



Memorandum

TO: 2013 State Mock Trial Competition Volunteers

FROM: Troy Weston, Tennessee High School Mock Trial Chair
Will Holloway, Tennessee High School Mock Trial Vice Chair

DATE: March 12, 2013

RE: 2013 State High School Mock Trial Competition
March 15-16, 2013

Thank you for agreeing to volunteer for the 2013 State High School Mock Trial Competition this weekend. This memo should provide all the information you need to make your participation a success.

Throughout this memorandum, we will refer to ourselves in the third person. Enjoy.

If you have questions about competition logistics, please contact Stacey Shrader Joslin at the Tennessee Bar Association at (615) 383-7421, (800) 899-6993, or sshrader@tnbar.org. If you have questions about this year's problem, rules or round assignments please contact Mock Trial Committee Chair Troy Weston at (865) 544-2010 or tweston@eblaw.us. Will may be reached at (615) 550-2800 or wholloway@sbdlaw.net.

During the competition you can reach:

Troy on his cell phone at (865) 566-7463
Will on his cell phone at (615) 330-9572
Stacey on her cell phone at (615) 714-3195

All forms and information for the state competition volunteers are attached to this email and also are available for download at <http://www.tba.org/node/57180>

SCHEDULE

A schedule covering all events for the weekend is attached to this email. The trial round schedule is as follows:

Friday, March 15

Round 1: 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Round 2: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 16

Round 3: 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Round 4: 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Award Ceremony: Approximately 3:30 p.m.

Championship Round: Immediately following the awards ceremony

Round Assignments – Your individual round assignment is attached to this email. If you are running late or unable to make a round you volunteered for on the day of the competition, please call or text Troy on his cell phone at (865) 566-7463. If you text, please make sure that you indicate your name in the body of the text.

Orientation Session – **Please arrive at the courthouse 30 minutes prior to your scheduled round** to check in and participate in a volunteer orientation session. Volunteer check in will take place on the ground floor of the courthouse, across the hall from the snack bar. Orientation will take place in the Jury Assembly Room, down the hall from the registration area on the right.

Potential Conflicts – Immediately upon receiving this memo, please review the list of schools below and notify Troy if you do not believe you should score one or more of the teams because you have a connection to them or saw them compete in at a district competition.

1. Bearden High School, Knoxville
2. Beech High School, Hendersonville
3. Chattanooga Southeast Tennessee Home Education Association, Chattanooga
4. Dyersburg High School, Dyersburg
5. Franklin High School, Franklin
6. Germantown High School, Germantown
7. Harpeth Hall, Nashville
8. Jefferson County High School, Dandridge
9. Kingsport Area Christian Home Educators Association, Kingsport
10. McCallie School, Chattanooga
11. Montgomery Bell Academy, Nashville
12. Smith County High School, Carthage
13. The Webb School, Bell Buckle
14. Westminster Academy, Memphis

COURTHOUSE INFORMATION

The Metro Davidson County Courthouse is again the site of the state mock trial competition. Located at 1 Public Square, the courthouse is bordered by James Robertson Parkway on the north, Union Street on the south and Third Avenue North on the west. **Please use the entrance on James Robertson Parkway to the courthouse.** The main plaza entrance will not be open after hours on Friday or at all on Saturday. The courthouse is within walking distance of the hotel and walking directions are attached.

Parking Options – Those who drive to the courthouse may park in either of two pay lots:

Courthouse/Court Square Garage
101 James Robertson Parkway
(615) 244-2330

This underground parking garage is located next to the courthouse. It can be entered from either James Robertson Parkway or Gay Street. The rate is \$12 per day, or \$3 after 5 p.m. and weekends.

Public Square Garage
350 Deadrick Street
(615) 242-0391

This above ground garage is located on Deadrick Street between Fourth Avenue North and Third Avenue North. It also can be entered from Charlotte Avenue between Fourth and Third Avenues. The rate for parking Friday after 6 p.m. or all day Saturday is a flat fee of \$10. Parking on Friday prior to 4 p.m. is \$6 per hour or a daily maximum of \$16.

Volunteer Registration – Volunteer registration will take place on the ground floor of the courthouse, across the hall from the snack bar. Please plan to arrive 30 minutes before your scheduled round to check-in and attend the orientation session for all judges, scorers and bailiffs. The session is important, as specific courtroom assignments will be made during the meeting.

Security – You should be prepared to pass through metal detectors when entering the courthouse for the first time and should leave sufficient time for doing so. You will be able to pick up your name badge at the volunteer registration desk on the ground floor of the courthouse. Please wear your name badge during the competition weekend as it will expedite your entrance to the courthouse.

Courthouse Use Rules – Each team was asked to sign a statement that they understand and will abide by certain building use rules. As an example to the students, the Mock Trial Committee asks that you also abide by the rules, a copy of which is attached.

COMPETITION INFORMATION

There are 14 teams coming to the state competition this year. Given the even number of teams, all teams will compete in all four rounds. For the first round, team pairings have been determined randomly. For rounds two to four, pairings will be determined by a power matching system.

Problem and Rules – This year, teams will present *State of Tennessee v. Cameron Paul*, the case of an auto mechanic suspected of murdering Thor Brush, an investment broker who gets local businessmen to invest in his sham company. News of the scheme breaks and clients, including Paul, find they have lost everything. Brush is indicted and awaiting trial when he dies in a car crash. Paul’s shop had recently worked on Brush’s car and police determine the brakes were deliberately loosened. The state argues that Paul – upset about his financial loss – intentionally tampered with the car. The defense places blame on Brush, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was texting, and had fatal levels of medication in his system at the time of the crash.

