

Orange County Mock Trial Competition

Orientation Packet



Constitutional Rights
Foundation
ORANGE COUNTY

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Mock Trial -- An Introduction

Welcome to the Orange County's High School Mock Trial Program! We're looking forward to working with you in an effort to make this year's Mock Trial Competition a complete success. Each year in the Fall, student teams from over 40 local high schools with the guidance of attorney and teacher coaches prepare for Orange County's Mock Trial Competition. We hope your team finds the case and the experience to be both exciting and educational, for students and teachers alike.

Enclosed in this packet, you will find details relating specifically to the Orange County Mock Trial Program. This packet is designed to enhance and supplement both the formal mock trial case packet and the competition rules. Should you have any question not answered in this packet, please contact CRF-OC Program Director, Wendy Townsend at wtownsend@crfoc.org or 714.259.1521 x102.

On behalf of the Constitutional Rights Foundation of Orange County, we'd like to thank you for your support of this program and its ongoing effort to promote legal and civic education among Orange County's youth. Mock Trial has a proven track record of improving student's reading, writing and oral presentation skills. It has also been a powerful source of personal confidence for countless student participants. CRF-OC is proud of this program, but there can be no doubt: Orange County's High School Mock Trial would not be possible without you.

Objectives and Ethics

A copy of the Program Objectives and Code of Ethics is located on page 4 of the case packet. Additionally, CRF-OC has included the two following items as an addendum to the Code of Ethics for the purposes of the Orange County Mock Trial Program. Please, take the time to read and discuss the Program Objectives and the Code of Ethics with your students.

1. Students who feel that the Code of Ethics was not strictly observed during the competition may bring their grievance to the attention of the Presiding Judge. CRF-OC staff *will not* hear complaints after the round of competition has been completed.
2. In keeping with the professional atmosphere in which the competition is conducted, frivolous grievances may cost the accusatory team up to 5 points. This point deduction will be exercised entirely at the Court's discretion.

3. Procedures for raising challenges:

- Judges/Scorers

If you object to a judge or scoring attorney assigned to your match, such objection must be raised to CRF-OC staff before the match begins. Any objections not raised before the match begins are waived. CRF-OC staff retains full discretion concerning how to handle any challenge raised. When appropriate, CRF-OC staff will attempt to substitute another scorer for any scorers removed due to objections, but may be unable to do so.

In determining how to respond to such challenges, staff will be guided by the principle that there are three recognized grounds for objecting to a scorer: (1) a scoring attorney/judge is the coach of another mock trial team, (2) a scoring attorney works for the same firm as the coach of the opposing mock trial team, or (3) a scoring attorney/judge has a son/daughter who participates on

another mock trial team. Staff members, however, will retain the discretion to deal with challenges raised on other grounds according to their judgment. Challenges based on the temperament of the scorer will not result in removal of the scorer.

- Win/Loss result

It is the goal of the Constitutional Rights Foundation of Orange County that every student who participates in the mock trial competition shall have his/her performance fairly evaluated by the volunteer scoring attorneys. There is a high degree of subjectivity inherent in the scoring of mock trial competitions. There will often be wide disagreement about the scores given to particular performances. Nevertheless, there may be instances when a mock trial coach believes it is appropriate to challenge the result of a match and/or a score as the result of a mistake or impropriety. Such challenges must be submitted to the CRF-OC in writing, received the day of the competition or the next business day thereafter. CRF-OC will provide a copy of the challenge and the scores at issue to the other team involved in the disputed match and invite comment from its teacher and/or coach. CRF-OC will retain complete discretion as to how to handle challenges submitted. Generally, CRF-OC will not disclose which scorer completed which scorecard. In the event that CRF-OC makes a finding that there is clear and convincing evidence that a mistake or intentional impropriety occurred, CRF-OC may announce a correction to a previously announced score and re-determine the winner of a particular match according to the corrected score.

Mock Trial Scoring, Scheduling and Other Important Details

I. Score Notification

1. For each round of competition, the win/loss results will be posted on the CRF-OC web site: <http://www.crfoc.org>
2. The official team score sheets will be EMAILED to the schools within 24 hours of the competition.
3. Scoring information **will not** be given out via telephone, fax or additional email addresses other than the teams' official email address.

