

Application for Competition



2023 MSMT State Champs Palmetto Academy of Learning and Success, 2024 HSMT State Champs Strom Thurmond High School, Chief Justice Kittredge, Chief Judge Williams and Judge Vinson of Court of Appeals

2024-25 South Carolina Bar Mock Trial

The South Carolina Bar Law Related Education Division (LRE) invites public, private, home schools and co-ops throughout the state to participate in our middle and high school Mock Trial programs. Each participating school enters a team comprised of **at least 6 students** sponsored by a teacher coach and preferably assisted by an attorney coach who LRE can help coordinate.

The goals of Mock Trial are to educate students about the American judicial system and the fundamentals of litigation, and increase cooperation, respect and support between the community and the legal profession. Through participation in Mock Trial, students sharpen their basic skills of **listening, public speaking, writing, reading and analyzing**. The goal 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 language arts and social studies standards.

www.scbar.org/lre/msmt

www.scbar.org/lre/hsmt



Free Training and Resources

- In-person or webinar **training for new teacher and attorney coaches**
- SC Bar Mock Trial **resources and materials on our website**, including student training and recruitment **videos**
- **Official Coach's Manual** with coaching tools, suggestions, lesson plans, handouts, activities and more



The SC Bar Middle and High School Mock Trial Program is presented by the South Carolina Bar Law Related Education Division and supported by an IOLTA grant from the South Carolina Bar Foundation. For more information, please contact Law Related Education Director Donald N. Lanier at (803) 252-5139 or dlanier@scbar.org.

How to Enter

REGISTRATION INFORMATION Complete the [online registration](#) and [authorization form](#). Registration may be completed without student names and payment to meet the registration deadline and avoid a late fee.

REGIONALS REGISTRATION FEE The \$225 registration fee can be submitted by check, credit card or purchase order. **Checks** should be made payable to SC Bar LRE Division. If paying by **credit card**, payment **must be made online**. If payment is requested through a **purchase order**, indicate on the registration that a purchase order has been requested and submit a copy of the purchase order via email. 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 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 on the SC Bar's website no later than the first business day in August. Case materials are released online by 5 p.m. on August 15.

DISCUSSION FORUM An online discussion forum is available for Mock Trial teachers, attorney coaches and students at [discussions.scbars.org](#). **Any updates to rules or case materials are posted on this forum.** Questions concerning the competition, rules, and case are to be submitted through the forum or by email. **No questions are answered by telephone/email.** The forum closes 10 business days prior to the regional competition at noon, and is open for a shorter period between regional and state competitions. Teams interested in virtual or in-person scrimmages may post scrimmage requests on the forum.

ATTORNEY COACHES Teams are encouraged to have an attorney coach assist with the mechanics of a trial and provide a better understanding of the law and its application. Schools may look

to an attorney who coached a previous year, is a PTA member, or works within the community. If an attorney coach cannot be obtained through these options, the SC Bar can assist with finding one for your team, but this does not guarantee one can be secured. **An attorney is a volunteer for the school and not the SC Bar.** Attorney coaches should obtain and follow the school or district policy on adult/minor interactions. Attorney coaches receive pro bono credit for the hours they volunteer.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS LRE presents annual awards to recognize supporters of our programs. Teachers are eligible for **LRE Teacher of the Year**. Individuals such as SROs, administrators and non-teachers are eligible for **LRE Citizen of the Year**, and attorney volunteers are eligible for **LRE Lawyer of the Year**. High School Mock Trial seniors may apply for **\$1000 scholarships** to apply toward higher education. Applications and nomination forms for these awards are available online and **due March 20, 2025**. Questions about awards and scholarships can be directed to dlanier@scbar.org or (803) 252-5139.

COURTROOM SKETCH ARTISTS AND JOURNALISTS

Courtroom sketch artist and journalist competitions have been incorporated into the Mock Trial program at the **regional high school level only**. Participating 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 a school's competing Mock Trial team. See Competition Handbook for details.

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. A team withdrawal form signed by the lead teacher coach and school principal must be submitted prior to the drop deadline. **Absent extenuating circumstances, failure to appear at a competition, or withdrawal after the drop deadline subjects that team to a one-year suspension from the competition.**



2024-25 Competition Dates

Middle School

Regionals - November 9, 2024

State - December 6-7, 2024

High School

Regionals - February 22, 2025

State - March 7-8, 2025

Nationals - Phoenix, Arizona

May 8-10, 2025

Authorization Form

Our school is registering a team for 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 LRE 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 for 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, I understand that I am directly responsible for meeting all deadlines to not jeopardize the team's eligibility, and will carry out the duties of a teacher coach as follows:

- Submit registration paperwork and payment
- Promote Mock Trial for purposes of recruiting students
- Seek an attorney coach and prepare the students 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 promptly to emails from the SC Bar (not to exceed 4 days from receipt)
- Remain in communication with the SC Bar and school 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 after the deadline results in an extreme hardship to the other schools in our region, state and individuals who have volunteered their time to assist with this program. Absent extenuating circumstances, failure to appear at a competition, or withdrawal after the drop deadline will result in a one year suspension from the competition.

Mock Trial Registration

REGISTRATION FORM

Middle School Registration

Registration through August 30 | \$225

Late registration August 31 – September 12 | \$275 (\$225 + \$50 late fee)

High School Registration

Registration through September 26 | \$225

Late registration September 27 – October 10 | \$275 (\$225 + \$50 late fee)

Artist/Journalist Registration January 17, 2025

AUTHORIZATION FORM

Must be completed by the principal, lead teacher coach, and any assistant teacher coaches.

PAYMENT PORTAL

Registration Fee \$225

Late Fee \$50

Timecards \$25

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

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.

REGISTER FOR TRAINING

2024-25 MOCK TRIAL TRAINING

August 29, 2024 in Columbia

Online 24-hour access