

Congratulations on advancing to the Mock Trial State Championships!

Please review the information in this email carefully; it should address most of your questions about the championship weekend.

The required information is based on 8 students. All forms and links can be found on [Tabroom](#).

- 1) Hotel & Transportation Accommodations - Team and Transportation accommodations for Friday night are located at Crowne Plaza Harrisburg-Hershey (23 South Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101)

Do Not Make Your Own Hotel Reservations for Your Team. A total of four (4) rooms will be reserved for your team for the night of Friday, March 27th at Crowne Plaza Harrisburg-Hershey – based on eight students, a Teacher Coach, and an Attorney Advisor.

The four overnight rooms, tax, and parking will be paid by Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) for the night of Friday, March 27th only. Please fill out the google doc link (*Team Hotel & Transportation Accommodations* doc) in Tabroom (located on the front page of registration) so we may secure your overnight room accommodations. If you need transportation for more than one night, it is available at a cost (\$25 for small bus/van or \$100 for mini/regular bus).

Additional Hotel Reservations Not Covered by PBA (based on availability):

If you need overnight accommodations Thursday night or need additional rooms for students that are beyond the four (4) rooms that PBA pays for, note this specific information on the *Team Hotel & Transportation Accommodations* doc. PBA will hold the rooms for you, but a credit card is needed to guarantee these extra rooms. The Credit Card Authorization form can be found in Tabroom under Per-School Forms. If needed, complete and send directly to Crowne Plaza Harrisburg-Hershey by fax to attention: Front Office 717-234-6797 or email to frontoffice@cpharrisburg.com.

The check-in time is after 4pm although Crowne Plaza Harrisburg-Hershey will be able to store your luggage until one of your rooms becomes available. The check-out time is before 11am. Those who advance to Saturday's trials will be able to store your luggage in room **Pennsylvania AB** at the Crowne Plaza until 5pm.

Accommodations for non-team members:

Relatives, friends, and others traveling with your team must make their own room reservations. Listed below are nearby hotels to check rates and availability.

~Hilton Harrisburg 717-233-6000

~Penn Harris Hotel 717-763-7117

~Comfort Suites Camp Hill-Harrisburg West 717-956-1778

- 2) Forms Required and found in Tabroom
 - a. **Photo and Video Release Form** – Located under Per-Individual Entry Forms. Please upload a signed copy for each student in Tabroom by Monday, March 23rd.
 - b. **Code of Ethical Conduct** – Located under Per-School Forms. Please have each student sign and upload for your school in Tabroom by Monday, March 23rd.
 - c. **Trial Roster** – Located under Per-School Forms. Please print and bring enough copies per round for the other teams (approximately 40 copies).
 - d. **Credit Card Authorization Form** – Located under Per-School Forms.

3) Schedule and Competition Information:

Friday, March 27:

11:30am-12:30pm	Team photos at the Crowne Plaza – Ballroom A
2:00pm	Round 1 Trials, Dauphin County Courthouse
5:30pm	Round 2 Trials, Dauphin County Courthouse
8:00pm-9:30pm	Dinner at the Crowne Plaza – Grand Ballroom
9:00pm-11:00pm	Awards for Advancing Teams, Dancing, and Infomercial Skits

Saturday, March 28:

8:30am	Round 3 Trials, Dauphin County Courthouse - Followed by announcement of state finalists
Approx. 12:00pm	State Final – PA State Capitol Courtroom, 4 th Floor Room #437

Rounds 1, 2, and 3 Competition Sites for 2026:

The Dauphin County Courthouse is the site of Rounds 1, 2, and Round 3 on Saturday morning round of the 2026 state tournament. The Dauphin County Courthouse is located at Front and Market Streets in downtown Harrisburg; the address is 101 Market Street, Harrisburg. The courthouse is one block from your hotel. Please be sure to be at the courthouse at least 15 minutes prior to your trials. Allow yourself ample time to get through courthouse security, which includes metal detectors and x-ray machines. If there are long lines, all Students, Timekeepers, Teachers and Advisors (official participants) should be given priority and allowed to move to the front of the line (ahead of relatives, etc.). Entry to the courthouse is on Market Street. Most trials will be held either on the 3rd or 5th floors. No teams or fans may not enter any courtrooms before 1:15pm.

State Final Competition Site & Awards for 2026:

The state final will be held in the Pennsylvania State Capitol Complex on the 4th floor in Room #437. It is located at 501 N 3rd Street, Harrisburg. After the announcement of the state finalists, both teams should be prepared to walk to the PA Capitol Complex. The teams will be escorted by members of the Mock Trial planning committee and will need to go through security at the Capitol upon arrival. Following the state final in the PA Capitol Complex on Saturday, there will be an awards ceremony where the state champion and state runner-up will be recognized and will receive their trophies. All other teams (and observers) are encouraged and welcome to attend the state final. Parking for families and guests can be found on State Street. There is a charge for parking on Saturday.