II. Scheduling

1. Preliminary Rounds of Competition:

Round 1 - Tuesday, November 16, 2010

Round 2 - Thursday, November 18, 2010

Round 3 - Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Round 4 - Thursday, December 2, 2010

2. Final (single elimination) Rounds of Competition:

Round 5 - Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Round 6 - Thursday, December 9, 2010

Round 7 - Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Round 8 - Saturday, December 18, 2010 (Match 1: 9am - 12:00pm Match 2: 1:00pm - 4:00pm)

3. Each team must check in at the Central Justice Center by 5:00 p.m. We ask that students respect the sanctity of the courthouse, while waiting for the trials to begin. Orange County Superior Court will be in session until 5:00 p.m. We ask that students remember to exercise proper courthouse etiquette in the hallways of the Justice Center.
4. Other Important Dates:
 - Mock Trial Awards Luncheon - TBA
Friday, February 5, 2010, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
 - California Mock Trial State Championship: www.crf_uas.org
 - National Mock Trial Championship: www.nationalmocktrials.org

III. Competition Format

1. The pairings for rounds 1-4 will be decided in a **random** fashion, with no team competing against the same team twice. Each team will be assured of competing twice as prosecution and twice as defense. First round assignments determine a team's order of prosecution/defense rotation for rounds 1-4.
2. Upon completion of round 4, only the top 16 teams will advance to round 5. Advancement will be determined by win/loss record. In the event of a tie, the **average percentage of points received per round** will be the deciding factor.
3. Round 5 commences the single elimination format. The top sixteen teams will be seeded according to their win-loss record and average percentage of points earned. During this, and the remaining rounds, a concerted effort will be made to match teams according to the following criteria:
 - A. That each team compete against a team not previously encountered.
 - B. That teams reverse prosecution/defense roles in each consecutive round.
 - C. That the overall seeding format (i.e. power matching) is preserved.

Scoring Rounds 1-7: Winners of each round will be determined by the team that has won the most scorecards during the match. The team with the most points on a scorecard wins the card. If there is a tie the team with the highest number of total points from all scorecards wins. If there is still a tie the presiding judge will be the decider.

Scoring the Final Round: Scoring during the final round is slightly different than the previous rounds. Both the morning and afternoon matches will have different presiding judges. The Champion team will be determined by the team who has won both matches. Winners of each match will be determined by the team that has won the most scorecards during the match. (The team with the most points on the scorecard wins the card). If there is a tie (both teams have won 1 match) the team with the highest number of total points from all scorecards wins. If there is still a tie the more senior presiding judge will be the decider.

IV. Team Rosters / Award Nomination Forms

1. ***Each team must bring to each round of competition 5 completed copies of their Prosecution/Defense Roster Form.*** (The forms for prosecution and defense assignments are included in this packet.)
2. The team roster will include the students' names and the role that each of the participants will be performing during that round of competition.
3. The rosters will be distributed to the judge and attorney-scorekeepers.

V. Timing

1. The clerk will record the precise time elapsed during each section of the presentation.
2. When "Time!" is called, the student speaking must immediately end the presentation. There will be no allowance for overtime.
3. Refer to the California Mock Trial Competition Team Rule Book for more details regarding timing.

VI. Odd Number of Teams

1. We ask that each team indicate on the teacher-sponsor agreement form if they have enough students to present both prosecution and defense cases in the same evening.
2. In the event that an odd number of schools register for the competition, CRF-OC staff will select a substitute team for each round. The substitute team will be chosen at random from those teams that have indicated their availability.
3. The substitute team's score will not count toward overall team rankings.

VII. Award Nominations

1. In order to show appreciation for the extensive volunteer efforts of teachers, judges, attorneys, and law firms, we ask that each school fill out the attached *Nomination for Outstanding Contribution* form (page 16).
2. All nominations must be submitted to CRF-OC staff by December 12, 2009.

VIII. Bailiff/Clerk

1. Each team is responsible for training the bailiff and/or clerk prior to the competition.
2. Bailiffs and clerks will be scored during competition.

IX. Annual Mock Trial Courtroom Art Contest and Journalism Contest

1. The Courtroom Art Contest will be during the first 4 rounds of the Orange County Mock Trial Competition.

2. Contestants must complete the attached Courtroom Art Contest Registration Form.
3. Registration Forms must be submitted by the first round for a contestant to be eligible for participation.
4. Please read the attached flyers for official rules and further details.

