



## 2021 National High School Mock Trial Championship Competition Guidance Packet

Hello Mock Trial Advisors

Congratulations on earning your spot into the National High School Mock Trial Championship. We wish we could welcome you to beautiful Evansville, Indiana, but we know holding the competition online was the safest way to handle the event through the pandemic. We hope you enjoy your virtual trip to the Hoosier State.

This document should serve as a guiding document to help you navigate the 2021 online mock trial competition. Please read this document fully and completely.

### Competition Platform, Time, Logistics

The entire event will take place May 12-15, 2021 online via Zoom. A detailed schedule of events each day is below. Zoom links for each trial will be sent to the Team Lead the night before each trial, except for Trial 2, which will be sent as soon as it is available following Trial 1. There will be 4 Zoom links for each round of competition. Each Zoom link will have 6 breakout rooms. The terminology we will use is each Zoom link will be considered a **courthouse** which will be labeled by letter (Courthouse A, Courthouse B, etc.). Each Zoom courthouse will have up to 6 **courtrooms**, or breakout rooms, which will be labeled by number (1, 2, etc.).

### Communications & Social Media

Most communications will be sent via email to the Team Lead. Additional communications and reminders will be sent through the Indiana Bar Foundation's social media accounts: **@INBarFoundation** on both Facebook and Twitter.

### Schedule

Note that all times listed are in Eastern Time. Please adjust time zones as necessary.

#### Wednesday, May 12, 2021

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 12:00 pm ET | State Coordinator Round Table <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>State Coordinator meeting to discuss mock trial national issues. Zoom link will be sent to state coordinators in advance of the meeting.</li></ul>                                 |
| 1:00 pm ET  | NHSMTC Business Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>State Coordinators will meet to hear reports from the NHSMTC committees and vote on board membership. Zoom link will be sent to state coordinators in advance of this meeting.</li></ul> |
| 3:00 pm ET  | Coaches' Meeting   |

- Teachers, legal advisors, and coaches of participating teams are invited to this meeting to hear last minute updates for the competition and ask questions of the national rules committee chair, competition-operations committee chair, and the Indiana host organization. Zoom information will be sent to the team leads in advance of this meeting.
- 6:00 pm ET Roster Submissions Due
- All official team rosters must be submitted through the 2021 NHSMTTC submission portal. No additional students can be added to a team's roster after this time. Visit <https://2021.nhsmtc.org/actions/register/> for roster submission form.
- 6:00 pm ET Timekeeper & Courtroom Artist Orientations
- There will be two separate orientations for these two roles. Any student that is participating in the competition as a timekeeper or courtroom artist will need to attend their respective orientation session. Zoom information will be sent to the team leads in advance of this meeting.
- 7:00 pm ET Welcome Pin Exchange
- This event will bring team members from across the country to virtually meet each other, play trivia, be introduced to the Evansville community, and learn their Round 1 trial assignment. Only team members, teachers, coaches, and legal advisors are invited to the Welcome Pin Exchange. Zoom information will be sent to team leads in advance of this meeting.

#### Thursday, May 13, 2021

- 10:30 am ET Log in to Zoom for Round 1
- Teams should log into the Zoom meeting in preparation for Round 1. Teams will need to complete their *trial* roster of which student is playing which role in that trial. Individuals will need to rename themselves per the naming protocol. Zoom information will be sent to the team leads in advance of this meeting.
- 11:00 am ET Round 1
- Round 1 trial begins.
- 3:30 pm ET Log in to Zoom for Round 2
- Teams should log into the Zoom meeting in preparation for Round 2. Teams will need to complete their *trial* roster of which student is playing which role in that trial. Individuals will need to rename themselves per the naming protocol. Zoom information will be sent to the team leads in advance of this meeting.
- 4:00 pm ET Round 2
- Round 2 trial begins.

#### Friday, May 14, 2021

- 10:30 am ET Log in to Zoom for Round 3
- Teams should log into the Zoom meeting in preparation for Round 3. Teams will need to complete their *trial* roster of which student is playing which role in that trial. Individuals will need to rename themselves per the naming protocol. Zoom information will be sent to the team leads in advance of this meeting.

- 11:00 am ET Round 3
- Round 3 trial begins.

**Saturday, May 15, 2021**

- 10:30 am ET Log in to Zoom for Round 4
- Teams should log into the Zoom meeting in preparation for Round 4. Teams will need to complete their *trial* roster of which student is playing which role in that trial. Individuals will need to rename themselves per the naming protocol. Zoom information will be sent to the team leads in advance of this meeting.
- 11:00 am ET Round 4
- Round 4 trial begins.
  - Bakko Award information sent and must be submitted by 3:00 pm ET.
- 3:00 pm ET Announcement of Final Teams
- The Top Two teams will be announced via email and social media. Members of the final two teams should log into the Zoom meeting for the final trial. Zoom information will be sent to the team leads in advance of the meeting.
- 3:30 pm ET Championship Trial
- Championship trial begins. This trial will be live streamed on the Indiana Bar Foundation’s YouTube page. Live stream information will be sent to team leads in advance of this trial.
- 8:00 pm ET Award Ceremony
- The award ceremony will be broadcast via Zoom webinar and simulcast on the Indiana Bar Foundation’s YouTube page. Webinar and live stream information will be sent to team leads in advance of the event.

**Naming Protocol**

All people entering the Zoom Courthouse, including students, teachers, coaches, legal advisors, non-participating students, supporters, etc., should rename themselves using the following protocol. You will not be admitted to your courtroom without using the correct protocol. Should anyone wish, adding preferred pronouns to the end of your name is allowed.

