hearsay Exceptions Song, a promotional video to use for recruitment, what scoring judges look for when judging, and an entire Mock Trial round broken into mini-segments.

FREE COACHES MANUAL! The Coaches' Manual for attorney and teacher coaches is a great reference filled with suggestions and tools for coaches of all experience levels. The manual includes lesson plans, handouts, activities and more!

www.scbar.org/lre/msmt

www.scbar.org/lre/hsmt

REGISTRATION INFORMATION. Complete the online registration and authorization form, and submit the \$225 registration fee. Names of actual students competing on the team are not needed at this time. Registration may be completed without payment in order to make the registration deadline to avoid a late fee.

REGISTRATION FEE—REGIONALS. The \$225 registration fee can be in the form of check or credit card. Checks should be made payable to the SC Bar LRE Division. If paying by credit card, payment may be made online. If payment is requested through a purchase order, indicate on the registration that a purchase order has been requested and email a copy of the purchase order. All registration fees are due by the stated deadline for the team to compete in the regional competitions. Registration Fees are non-refundable.

STATE REGISTRATION FEE. If more than 20 teams compete in the regional competitions, a state competition takes place. A separate registration fee of \$150 will be due two days prior to the competition date for all advancing state teams.

MATERIALS. Competition rules and modified rules of evidence are released no later than the first business day in August on the SC Bar's website (www.sctbar.org/lre). The case materials are released online August 8th, by 5 p.m.

DISCUSSION FORUM. An online discussion forum is available for Mock Trial teachers, attorney coaches and students at discussions.sctbar.org. Any updates to the rules or case materials are posted on the online discussion forum. Teams interested in virtual or in-person scrimmages may post scrimmage requests on the forum. Questions concerning the competition, rules, and case are submitted on the online forum or by email. **NO** questions are answered by telephone. The forum closes ten business days prior to the regional competition at noon.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS. LRE offers many forms of recognition for implementation of SC Bar LRE programs.

Teachers are eligible for the LRE Teacher of the Year Award with \$500 in non-designated funds; individuals such as SROs, administrators and non-teachers are eligible for the LRE Citizen of the Year Awards and an attorney is eligible for LRE Lawyer of the Year Award and be recognized in front of their peers. High School Mock Trial seniors may apply for \$1000 scholarships as nondesignated funds to apply toward higher education. Applications and nomination forms for all of these awards are available online. The deadline to submit nominations and applications are due March 20th, 2024. Questions about awards and scholarships can be directed to dlanier@sctbar.org or (803) 252-5139.

ATTORNEY COACH. It is strongly encouraged that each team have an attorney coach to assist with the mechanics of a trial and to provide a better understanding of the law and its application. Schools may look to an attorney coach from a previous year; a PTA member or alumni within the community. If an attorney coach cannot be obtained through these outlets, the SC Bar can help with the search. There is no guarantee an attorney coach can be secured. Attorney coaches should obtain and follow the school's policy on adult/children interaction. An attorney is a volunteer for the school and not the SC Bar. Attorney coaches receive pro bono credit for the hours volunteered with a school.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COMPETITION. In the event it becomes necessary for a team to withdraw from the competition, the team must inform the LRE State Coordinator immediately, but no later than the stated deadline to withdraw, with submission of a withdrawal form signed by the lead teacher coach and school principal. Failure to inform the State Coordinator causes extreme hardship to the other schools competing and impacts preparations and judge recruitment: ***Absent extenuating circumstances, failure to appear at a competition without prior notification and/or withdrawing after the drop deadline subjects that team to a one-year suspension from the competition. All fees are non-refundable.***

23/24 COMPETITION DATES

Middle School

Regionals - October 28, 2023
State - December 1-2, 2023 or
December 2 & 9, 2023

High School

Regionals - February 24, 2024
State - March 8-9, 2024 or
March 9 & 16, 2024

Nationals - Wilmington, Delaware
May 2-4, 2024

HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS ONLY

The SC Bar Law Related Education (LRE) Division has incorporated Courtroom Sketch Artist and Courtroom Journalist elements into the Mock Trial program at the regional level only. Courtroom sketch artists and journalists are subject to all Mock Trial rules, restrictions and eligibility requirements. They compete solely on their own efforts and are **NOT** considered part of their school's competing Mock Trial team. See Competition Handbook for details.

