

# Rhode Island Mock Trial Tournament

THE RI MOCK TRIAL TOURNAMENT IS A PRODUCTION OF RHODE ISLAND LEGAL/EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

## HOW DO I START A MOCK TRIAL AT MY SCHOOL?

It's easy to bring the mock trial program to your school. All you need is a teacher sponsor and a minimum of nine students who want to learn about the American legal system. You will also need time. The competition requires participants to practice roles, learn about legal concepts and create persuasive arguments.

### **THE STATE COORDINATOR**

Each state has a coordinator who is responsible for coordinating the mock trial program. The coordinator establishes trial dates and locations, refines competition rules and procedures, and recruits judges and attorneys to score and preside over trials. Please contact the Rhode Island Mock Trial coordinator at Rhode Island Legal/Educational Partnership (401- 222-6831) for further information.

### **TEACHER SPONSOR**

The teacher-sponsor is the official Mock Trial contact person receiving all correspondence from Rhode Island Legal/Educational Partnership on the tournament. The teacher also acts as the team coordinator and is responsible for organizing meetings and transportation to and from the competition. The teacher can also coach the team in trial strategy and legal argumentation.

### **ATTORNEY COACH**

Although not mandatory, most mock trial teams find it useful to have an attorney coach. The attorney coach advises the students on general trial techniques and procedures as well as on specific strategies for the case.

### **THE TEAM**

Teams of students prepare and present the trial from the perspectives of both the prosecution and the defense. Mock Trial team members play different roles, including trial attorneys, pretrial motion attorneys, witnesses, clerks, and bailiffs. Some schools offer the Mock Trial program as a class while others offer the program as an extra-curricular activity. Each team should have the following:

- Six or more students (from the same school) who will take the roles of:
- Three trial attorneys for the prosecution (maximum)
- Three trial attorneys for the defense (maximum)
- Three witnesses for the prosecution
- Three witnesses for the defense