XI. Security at the Central Justice Center

1. The Central Justice Center is a full security facility. All persons entering the facility will be required to pass through a weapons screening device. Weapons of any type will not be permitted in the Central Justice Center. The Orange County Sheriff's Department reserves the right to determine what does and does not constitute a weapon. We advise participants in the Mock Trial Program to leave all potentially dangerous objects at home.

Team Structure Guidelines

The rules regarding team structure are located in the California Mock Trial Competition Rules. In addition to these rules we would like to make the following recommendations in order to ensure that your team and your school get the most out of their Mock Trial experience.

1. We strongly recommend that you utilize the maximum allowable number of student attorneys. We recommend that you use different attorneys to do opening statements and closing arguments. We also recommend that each trial attorney perform at least one direct examination and one cross-examination.
2. We urge you to involve as many students as possible in other support roles, such as researchers, understudies, evidence monitors, photographers, and videographers.
3. We would like to remind you that Mock Trial teams must consist of a minimum of eight and a maximum of twenty students, not including the courtroom artists and/or journalists.
4. We are offering the optional competition for courtroom artists and journalists during the first four rounds. We encourage you to inform students of this opportunity. Information regarding these contests is included in each team packet, and we are happy to answer any questions you may have.
5. Schools may enter more than one Team but, all members of each team must compete exclusively for the team upon which they are registered. The two teams if drawn to play each other will be randomly redrawn for that round of competition. Teams are encouraged to title the teams with names that do not indicate a ranking. (i.e. Blue team and Gold team not Varsity and JV, or Team 1 and Team 2).



Orange County Mock Trial Competition Parent/Student Agreement Form

As a condition of participation in this year's CRF-OC Mock Trial Competition, I agree to abide by all rules specified in the California Mock Trial Competition Rules packet as well as any other rules, guidelines, or regulations deemed appropriate by CRF-OC. I understand that any failure on the part of any member or affiliate of my team to adhere to these rules will result in the disqualification of my entire team.

School

Mock Trial Team Member Name (PLEASE PRINT)

Participant Email Address (PLEASE PRINT)

Parent/Guardian Name (PLEASE PRINT)

Parent/ Guardian Email Address (PLEASE PRINT)

Address

City/Zip

Mock Trial Team Member Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Mock Trial Competition Media Release

The Constitutional Rights Foundation of Orange County (CRF-OC) has my permission to take photographs of my child, and use those photographs, along with information pertaining to the identity of my child, for the purposes of CRF-OC promotions and publicity. I understand that these images will not be used for profit or commercial endeavors, but rather to encourage future participation in CRF-OC sponsored events. I understand that my child's photograph and information pertaining to his/her identity may appear in various media outlets including, but not limited to CRF-OC flyers, newspaper articles, magazine publications, computer communications (e.g. electronic mail, internet promotions), and television. I further understand that signing this release is voluntary and not a condition of participation in the Mock Trial Program.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date



Constitutional Rights
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ORANGE COUNTY

Orange County Mock Trial Competition Team Members Code of Ethics

As a condition of participation in the California Mock Trial Program, each student participant must carefully read the statement below, then sign to acknowledge her/his commitment to the statement.

As a participant in the California Mock Trial Program, I pledge to adhere to the same high standards of scholarship that are expected of me, as a student, in my academic performance. I understand that plagiarism of any kind is unacceptable. I understand that all written and oral work done in conjunction with this program must be my own. In relation to other teams and individuals with whom I come in contact through participation in this program, I pledge to make a commitment to act with good sportsmanship and respect for others in both victory and defeat. I agree to follow all rules as set by CRF-OC Mock Trial staff. I acknowledge that my actions will reflect upon my whole team, and I promise to take personal responsibility for my actions throughout the competition.

