



Tennessee State High School Mock Trial Competition

2026 COURTHOUSE INFORMATION & USE RULES

This year's mock trial competition takes place in the historic Metro Davidson Courthouse. As we want to preserve our ability to use this venue and maintain a positive relationship with the judges who have courtrooms in the building, we want to make you aware of several building use rules that will be in effect during the competition weekend. Please communicate to your team how important it is for these rules to be followed. In fact, our future use of the building depends on it. To ensure that all participants are aware of the guidelines, we ask that you sign and return the attached form as an indication you have communicated the rules to team members. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

BUILDING RULES

Building Access – All mock trial participants and guests will enter and exit the building on the ground floor, which provides street access to James Robertson Parkway. Everyone entering the building will need to pass through security. Please have your mock trial name badge with you to expedite this process.

Stairways – Teams may use the elevators or open-air stairs to move between floors. Please note that the enclosed stairwells can be entered from any floor but exited only on the ground floor. Do not use these stairs to move between competition floors or you will get stuck!

Emergency Call Boxes – Blue emergency call boxes are located on each floor of the courthouse. These are not being used except in a legitimate emergency.

Food & Drinks – No one is allowed to have food or drinks (other than water) anywhere in the courthouse except for the ground floor and during lunch on Saturday on the third floor. Team members may have water in the courtrooms.

Snack Bar – The snack bar on the ground floor is available for teams to use throughout the competition. It also will be used as the staging area for lunch distribution on Saturday for those who order lunch through the TBA. Please do not send more than two representatives from your team to collect lunches.

Ground Floor – Teams will use the ground floor as their waiting area before and between rounds. A Team Resource Table will be set up in the hallway and will be staffed by Mock Trial Committee members and TBA staff. The pairings board will be displayed on the ground floor as well.

Jury Assembly Room – The jury assembly room, located at the far end of the ground floor, is open only to attorney scorers and judges. No team members or parents are not allowed in this room.

First Floor – The first floor offers street access on the plaza side of the courthouse and houses the mayor's offices. No mock trial activities will take place on this floor. Access to this floor is prohibited.

Second Floor – The second floor houses several Nashville city offices. No mock trial activities will take place on this floor. Access to this floor is prohibited.

Third Floor – The third floor houses the court clerks' offices. This floor may be used to eat lunch on Saturday but otherwise should be not accessed.

Fourth Floor – The fourth floor houses Chancery Courts I, II, III and IV and the 6th Circuit Court. The competition may utilize some of the courtrooms on this floor.

Fifth Floor – The fifth floor houses the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Circuit Courts. The competition may utilize some or all of the courtrooms on this floor.

Sixth Floor – The sixth floor houses the 4th, 7th and 8th Circuit Courts and one unassigned courtroom. The competition may utilize some of the courtrooms on this floor.

COURTROOM RULES

1. No teams are allowed to practice in any of the courtrooms in advance of the competition.
2. No drinks other than water are allowed in the courtrooms.
3. No food will be allowed in courtrooms, or anywhere in the courthouse except for the ground floor and during lunch on Saturday on the third floor.
4. Non-team members may not pass beyond the bar in courtrooms.
5. Mock trial participants and guests are not to access the witness stand, jury box or judge's bench between trial rounds.
6. At no time is anyone allowed to manipulate a courtroom's sound system, evidence carts or electronic equipment.
7. No one is allowed access to the judges' chambers or court staff areas.

Failure to comply with any of these rules could result in a deduction of points from a team's score or disqualification from consideration for the sportsmanship award.



2026 COURTHOUSE INFORMATION AND RULES

I have informed my team members that the "Courthouse Use Rules" govern use of the Metro Davidson County Courthouse during the State High School Mock Trial Competition, and they have agreed to comply.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

School

Position (faculty advisor/coach)

Please return this signed page to llabenberg@tnbar.org prior to the start of the competition and **no later than noon on Wednesday, March 11.**