



**Orange County  
High School Mock Trial  
Competition**

**2017-2018  
Orientation Handbook**

4101 Westerly Place, Suite 101, Newport Beach, CA 92660  
Phone: 949.679.0730 Fax: 949.679.0740 Website: [www.crfoc.org](http://www.crfoc.org)

# Table of Contents

<b>Mock Trial – An Introduction</b> .....	3
<b>Mock Trial Program Notices for 2017</b> .....	3
<b>Objective and Ethics</b> .....	4
<b>Mock Trial Scoring, Scheduling &amp; Other Important Details</b> .....	6
<b>I. Score Notification</b> .....	6
<b>II. Scheduling</b> .....	6
<b>III. Arrival &amp; Check-in Procedure</b> .....	7
<b>IV. Competition Format</b> .....	8
<b>V. Team Rosters/Award Nominations Forms</b> .....	8
<b>VI. Timing</b> .....	8
<b>VII. Odd Number of Teams</b> .....	9
<b>VIII. Award Nominations</b> .....	9
<b>IX. Bailiff/Clerk</b> .....	10
<b>X. Mock Trial Courtroom Art &amp; Journalism Contests</b> .....	10
<b>XI. Security at the Central Justice Center</b> .....	10
<b>Team Structure Guidelines</b> .....	11
<b>Mock Trial Errata</b> .....	11

## Mock Trial – An Introduction

Welcome to the Orange County High School Mock Trial Program! We look forward to working with you to make this year's Mock Trial competition a success. Each fall, over 45 teams from local high schools, with the guidance of attorney and teacher coaches, prepare for Orange County's Mock Trial competition. We hope you and your team find this year's case, as well as the Mock Trial experience, to be exciting and educational.

In the pages that follow, you will find logistical details about 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 questions not answered herein, please contact CRF-OC Program Manager, Theresa Bernard at [tbernard@crfoc.org](mailto:tbernard@crfoc.org) or 949.679.0730 x101.

### Mock Trial Program Notices for 2017

#### Second Teams

Schools may request a maximum of two teams. All schools wishing to enter a second team into the competition may request to do so on their school registration form. Schools will be notified after registration closes on September 29, 2017 whether they will be permitted a second team. Should the number of schools requesting an additional team exceed the number of spaces available, the Mock Trial Committee may use a random lottery to determine which schools are permitted a second team.

#### Online Registration

Teachers must complete the online school registration form by **September 29, 2017**. Once your team is registered, please instruct your students to complete the online student registration form with their parents as they are required to initial portions of the form. If your student does not have internet access at home, please request a paper form from Program Manager Theresa Bernard.

#### Case Materials and Other Competition Forms

After registering, schools will be issued a username and password to the CRF-OC website to access the case packet and other competition materials and documents. Where possible, PDF fillable forms have been created for your convenience.

#### Team Rosters

Teachers are required to submit a team roster to CRF-OC through an online google document form no later than **October 30, 2017**. Please be sure to indicate your team captain on the roster where indicated. After the conclusion of Round 1, schools with multiple teams cannot move students from one team roster to another. Teachers should notify CRF-OC staff if anyone on their team drops out of the competition after the October 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. ***Note: The team roster referred to here is separate from the Mock Trial Roster/Award Nomination Form.***

## **Mock Trial Roster/Award Nomination Form & Matchup Notifications**

The Mock Trial Roster/Award nomination form is an important document that must be filled out completely and accurately to ensure that all award nominations and comments are correctly attributed. Each team must **bring 5 copies of this form** with them to each round of the competition, using the appropriate form for whichever side competes (prosecution or defense). This form is Adobe pdf type-enabled for your convenience.

To ensure the competition starts on time and that the form is accurate, there is a new policy this year. All teams are required to post the order of their prosecution and defense witnesses on a shared google document sheet. On the morning of each round of the competition, CRF-OC will email the round's matchups to teachers. After determining which school your team will be paired against, teams can look up the witness order on the shared google document. This will enable teams to fill out the roster completely *before* arriving at the courthouse.