School: _____

1. Name (print): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

2. Name (print): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

3. Name (print): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

4. Name (print): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

5. Name (print): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

6. Name (print): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

7. Name (print): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

8. Name (print): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

9. Name (print): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

10. Name (print): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

11. Name (print): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

12. Name (print): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

13. Name (print): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

14. Name (print): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

15. Name (print): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

16. Name (print): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

17. Name (print): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

18. Name (print): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

19. Name (print): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

20. Name (print): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

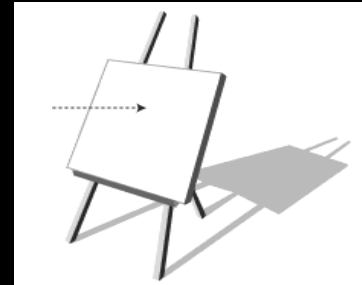
Courtroom Artist: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Journalist: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Additional courtroom artists & journalists may sign on the back of this form.



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COURTROOM ART CONTEST

CRF-OC invites you to participate in this year's Mock Trial Courtroom Art Contest. Showcase your artistic talent - participate in Mock Trial - have your work judged by local artists!

What is the Courtroom Art Contest?

The Courtroom Art Contest is a competition that allows artistically talented students to participate in the Mock Trial Program.

Who may enter?

Each Mock Trial Team may enter up to three contestants for the courtroom art contest. Each contestant must attend the same high school as the Mock Trial team, be eligible for participation in extra-curricular activities, and register for the competition by the first round of competition.

How does the contest work?

The contest will be held during Rounds 1-4 of the Mock Trial competition. Contestants will be assigned to the same courtroom as their respective school. Sketches must portray actual courtroom scenes observed during the round of competition, and must be the sole work of the artist submitting the sketch. The drawing must be on 11" x 14" paper, in landscape format. Any dry medium may be used. Contestants may make several drawings during the round, but may only submit one to be considered for judging. Awards will be presented at the Mock Trial Awards Luncheon and the winner of the contest will be eligible to compete at the California Mock Trial Finals.

Dates: November 16th, 18th, 30th and December 2nd

Location: Central Justice Center
700 Civic Center Drive, West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Time: 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Wendy Townsend at 714.259.1521 x102 or wtownsend@crfoc.org

Orange County Mock Trial COURTROOM ART CONTEST Official Rules

- Contestants must register for the competition by the first round of competition.
- Each Orange County Mock Trial team may enroll up to three courtroom artists.
- Competition will be held during the first 4 Rounds of the Mock Trial competition
- Before the competition, contestants must check in on the third floor of the Central Justice Center.
- During the trials, all contestants must sit in the jury box in the row below the scorekeepers. If there is not room in the jury box, or the presiding judge asks the contestant not to sit in the jury box, a contestant may sit in the front row of spectator seating, away from the witnesses.
- Once contestants are in the jury box, they may not have any contact with anyone from their respective schools.
- Sketches must portray an actual courtroom scene observed during the trial. Entries must be pure drawings, without written words.
- The drawing must be on 11” x 14” paper, in landscape (horizontal) format. Any dry medium may be used. Please be aware of the possibility of smudging.
- Contestants may make as many drawings as you wish during the round, but may only submit one to be considered for judging.
- Contestants must submit their work to CRF-OC staff at the conclusion of the trial, following the debriefing remarks (approx. 5-10 minutes after the verdict). Please drop your drawing off at the Mock Trial registration table located on the second floor of the courthouse by the elevators.
- Awards for the Courtroom Art Contest are independent of the Orange County Mock Trial Competition; an individual may win a Courtroom Art Contest award regardless of the Mock Trial team’s final ranking.



Orange County Mock Trial COURTROOM ART CONTEST Official Registration Form

Student Name: _____

School Name: _____

School District: _____ City: _____

I have received a copy of the Orange County Mock Trial Courtroom Art Contest Official Rules. As a condition of participation, I agree to follow all rules and regulations as specified by CRF-OC. I agree to abide by the Code of Ethics as specified on page 4 of the Mock Trial Case Packet. I understand that the failure of any team member or affiliate of our team to adhere to these rules will result in the disqualification of my entire team.

I also understand that CRF-OC reserves the right to exhibit submitted contest entries, without compensation, in various formats and at various venues for the purposes of CRF-OC promotions. I understand that I may contact CRF-OC at the conclusion of the Mock Trial Program to arrange to pick up my submission.