Competition Format:

All fourteen teams will compete in both Round 1 and Round 2 trials on Friday, performing both sides of the case. The top teams will advance to the Saturday morning rounds. If there are five or more teams with wins in both of the first two rounds, up to six teams may advance to the Saturday morning rounds. The winners of the Saturday morning rounds (or the highest ranking two winning teams of the Saturday morning rounds) will advance to the state final at approximately 12:00pm. Specific information on the tournament format and scoring is located in the Rules of Competition.

Materials:

Materials given to the jurors will not be returned.

Team Photos:

A photographer will be taking team pictures 11:30am-12:30pm on Friday at the Crowne Plaza. Students should be dressed in what they will wear for the trials. Teams will be photographed in five-minute intervals. The photographer is scheduled on the second floor of the hotel in Ballroom A. Please note the following schedule for pictures:

11:30 - Region 6
11:35 - Region 7
11:40 - Region 8
11:45 - Region 9
11:50 - Region 4

11:55 - Region 5
12:00 - Region 10
12:05 - Region 3
12:10 - Region 1
12:15 - Region 2

Student Timekeepers:

Each team must provide a Timekeeper for every state round and the individual will be considered the official Timekeepers under Rule of Competition 6.28.3 (Student Timekeepers Keeping Official Time). **Student Timekeeper is to bring a stopwatch and time signs.** The timesheet will be given to the Student Timekeeper by the Bailiff before the trial.

Team Match-up:

All teams will be identified by code so that they remain anonymous at the trials. Please do not have any team members or others associated with your team wear jackets or other items identifying your school during the state tournament weekend. **You will receive your Team Code no later than Monday, March 23rd.** Match-ups for Round 1 are as follows:

A1 v. B1
A2 v. B2
A3 v. B3
A4 v. B4

A5 v. B5
A6 v. B6
A7 v. B7

The prosecution side is listed first. Matchups for later rounds will be announced after completion of preceding rounds. **Please remember to bring along a trial roster to each trial (round).**

Friday Dinner – Awards:

The Pennsylvania Bar Association & Young Lawyers Division will sponsor a casual dinner on Friday evening at the Crowne Plaza Harrisburg-Hershey beginning at approximately 8:00pm. This dinner is open to mock trial participants ONLY (students, teachers, and attorney coaches). The meal will be served buffet style and will have an option for those observing lent. If you know of a specific food allergy for a student or coach, please indicate this under the students name on Tabroom. A member of the Mock trial planning committee will reach out to the teacher for more information if necessary.

At 9:00pm, we invite family members and observers to join us as we recognize all fourteen (14) teams and award trophies and individual medals. At this time, we will also announce the teams which will advance to the Saturday morning round. There will be a DJ for the enjoyment of the students until about 11:00pm. Dress is casual.

After Dinner Entertainment

We are giving your team 60 Seconds, Infomercial style, to tell us Why Should Someone Visit Wisawe. We can play any sound track you like, but there will be no video capabilities. This is meant to be creative, a way to de-stress from the competition itself, and importantly a way to bond with your fellow state finalists. Yes, there are prizes for the winners – and bonus points for tying in the current case, but most of all fun! Please provide your song information on the link in Tabroom by Monday, March 23rd.

Meals:

Except for the Friday night dinner, teams are responsible for providing their own food and **water**. A few recommended restaurants are Restaurant 23 (breakfast and dinner) at Crowne Plaza, Palumbo's Italian Eatery (104 N 2nd Street), and Burger Yum (400 N 2nd Street). Here is a [link](#) for other options in the Harrisburg area. *There will be food service available in the Dauphin County Courthouse by S.A. Soul Café (located on the ground floor) on **Saturday 8am-noon** only. S.A. Soul Café offers coffee, tea, parfaits, breakfast muffins, bagels, and breakfast sandwiches for purchase. Vending machines are also available in the building. Crowne Plaza Harrisburg-Hershey does not provide free breakfast, but does have Starbucks coffee and pastries available for purchase.*

National Competition:

The Pennsylvania State Champion qualifies to participate in the [National Mock Trial Championship](#) to be held May 7-9, 2026 in Des Moines, Iowa. The PBA/YLD provides funding for registration fees, transportation, and overnight accommodations for eight students and a teacher coach.

REMINDER: We expect all students and observers to conduct themselves in a mature manner in the courtrooms, at the dinner, and at the hotel. Please make sure to bring a sufficient number of chaperones.

Again, congratulations on behalf of the PBA/YLD. If you need any additional information, please contact Maria Engles at maria.engles@pabar.org.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Koltash & Jennifer Menichini
State Co-Chairs