	MIDDLE SCHOOL	HIGH SCHOOL
Competition Rules Released	Aug. 01, 2023	Aug. 01, 2023
Case Released	Aug. 08, 2023	Aug. 08, 2023
Registration Deadline (no late fee)	Aug. 25, 2023	Sept. 28, 2023
Registration Deadline (w/\$50 late fee)	Sept. 07, 2023	Oct. 12, 2023
Artist/Journalist Registration	-----	Oct. 12, 2023
Training For Coaches - in Columbia	Aug. 31, 2023	Aug. 31, 2023
Training For Coaches - on the website	24 Hour Access	24 Hour Access
PAYMENT	Sept. 22, 2023	Dec. 15, 2023
SUBMISSION DEADLINES:		
Code of Ethical Conduct/School Info.	Oct. 05, 2023	Jan. 11, 2024
Talent Release Forms & Recording Option	Oct. 05, 2023	Jan. 11, 2024
Team Picture	Oct. 18, 2023	Jan. 25, 2024
Drop Deadline for Regionals	Sept. 22, 2023	Jan. 18, 2024
Drop Deadline for State	Nov. 03, 2023	Mar. 01, 2024
Regional Assignments/Team Codes	Oct. 06, 2023	Jan. 12, 2024
Team Roster	Oct 17, 2023	Feb. 15, 2024
FORUM DISCUSSIONS:		
Opens for All Teams	Aug. 08, 2023	Aug. 08, 2023
Closes for Middle School Regionals	Oct. 13, 2023, Noon	Oct. 13, 2023, Noon
Re-Opens	Oct. 30, 2023	Oct. 31, 2023
Re-Closes for Middle School State	Nov. 17, 2023, Noon	Nov, 17, 2023, Noon
Re-Opens for High School Teams	-----	Dec. 4, 2023
Closes for High School Regionals	-----	Feb. 09, 2024, Noon
Re-Opens	-----	Feb. 26, 2024, Noon
Re-Closes for High School State	-----	Mar. 04, 2024, Noon
ZOOM:		
Deadline to Make Zoom Selections	Sept. 29, 2023	Dec. 14, 2023
New Coaches Mtg. (10 a.m. or 4 p.m.)	Oct. 10, 2023	Jan. 23, 2024
Regional Coaches Mtg. (10 a.m. or 4 p.m.)	Oct. 24, 2023	Feb. 13, 2024
State Coaches Mtg. (4 p.m.)	Nov. 28, 2023	Mar. 05, 2024
COMPETITION DATES:		
Regionals	Oct. 28, 2023	Feb. 24, 2024
State	Dec. 1-2, 2023 or Dec 2 & 9, 2023	Mar. 8-9, 2024 or Mar. 9 & 16, 2024
HS - Nationals - Wilmington, Delaware	-----	May 2-4, 2024

Our school is registering a Trial team with the South Carolina Bar's Mock Trial competition. By signing the online authorization form, we (principal, lead teacher coach and assistant teacher coach(s)) agree to abide by the rules of the Mock Trial competition as contained in the competition materials. Should it become necessary to withdraw from the competition for any reason, we agree that we will inform the State Coordinator ***no later than the stated deadline.***

As **principal**, I understand the lead teacher coach designated on the Authorization Form is directly responsible for the Mock Trial team. I understand the lead teacher coach responsibilities and deadlines and understand as principal, I will routinely follow up with the lead teacher coach throughout the team's preparation. This will ensure the team is preparing the entire Mock Trial season as teams need preparation, understanding and rehearsal time. If at any time the lead teacher coach or assistant teacher coach is replaced, I will notify the SC Bar immediately and update the coaching information.

As **lead teacher coach or assistant teacher coach(s)**, I understand that I am directly responsible for meeting all deadlines noted on previous page as to not jeopardize the team's eligibility and carrying out the duties of a teacher coach as follows:

As lead teacher coach or assistant teacher coach, I will fulfill the following responsibilities:

- Submit registration paperwork and payment;
- Promote Mock Trial for purposes of recruiting students;
- Seek an attorney coach and work with the students to ensure they are prepared to work with the attorney coach;
- Conduct auditions and hold meetings/practices;
- Complete, collect and submit necessary paperwork prior to deadlines;
- Meet with parents prior to the competition;
- Monitor forum discussions for updates to the case, rules, and/or competition;
- Respond to e-mails from the SC Bar in a timely manner not to exceed 4 days from receipt; and
- Remain in communication with SC Bar and school's principal on the team's status throughout the Mock Trial season.

We understand as the principal, lead teacher coach and/or assistant teacher coach, our failure to inform the State Coordinator promptly of the withdrawal of our school from the competition results in an extreme hardship to the other schools in our region and state as a whole, as well as to the other individuals who have volunteered their time to assist with this effort. We also understand that, absent extenuating circumstances, our team's failure to appear at the regional and/or state competition without prior notice by the drop deadline results in a one-year suspension from the competition.

23/24 Mock Trial Registration Link

REGISTRATION LINK

[Form.JotForm.com/212624879996072](https://form.jotform.com/212624879996072)

Middle Schools due Aug. 25 (\$225) with no late fee
Middle Schools due Aug. 26 - Sept. 7 with additional \$50 late fee

High Schools due Sept. 28 (\$225) with no late fee
High Schools due Sept. 29 - Oct. 12 with additional \$50 late fee

23/24 Authorization Form Link

AUTHORIZATION FORM LINK

[Form.JotForm.com/212793642665161](https://form.jotform.com/212793642665161)

Must be initially completed by lead teacher coach. Upon completion a link will be sent to the lead teacher and can be forwarded to additional teachers and principal for signature. Registration is not complete until all signatures are submitted.

23/24 Payment Portal Link

PAYMENT PORTAL LINK

[Form.JotForm.com/212625240360040](https://form.jotform.com/212625240360040)

Registration Fee \$225
Late Fee \$50
Timecards \$25

***ALL NEW TEAMS MUST PURCHASE A SET OF TIMECARDS TO COMPETE THIS YEAR.**

If your school purchased a set of timecards in prior years, a new set is not required for purchase - but must be brought to competition.

FREE Training

August 31, 2023 in Columbia

APPLY FOR TRAINING HERE

[JotForm.com/form/212083543931048](https://form.jotform.com/form/212083543931048)