Signature of Contestant

Date

Signature of Teacher Sponsor

Date

Name of Parent or Guardian (please print)

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Home Address / City / State / Zip

E-Mail

Phone Number

For questions about CRF-OC's Courtroom Art Contest,
contact Wendy Townsend at 714.259.1521 x102



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ORANGE COUNTY



COURTROOM JOURNALISM CONTEST

CRF-OC invites you to participate in this year's Mock Trial Courtroom Journalism Contest. Showcase your writing talent - participate in Mock Trial - have your work judged by local journalists!

What is the Courtroom Journalism Contest?

The Courtroom Journalism Contest is a competition that allows students interested in a career in journalism to participate in the Mock Trial Program.

Who may enter?

Each Mock Trial Team may enter up to three contestants for the courtroom journalism contest. Each contestant must attend at the same school as the Mock Trial team, be eligible for participation in extra-curricular activities, and register for the competition by the first round of competition.

How does the contest work?

The contest will be held during Rounds 1-4 of the Mock Trial competition. Contestants will be assigned to the same courtroom as their respective school. Contestants will observe the proceedings and write an article, 500-700 words, about the case. Each entry must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on the following day. All entries will be judged by local journalists. Awards will be presented at the Mock Trial Awards Luncheon and the winner of the contest will be eligible to compete at the California Mock Trial Finals.

Date: November 16th, 18th, 30th and December 2nd

Location: Central Justice Center
700 Civic Center Drive, West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Time: 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Wendy Townsend at 714.259.1521 x102 or wtownsend@crfoc.org

Orange County Mock Trial COURTROOM JOURNALISM CONTEST Official Rules

- Contestants must register for the competition by the first round of competition.
- Each Orange County Mock Trial team may enroll up to three courtroom journalists.
- Competition will be held during the first 4 Rounds of the Mock Trial competition.
- Before the competition, contestants must check-in on the third floor of the Central Justice Center.
- During the trials, all contestants must sit in the jury box in the row below the scorekeepers. If there is not room in the jury box, a contestant may sit in the front row of spectator seating, apart from the witnesses.
- Once contestants are in the jury box, they may not have any contact with any other individuals.
- Interviews are not allowed. Any quotations must come directly from what was said in the courtroom during the competition. Contestants are permitted to ask for copies of team rosters.
- Contestants will have 24 hours to complete their articles and deliver them to CRF-OC. For example the contest begins at 5:00 pm on the day of Round 1 All entries must be received by CRF-OC via fax (714.258.8727), email (wtownsend@crfoc.org), or hand delivery (15411 Redhill, Suite B, Tustin) by 5:00 p.m. of the day following the court observation.
- Submissions must be typed, titled, and between 500-700 words.
- Awards for the Courtroom Journalism Contest are independent of the Orange County Mock Trial Competition; an individual may win a Courtroom Journalism Contest award regardless of the Mock Trial team's final ranking.

Orange County Mock Trial COURTROOM JOURNALISM CONTEST Official Registration Form

Student Name: _____

School Name: _____

School District: _____ City: _____

I have received a copy of the Orange County Mock Trial Courtroom Journalism Contest Official Rules. As a condition of participation, I agree to follow all rules and regulations as specified by CRF-OC. I agree to abide by the Code of Ethics as specified on page 4 of the Mock Trial Case Packet. I understand that the failure of any team member or affiliate of our team to adhere to these rules will result in the disqualification of my entire team.

I also understand that CRF-OC reserves the right to publish contest submissions, without compensation, in various formats and through various mediums for the purposes of CRF-OC promotions.

Signature of Student Journalist Date

Signature of Teacher Sponsor Date

Name of Parent or Guardian (please print)

Signature of Parent or Guardian Date

Home Address / City / State / Zip **E-Mail** Phone Number

For questions about CRF-OC's Courtroom Art Contest,
contact Wendy Townsend at 714.259.1521 x102

Mock Trial Errata

To view updates to the case packet please go to CRF (Los Angles) website:
<http://www.crf-usa.org/mock-trial-california/errata.html>

We suggest you assign a student to check their website weekly and before each round of competition to receive updates and ensure your team continues to practice with accurate information.

For questions about the case or to submit case errata please contact:

Laura Wesley
Constitutional Rights Foundation
601 S Kingsley Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90005
laura@crf-usa.org
www.crf-usa.org