



## **Come to a Virtual Mock Trial Interest Meeting!**

### **What is Mock Trial?**

Each year, hundreds of students from all across the state gather inside courthouses to participate in the North Carolina Advocates for Justice High School Mock Trial Competition. Through the involvement of judges, attorneys, paralegals, teachers and students, courtrooms are turned into classrooms.

For weeks, teams composed of seven to nine students work with attorneys, legal assistants, and a teacher advisor to prepare for their day in court. No outside research is necessary because all case materials and rules of evidence are provided. At the trial, students become the attorneys, witnesses, and bailiffs.

### **What is the purpose of Mock Trial?**

The focus of the Mock Trial program is education; it is designed to:

- Improve students' public speaking, writing, listening and critical thinking skills;
- Encourage effective communication between the educational and legal communities; and
- Promote tolerance, professionalism, and cooperation among young people

[Here is an 8 minute video explaining the NCAJ High School Mock Trial Competition!](#)

### **How is the Mock Trial Program Administered?**

In early September the case is released. A local attorney is assigned to be a team mentor for the year. The team meets to analyze the case and roles are assigned. Team members fill **14 roles**: 3 Prosecution/Plaintiff attorneys; 3 Defense attorneys; 3 Prosecution/Plaintiff witnesses; 3 Defense witnesses; 1 Bailiff/timekeeper (on Prosecution/Plaintiff side only); and one timekeeper (on Defense). Because teams are limited to a maximum of 9 official team members, some students will need to assume two roles. Once the roles are decided, student attorneys work in pairs with their witnesses, deciding upon direct examination and cross-examination questions. Teams meet as time permits throughout the fall and early winter as they prepare for the Regional competition in early February. All program dates and teacher training materials are at <http://ncmocktrial.org/>

### **Is it only for students who want to be attorneys?**

Not at all! Through Mock Trial, students gain self-confidence, communication skills, analytical reasoning abilities, and the opportunity to develop leadership and teamwork skills. These important life skills are valuable no matter which career path a student pursues.

### **Want to learn more?**

Great! We'll be holding several interest meetings on Zoom this fall. Sign up here <https://www.cognitofrms.com/NorthCarolinaMockTrialProgram/VirtualInterestMeeting>