



2012 RHODE ISLAND MOCK TRIAL TOURNAMENT

PRODUCED ANNUALLY BY THE RHODE ISLAND LEGAL/EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

TO: Rhode Island High School, Middle School & Junior High Superintendents and Principals
FROM: Linda M. Quattrucci, Executive Director
RE: 2011 Rhode Island Mock Trial Tournament
DATE: September 6, 2012

We would like to invite your school or schools in your town to join the RI Mock Trial program, joining the over twenty thousand students who have participated in and benefited from this wonderful educational experience. Could you please pass this onto a teacher or administrator that might be interested in coaching a team of students in either our high school tournament or middle/junior high school tournament.

In the Mock Trial Tournament, students present a hypothetical legal case using actual courtroom procedures and legal theories. The students serve as lawyers and witnesses, and the trials are conducted before actual judges, with attorneys serving as the "jury."

Mock Trials provide a unique and engaging opportunity to advance the civic education GSEs in K-12 schools as required by RIGL Chapter 22 Section 16-22-2 "Civics Education." * Being part of a Mock Trial team fosters civic education as defined in RIGL Chapter 2.1 Section 16-2.1-3.* By analyzing the case, preparing arguments, practicing roles and presenting against another team, students also develop and improve skills as outlined in the oral and written communication strand in the English Language Arts Grade Span Expectations (GSE).* Whether classroom- based or an after school activity, the RI Mock Trial Tournament offers an exciting format for students to learn, develop life skills, **and** have fun.

In the Senior Division (9-12 grade), each team argues the case three times - as Plaintiff, as Defense, and as a side chosen at random. Held at lunchtime, trials are scheduled on dates chosen according to a team's school calendar, and take place about once a month from early December to late February. After the regular season ends with an Awards and Recognition banquet to celebrate everyone's hard work, the top 16 teams advance to a tournament round. The winning team, Rhode Island's State Champion, earns the right to represent Rhode Island at the annual National High School Mock Trial Championship.

In the Junior Division (6-8 grade), each team argues the case two times - as Plaintiff, and as Defense. Held at lunchtime, trials are scheduled on dates chosen according to a team's school calendar, and take place about once a month from early March to late April. The season ends with an Awards and Recognition banquet to celebrate everyone's hard work. The Junior Division is more like a club and not a tournament.

The registration fee for a Senior Division team is \$535, Junior Division \$415, which includes 15 casebooks for students and a teacher coach's packet. We have enclosed a set of registration forms for your convenience. This year's registration deadline is **Friday, October 7, 2011.**

Materials for the 2012 Tournament will be released and reviewed at a "kickoff" meeting in mid October. Training is available for new coaches and the Partnership can help a team find a lawyer coach if desired.

- If you are interested in enrolling your school in the 2011 season, please return the enclosed registration forms by mail; by fax to 464-4823, or in scanned format to lquattrucci.rilep@gmail.com. They have been made fillable for ease in emailing.
- If you are interested, but have some questions, we will be happy to meet with you at your convenience to discuss the program, what it entails, and share ideas for fundraising. Please contact us at the Partnership at 401-275-2871 to arrange a meeting.

Your students could join the thousands of other students who have benefited from their participation in the RI Mock Trial Tournament. Please give them the chance to experience this unique program and join us in our 28th season!

* <http://www.ride.ri.gov/Instruction/gle.aspx> <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE16/16-2.1/INDEX.HTM>
<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE16/16-22/16-22-2.HTM>