*CRF-OC strongly recommends typing this form.* Typing the form will increase legibility and eliminate the need to handwrite the roster multiple times. Teachers may delegate this responsibility to their team captains and CRF-OC will include team captains in the email with matchups unless otherwise instructed by the coaches. Teams should verify that the roster is correct with the other team before the start of the trial.

## **Posting of Courtroom Assignments**

All teams should remain in the cafeteria area on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Central Justice Center until 5:00 pm. In order to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion on the elevators, CRF-OC staff will post courtroom assignments in two groups. Shortly before 5:00 pm, CRF-OC staff will announce the teams in the first group. If your team is announced, one representative (such as the team captain or coach) should come forward and CRF-OC staff will post the courtroom assignments. Once the first group of teams leave the cafeteria, CRF-OC will post the courtroom assignments for the remaining teams.

## **Competition Updates on Social Media**

CRF-OC invites you and your students to follow us on Twitter @OC\_Mock\_Trial for competition updates, including notifications on the release of scores.

We also encourage both adults and students to tag photos from the competition using #CRFOCMT and to follow us on Instagram @crf\_oc and facebook.com/CRFOCMockTrial.

This season CRF-OC will have a social media challenge for teams participating in the competition. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team. Further details will be announced in October.

## **Objective and Ethics**

A copy of the Program Objectives and Code of Ethics can be found in the case packet. Additionally, CRF-OC has included the following three 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 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 or the objection is waived. CRF-OC staff retains full discretion concerning how to handle any challenge. When appropriate, CRF-OC staff will attempt to substitute another judge/scorer for any judge/scorer 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/judge 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.

CRF-OC staff members retain the authority 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 Program Manager in writing and received by CRF-OC staff no later than 5:00pm the day following the match in question. 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 retains sole authority about to how to handle properly submitted challenges. 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 & Other Important Details

### I. Score Notification

1. For each round of competition, the win/loss results will be posted on the Mock Trial page of the CRF-OC website at: <https://www.crfoc.org/programs/mock-trial>. During the preliminary rounds, CRF-OC staff will make every effort to publish the win/loss results online by noon the following day. During the playoffs, staff will make every effort to publish the win/loss results online the same evening as the trial. Teams should check CRF-OC's Mock Trial Twitter account for updates on the release of scores.
2. Individual scores will be **e-mailed** to the **teacher and attorney coach(es)** of each team. CRF-OC staff will not send individual scores to students. Every effort will be made to have individual scores distributed within 24 hours of the competition. If comments are provided by volunteers on the Team/Roster Award Nomination forms, staff will send them with the individual results. Please note that not all volunteers provide comments.
3. Scoring information **will not** be given out via telephone, fax or to additional e-mail addresses other than the teams' teacher and attorney coach(es).

### II. Scheduling

Rounds 1-7 start promptly at 5:15 pm and typically end around 7:30 pm.

1. Preliminary Rounds of Competition for 2017-2018:

Round 1- Tuesday, November 14  
Round 2 –Thursday, November 16  
Round 3 –Tuesday, November 28  
Round 4- Thursday, November 30

2. Final (single elimination) Rounds of Competition:

Round 5 – Tuesday, December 5 (Sweet 16)  
Round 6 – Thursday, December 7 (Elite Eight)  
Round 7 – **Monday**, December 11 (Final Four)  
Round 8 – Saturday, December 16 (Match 1: 9:00am - 12:00pm; Match 2: 1:00pm -4:00pm)

3. Other Important Dates:

School Registration Deadline: **Wednesday, September 29, 2017**  
Student Registration Deadline: **Monday, October 30, 2017**  
Team Roster Due: **Monday, October 30, 2017**

Team Registration Fee Due: **Tuesday, November 7, 2017**

Mock Trial Awards Reception: Award winners will be notified in January 2018

Date: February 8, 2018, 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Location: UCI's Student Center – Crystal Cove Auditorium

