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# IOWA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

625 East Court Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50309

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August 2019

Dear Educator:

We cordially invite your school to participate in the 2019 Iowa Middle School Mock Trial Program. Mock trials are one of several law-related and civic education programs sponsored by The Iowa State Bar Association Center for Law & Civic Education.

Mock Trials are designed to introduce students to our legal system by providing a challenging, academic competition. The program offers students an opportunity for personal growth and achievement, emphasizing the importance of research, presentation, and team work.

In addition to teaching students about contemporary public issues and the legal system, the program encourages teachers and students to develop learning partnerships with professionals from the community. Lawyers from communities throughout Iowa contribute their time as coaches and judges at the tournaments. Judges from Iowa's District Courts also participate. These linkages between the schools and the legal profession show students that the community is committed to their educational success.

Please review the informational materials. By completing the on-line registration form, you will be able to enter teams in this year's competition. Copies of this year's case materials, rules, explanatory guide, ballot, etc. can be found on the ISBA website ([www.iowabar.org](http://www.iowabar.org)).

We hope that you will consider participation in this valuable educational program. Last year, close to 2000 middle school students from across Iowa participated. The tournament includes students from social studies courses, TAG programs, at-risk classes, and extracurricular mock trial clubs. The Iowa Middle School Mock Trial Program is the largest in the nation. We urge you to join the fun!

Sincerely,

Willard L. "Bill" Boyd III, JD, President  
The Iowa State Bar Association

John Wheeler, Director  
ISBA Center for Law & Civic Education