

Iowa Middle School Mock Trial Tournament Information

ELIGIBILITY: Students from junior high schools or middle schools (grades 6-8) in Iowa are eligible to participate. Teams can be made up of members of a particular class (social studies, TAG, etc.) or can be a school-wide mixture of students. *Teams must consist of between eight to ten students.* **There is no limit to the number of teams each school or independent entity may enter.** However, the traditional school protection in regional competition will apply only to 3 teams from each registrant.

PREPARATION: Each team should work with an educator- and/or an attorney-coach who will teach about courtroom procedure and the legal issues involved in the mock trial problem. Teams must be prepared and will be expected to present both sides of the case in competition.

REGISTRATION: To register, please complete the On-Line Registration Form found on the ISBA website. **All registrations must be completed no later than Monday, October 7.** *This deadline will not be extended for any team.* If you have any questions, please contact the ISBA Center at 515/697-7882 (phone), 515/243-2511 (fax), or jwheeler@iowabar.org (email).

JUDGING POOL: Each **team** entered is required to provide a judge for each round at the regional competition. Qualifiers for the state tournament are requested to do the same. Complete the enclosed "Judge Participation Form" and return it to the ISBA Center by **Monday, October 14 OR** direct judge recruits to the on-line Judge Volunteer Form and have them indicate your school/program in the appropriate space. *Failure to provide a judge for each round of competition may result in team disqualification.*

COST: There is a **\$175 registration fee per team.** Please make checks payable to "The Iowa State Bar Association" and include payment with the registration form. In order to be officially registered to participate, **payment or purchase order must be received by October 14.** No refunds will be given after October 14.

CASE MATERIALS: This year's mock trial problem, the official competition rules, and the explanatory handbook are available on the Iowa State Bar Association website – www.iowabar.org.

AWARDS: Teacher-coaches will receive certificates to present to each participant. Additional certificates will be presented to all teams advancing to the State Tournament. Trophies will be awarded to the State Champion, runner-up, semi-finalists, and places 5-12. Special awards will honor those students at the state tournament whom the judges select as Outstanding Attorneys and Outstanding Witnesses. There will also be certificates available for those students selected for these awards at their regional competitions.