

September 21, 2011

Dear Performance Judge Volunteers:

The Rhode Island Legal/Educational Partnership is getting ready to begin the 28<sup>th</sup> season of its mock trial program, the 2012 Rhode Mock Trial Tournament. The mock trial tournament has allowed over twenty-two thousand students to participate in and benefit from this wonderful educational experience.

**On behalf of the students who participate in the Tournament, we invite you, and/or your partners and associates, to serve as a Performance Judge in our upcoming 2012 season.**

It is due to the generous support of time and expertise from our volunteers such as you that Rhode Island's Mock Trial Tournament is able to continue this great program. The Tournament is a unique and rewarding way to join Rhode Island's judiciary and your peers in giving students the opportunity to gain important life skills while learning about the American judicial system.

The trials are conducted in courtrooms before judges from the Superior, District, Workers' Compensation, and Family Courts, as well as the Traffic Tribunal and various municipal courts. Students present a hypothetical legal case using actual courtroom procedures and legal theories. At each trial, two attorneys serve as Performance judges (i.e. the "jury") and score the performances based on the teams' presentations and overall strategies. The scores, when combined, determine the outcome of the trial. After the decision is announced, the Presiding judge and the Performance judges have an opportunity, if they choose, to give feedback to the students.

**As to the particulars:** Trials take place weekdays from 12:30 – 2:00 PM. The Senior Division's season (grades nine to twelve) runs from December 2011 to March 2012, with the top 16 Senior Division teams advancing to playoff rounds - the winner of which becomes State Champion! The Junior Division (middle and junior high school students), with its shorter, non-tournament season in March and April 2012, has trials often on par with the Senior Division.

By serving as a Performance Judge, you will help us maintain this wonderful educational program. Volunteer participation is an essential part of the tournament's success.

A Response Form is attached. Please indicate the dates you prefer. While we have included the calendar for the entire Tournament year, we recognize that it is difficult to respond accurately so far ahead, and that your availability for the later dates is, of course, subject to change.

You may return your response to us by mail to Rhode Island Legal/Educational Partnership, 670 New London Avenue, Rm#1063, Cranston, RI 02920, by fax at 401-464-4823, or email to [lquattrucci.rilep@gmail.com](mailto:lquattrucci.rilep@gmail.com).

If you know of other colleagues who might be interested in helping with the Mock Trial Tournament, please pass along a copy of the Response Form. If you prefer, list the name on the Response Form and we will be happy to follow up on your recommendation.

Please contact me at 401-275-2871 if you have any questions. You can also look at our website at [www.rilep.org](http://www.rilep.org) for more information which will be posted soon.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing back from you, and hope to work with you in our 28<sup>th</sup> season.

Sincerely,

Linda M. Quattrucci  
Executive Director  
Rhode Island Legal/Educational Partnership