Revised case material was released March 1 to add complexity to the state competition. To help prepare for the trial, you can:¹

- download the revised problem at: www.tba.org/sites/default/files/case_revised_030113.pdf
- download revised exhibits at: www.tba.org/sites/default/files/exhibits_revised_030113.pdf
- download revised rules at: www.tba.org/sites/default/files/rules_revised_030113.pdf

Teams to Remain Unidentified – During the competition rounds, the identity of teams should not be announced in the courtroom. Teams will provide rosters to the bailiff and these documents should not list the school name. In addition, if the judge or any other person asks the teams to identify themselves, please speak up and explain that schools are to remain unidentified.

Sportsmanship Award – Each year a sportsmanship award is given to the team that best embodies the values of the mock trial experience and demonstrates that commitment through its

¹ However, volunteers are not required to be acquainted with the material prior to judging. Indeed, effect participants will be able to quickly orient you, a member of the “mock jury,” with the facts of the case.

actions, words and attitudes – not only during trial rounds, but throughout the weekend. Each team will be asked to nominate a team other than its own for this award. Comments from scorers and presiding judges will also be taken into account in selecting the winner. You will see an area on the scorer’s form that provides space to comment on sportsmanship issues. The Mock Trial Committee reserves the right to disqualify a team from consideration for the award based on complaints lodged by other teams or courthouse security.

Volunteer Judges – The following judges have volunteered to participate in the state mock trial competition. Please be sure to thank them for their service!

Judge Lee B. Bowles, Marshall County General Sessions Court
Magistrate Judge Joe B. Brown, U.S. District Court for the
Middle District of Tennessee
Chancellor William Cole, 25th Judicial District Chancery Court
Judge Paul B. Conley III, Crockett County General Sessions Court
Judge John Aaron Holt, Davidson County General Sessions Court
Judge Amanda McClendon, 20th Judicial District Circuit Court
Chancellor Russell T. Perkins, 20th Judicial District Chancery Court
Judge Quinn Brandon Stewart, Municipal Court of Lewisburg
Judge A. Wilson Wages, Municipal Court of Millington
Judge Thomas T. Woodall, Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals

We also would like to thank Tennessee Supreme Court Justice William C. Koch Jr. for agreeing to serve as presiding judge of the state competition championship round.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Once again, the [Doubletree Hotel](#) in downtown Nashville will serve as the primary competition headquarters.² The hotel is located at 315 Fourth Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219, (615) 244-8200. Mock trial volunteers who commit to at least two rounds (and are not local Nashville residents) will receive a complimentary hotel room on Friday night for their service. The request for a hotel room should have been made on the volunteer form submitted to Mock Trial Chair Troy Weston. For those who did so, the TBA has made a reservation for you. TBA also will cover the expense of a second night hotel stay (Saturday night) for any volunteer who is invited to volunteer for the championship round. **A list of reservations and confirmation numbers is attached to this email. Please review your reservation and contact Stacey ASAP if any changes are needed.**

Check In Time – Check in time on Friday is 3 p.m. and check out on Saturday is noon. We have asked the hotel to make rooms available as soon as possible on Friday, but please be prepared to arrive at the courthouse on time even if you are not able to check into your room.

Incidentals – While TBA is paying for hotel rooms, individuals will be required to pay for all incidentals (parking, movies or room service). At the time of check in, the hotel may ask for a credit card to cover these services.

Reimbursement – The TBA will reimburse parking, mileage and meals not otherwise provided during the competition weekend. A reimbursement form is attached and is due within 30 days of

² All of our volunteer judges are staying at the Hotel Indigo located at 301 Union Street, Nashville, TN 37201. The hotel may be reach at (615) 891-6000.

the competition. The reimbursement form should be submitted on or before April 16 to TBA YLD Treasurer, Steven King at sking@bakerdonelson.com.

Hospitality Suite – The YLD hospitality suite will be located in Room 106 of the Doubletree Hotel. It will be open Friday night after the Friday night dine-arounds and Saturday after the committee dinner.

Directions – Driving directions to the hotel from various locations around the state are attached.

FRIDAY VOLUNTEER DINNER

Rather than host one large private dinner event, the Mock Trial Committee has decided to again host a dine-around for volunteers. Each volunteer will be responsible for paying for their meal but will be able to seek reimbursement for up to \$25 for their meal. Sign up sheets and sample menus for each of the locations will be located in the Jury Assembly Room on Friday afternoon. Please sign up for the restaurant you would like to visit.

OTHER MEALS

For all volunteers, the TBA also will provide a snack at 5 p.m. on Friday; a hot breakfast Saturday morning from 7-8 a.m. at the Doubletree Hotel; pastries and coffee on Saturday morning at the courthouse; and a boxed lunch on Saturday afternoon. As is our custom, there will be no reimbursement for meals purchased on your own if a meal was provided by TBA.

ATTIRE

The attire for volunteer attorneys and bailiffs is business dress throughout the competition. Casual dress is appropriate for the Friday evening dine-arounds.

T-SHIRTS

A limited number of competition t-shirts will be available for sale at the courthouse on Friday and Saturday. Priced at \$10 each, they make a great souvenir of your mock trial experience.

ENCLOSURES

This email should contain the following six (7) attachments. Please let me know if you are missing any of them.

1. Volunteer Memo
2. Schedule of Events
3. Directions to the Doubletree Hotel
4. Directions to the Metro Davidson County Courthouse
5. Map of Downtown Nashville
5. Courthouse Use Rules
6. Reimbursement Form
7. Hotel Reservation Confirmation

Thank you again for your service! Your contribution makes this valuable experience possible for so many Tennessee students.