A311 Student Center, Irvine, CA 92697

California Mock Trial State Championship: March 16-18, 2018 in Orange County

For more information please visit the CRF-USA website: [www.crf-usa.org](http://www.crf-usa.org)

National Mock Trial Championship: May 10-13, 2018 in Reno, NV

For more information visit: [www.nationalmocktrials.org](http://www.nationalmocktrials.org)

### III. **Arrival & Check-in Procedure**

1. Teams should allow plenty of time for traffic when heading to the courthouse. CRF-OC recommends avoiding the 55 freeway and checking local traffic conditions prior to travel.
2. For teams/spectators/parents that do not take buses to the courthouse, CRF-OC strongly advises parking in the open lot directly across the street from the front entrance of the Central Justice Center (map and parking guide is linked on the CRF-OC Mock Trial page). There may be a charge for using this lot (cash only). For safety reasons, CRF-OC does not advise parking in the public parking structures near the courthouse. CRF-OC does not validate parking.
3. Teams should enter through the front entrance of the Central Justice Center on Civic Center Drive West.
4. After going through security, teams should take the escalators directly to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor cafeteria. **Teams should not loiter on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Central Justice Center.**
5. A responsible adult should accompany the team to the courthouse.
6. School check-in opens at 4:30pm. The school check-in tables are located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Central Justice Center. Teams cannot check-in until an adult is present and all students competing (that round) are present. All teams should be checked in by 5:00 pm.
7. **Students are to remain in the cafeteria until directed by CRF-OC staff to proceed to their assigned courtroom. Students may not leave the cafeteria before 5:00 pm.** The Orange County Superior Court is in session until 5:00 pm and students are reminded to exercise proper courthouse etiquette in the hallways of the Justice Center.

#### IV. Competition Format

1. The pairings for rounds 1-4 will be decided by a random draw, 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 first by win/loss record. In the event of a tie, the highest average point differential for the first four rounds 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 point differential. During this, and the remaining rounds, a concerted effort will be made to match teams according to the following criteria:
  - i. That each team competes against a team not previously encountered.
  - ii. That teams reverse prosecution/defense roles in each consecutive round.
  - iii. That the overall seeding format is preserved.
4. **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 the teams are still tied the presiding judge will determine the winner of the round.
5. **Scoring the Final Round:** Scoring during the final round is slightly different than in previous rounds and the procedure varies depending on the number of scorers present at the morning and afternoon sessions. For a detailed explanation of the procedures, contact Program Manager Theresa Bernard.

#### V. Team Rosters/Award Nominations Forms

1. For each round of the competition, every team must bring five (5) completed copies of their Prosecution/Defense Roster Form.
2. The team roster will include the students' names and the role that each of the student participants will be performing during that round of competition.
3. The rosters will be distributed to the judge, attorney-scorekeepers, and the opposing team.

#### VI. 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 stop immediately. There will be no allowance for overtime.
3. Refer to the California Mock Trial Program Team Rulebook for more details regarding timing.

#### **VII. Odd Number of Teams**

1. We ask that each team indicate on the registration form whether 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 “ghost” team for each round. The “ghost” team will be chosen on a first come, first served basis from those teams that indicated their ability to field an additional team.
3. The “ghost” team’s score will not count toward their team’s overall ranking.

