

Mock Trial Scorer and Presider Orientation

Welcome and thank you: We couldn't do this without your support.

Sponsors: We'd like to recognize the generous financial contributions from the following: Pillsbury, Winthrop & Shaw, Centex Legal Services, Littler, Mendelson, Hoge Fenton Jones & Apel, Ella Gayle Hamlin Foundation, Greenfield Drath, Clark Stone, Jim Scharf, and DTI Global.

SCCBA Membership: If you are not a member of the SCCBA, please consider joining today. As a member, your dues help support the high school mock trial tournament. In addition, the Bar offers other benefits which you can review in the brochure.

Tips for Scorers:

1. **New Score Sheets:** Write numbers in the left-hand column first, and then use a sharpie to carefully transfer your scores to the bubbles after the round. Write your name at the top so we can contact you if we have questions. No blanks or fractions.
2. **Scoring Criteria:** Scores should reflect both substance and style. Please use your scores to distinguish the teams' presentations. For example, if one team's opening statement was significantly better than the other team's opening statement, the two openings should receive different scores. 3 is generally considered an average score, 4 is strong, and 5 is outstanding. 2 or lower generally indicates that something went wrong, like stumbling, overuse of notes, or getting impeached.
3. **Lead Scorer Responsibilities:** Before a verdict is rendered, the lead scorer should collect the completed score sheets (make sure they are completely filled out), the completed award nomination forms, and the completed tiebreaker form from the judge, and place those items into the envelope. Kevin or his designee will come to your courtroom to collect it. If he doesn't, after the comment period, please deliver the envelope to Mr. Hess in the Jury Assembly Room. Also, please collect any Courtroom Artist submissions, which should be handed in at the close of the debriefing, and give them to Kevin or Mr. Hess.

Tips for Judges:

1. **Start time:** Please try to start the trials as close to 6:00 pm as possible.
2. **Timing:** You are not responsible for timing. There will be an official time keeper and a back-up time keeper. If there is a timing discrepancy between the two, which is rare, they will tender that dispute to you which you can resolve in any way you think fair.
3. **Pretrial:** Please ask lots of questions during pretrial so the scorers can evaluate this important aspect of the pretrial presentations.
4. **Objections:** Please give students a reasonable opportunity to respond to the objections and reply to the responses. The Creation of Material Fact (CMF) objection is unique to mock trial: Reasonable inferences are allowed, but they must be neutral. Inferred information that is material and pivotal is by rule unreasonable. Generally, a witness can't be asked about facts not in the witness statement to infer that those facts don't exist. That's CMF by negative inference. However, the two experts may be examined about facts included in other witness statements.
5. **Rule violations:** Please remember to give the teams the 30 second consults after pretrial and closings to raise rule violations. Your word is final.
6. **Ties:** Please complete the tiebreaker form.
7. **MVP awards:** Please allow the teams to exchange the MVP awards. .
8. **Comments:** Please limit the comment period to 10 minutes.