#### **VIII. 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 Adult Volunteer Award Nomination Form. A copy of this form is available on the CRF-OC website.
2. All nominations must be submitted to CRF-OC staff by the end of Round 8.
3. **Student MVP Awards:** At check-in before each round, teams will be given a blank student MVP certificate. At the end of the round, students should select an MVP from the opposing team and write their name on the certificate. Teams should exchange certificates before leaving the courtroom. All judges have been reminded of this and should direct the students to nominate a member of the opposing team at the conclusion of the trial. If a judge does not do this, students should remind the judge to do so.
4. Teachers and attorney coaches (deciding together) are to submit one Teacher/Attorney Coach Student Award Nomination Form for their team, noting the MVP student for the opposing team and their nomination for an attorney and non-attorney from the opposing team. Teachers and attorney coaches are also instructed to nominate one student from their own team on the form. This form must be turned into CRF-OC staff (staff will be on the 2nd floor near the elevators) at the end of each round. A copy of this form is included in this packet. Please bring this form with you to each round. **SCHOOLS THAT DO NOT RETURN A TEACHER/ATTORNEY COACH STUDENT AWARD NOMINATION FORM AFTER EACH ROUND WILL NOT BE E-MAILED THEIR INDIVIDUAL SCORES UNTIL THE FORM IS RECEIVED.**

5. CRF-OC staff will list the students nominated for an award on the CRF-OC website by the end of each week of competition.

**IX. 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.

**X. Mock Trial Courtroom Art & Journalism Contests**

1. The Courtroom Art and Journalism Contests are held during the first 4 rounds of the Orange County Mock Trial Competition.
2. Student contestants must register for the competition using the online student registration form on the CRF-OC website. The rules for each of the contests are available on the Mock Trial page of the CRF-OC website.

**XI. Security at the Central Justice Center**

1. The Central Justice Center is a secure 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 constitutes a weapon. We advise participants in the Mock Trial Program to leave all potentially dangerous objects at home.
2. **The courthouse doors will close at 6:00pm.** No one will be admitted to the building after this time. If an individual leaves the building after 6:00pm there will be no re-admittance. The back entrance of the courthouse will close at 5:00pm. Students are encouraged to use the front entrance of the courthouse and avoid entering through the back entrance.
3. Please refer to the parking information and guidelines available on the CRF-OC website.
4. For safety reasons, the Superior Court advises that students be picked up promptly from the front of the courthouse after the conclusion of each round. For students and parents who drive separately to the courthouse, the Court strongly advises walking in pairs or groups when returning to their car. CRF-OC recommends parking in the open lot directly across the street from the front entrance of the courthouse on Civic Center Drive West if at all possible as the transient population near the courthouse frequently congregates in the stairwells of the public parking structures.

## Team Structure Guidelines

The rules regarding team structure are located in the California Mock Trial Program Team Rulebook. In addition to these rules, CRF-OC makes the following recommendations in order to ensure that your team gets the most out of their mock trial experience.

1. It is strongly recommended that you utilize the maximum allowable number of student attorneys. In addition, it is recommended that teams use different attorneys to do opening statements and closing arguments. It is further suggested that each trial attorney perform at least one direct examination and one cross-examination. For further guidance, please contact the CRF-OC Program Manager.
2. You are encouraged to involve as many students as possible in other support roles, such as understudies, evidence monitors, photographers, and videographers.
3. Mock Trial teams must consist of a minimum of eight and a maximum of twenty five students, not including the courtroom artists and/or journalists.
4. Schools may enter more than one team (space provided) but all members of each team must compete exclusively for the team for 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).

## Mock Trial Errata

After the release of the case materials, errata are often issued by CRF-USA, a separate organization based in Los Angeles that creates and licenses the mock trial case materials and coordinates the state competition in March. Teams will be notified of any errata **by CRF-OC staff**. Approved errata will be posted on the CRF-OC website. Teams should not adopt errata until a member of CRF-OC staff has formally notified the schools. Teams that reference errata not approved for use by CRF-OC may face point deductions.

Teams are encouraged to carefully review the case materials and submit any questions or issues to Lourdes Morales, the Senior Program Director at CRF-USA by **December 15, 2017**. No changes will be made to the case materials after this date and all errata up to that date will be incorporated into a new case packet that will be the official packet used at the state competition in March.

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

Lourdes Morales | Senior Program Director  
Constitutional Rights Foundation  
601 S. Kingsley Drive Los Angeles, CA 90005  
[lourdes@crf-usa.org](mailto:lourdes@crf-usa.org)  
[www.crf-usa.org](http://www.crf-usa.org)