[Courtroom] [Side & Role] [Attorney name or Witness name + (student name)] [Team Code]

Key:

P – Prosecution	A – Attorney	PJ – Presiding judge
D – Defense	W – Witness	SJ – Scoring judge
	T – Timekeeper	
	C – Coach/Teacher/Legal Advisor	
	M – Non-participating team member	
	G – Team Guest (parent, family, etc)	
	ART – Courtroom Artist	

Examples:

1 PA John Roberts Team AAA (He/Him)

- In Courtroom 1, Prosecution Attorney is played by John Roberts, who is on Team AAA.

3 DA Elena Kagan Team BBB

- In Courtroom 3, Defense Attorney is played by Elena Kagan, who is on Team BBB.

6 PW Jordan Bennett (Samuel Alito) Team CCC

- In Courtroom 6, Prosecution Witness Jordan Bennett, is played by Samuel Alito, who is on Team CCC.

2 PT Stephen Breyer Team DDD

- In Courtroom 2, Prosecution Timekeeper is Stephen Breyer, who is on Team DDD.

4 DW Obie Goode (Clarence Thomas) Team EEE

- In Courtroom 4, Defense Witness Obie Goode, is played by Clarence Thomas, who is on Team EEE.

5 DM Sonia Sotomayor Team FFF (She/Her)

- In Courtroom 5, Sonia Sotomayor is a member from the defense team, Team FFF, who does not have an active role in the trial at hand. (Sonia may only be playing a role on the prosecution side and/or serving as a backup in the event of technology issues.)

9 PC Neil Gorsuch Team GGG

- In Courtroom 9, Neil Gorsuch is the teacher, legal advisor, or coach from Team GGG, who is playing the prosecution side in this trial.

7 SJ Brett Kavanaugh

- In Courtroom 7, Brett Kavanaugh is a scoring judge.

8 DG Amy Barrett Team HHH

- Amy Barrett is a guest (family member) of defense Team HHH in Courtroom 8.

12 ART John Marshall

- In Courtroom 12, John Marshall is a student courtroom artist, unaffiliated with either team presenting, who will be drawing the courtroom art for the round.

### **Zoom Links, Trial Assignments, & Trial Rosters**

The Indiana Bar Foundation will send the trial assignments and Zoom links to the team advisors prior to each trial. It will be the advisor's responsibility to share with his/her network. This document will indicate the Zoom link to follow for the trial, the courtroom number assigned, side-playing assignment, the trial matchup, and roster link document. Please access the roster document and fill out your roster of who is playing what role in that trial **as soon as possible, and no later than 15 minutes prior to the start of the trial**. This will be shared with the judges so they can accurately assign Best Attorney and Best Witness. Each team will also be able to have access to this to assign their Star Award and know the order in which the team is choosing to call witnesses. For internet security reasons, the Zoom links will

not be published on a generally available website and we ask teams to not post the links online (website or social media).

### **Updated Case**

The final case errata sheet and updates were posted April 29. Please make sure the most up-to-date version of the case is being used. (It will note that the case release date on page 3 of the case). You can view and download the latest errata sheet and case materials on the competition website at <https://2021.nhsmtc.org/info/materials/case-materials/case-2021/>.

### **Updated Mock Trial Rules & Rules of Evidence**

The National High School Mock Trial Championship Rules Committee has updated the competition rules and rules of evidence. They can be downloaded at [www.nationalmocktrial.org/rules/rules-competition/](http://www.nationalmocktrial.org/rules/rules-competition/).

### **Team Membership & Allowance into the Zoom Courthouse**

Each team is allowed up to 15 unique Zoom admissions per team per trial. This can be divvied up any way the team leaders would like among participating students, non-participating students, legal advisors, parents, and supports. For example, if a team has 7 participating students, 1 teacher, and 1 legal advisor, there are 6 more admission spots available for non-participating students, guests, family members, and supporters.

The Indiana Bar Foundation takes no stance on the allowance/disallowance of a team “watch party” to bring more supporters together to watch the trial. With that being said, any prohibition of communication between non-participating observers and the participating students is still in effect. ***IN ALL CASES, SCHOOL, LOCAL, AND STATE COVID PROTOCOLS MUST BE FOLLOWED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, FACE COVERINGS, PHYSICAL SPACING, ROOM CAPACITY LIMITS, ETC.***

### **Backgrounds**

The Indiana Bar Foundation nor the National High School Mock Trial Championship have no recommendation or preference to a background as long as it’s not distracting or causes technical issues for the trial. Participants may use their actual home/office/school as their background. They may choose to use a non-distracting virtual background, with the suggestion it doesn’t have moving pieces, brightly colored, or the participant doesn’t “ghost” through it. Judges will be advised to not take background into account while scoring.

### **Timekeeper Orientation**

There will be a timekeeper orientation on Wednesday, May 12 at 6:00 pm ET. Any student who may be a timer during the competition is required to attend this orientation. Zoom links will be sent closer to the event.

### **Courtroom Artist**

There will be a courtroom artist orientation on Wednesday, May 12 at 6:00 pm ET. Any courtroom artist is required to attend this orientation. Zoom link will be sent closer to the event. The Courtroom Artist competition will take place during Trial 3 of the competition, so teams may find a student artist in their courtroom during that round. They will be noted as such using the naming protocol.

### **Star Awards**

The Star Awards are given from one team to their opponent team for each trial recognizing an outstanding attorney and outstanding witness. Teams should communicate among themselves once the trial is complete, but before the judges give feedback, to determine who the Star Award should be given to for that trial. Teams should announce the recipients to the other team before ending the meeting.

### **Bakko Award**

Each team must submit one team ballot nominating another team for the *Larry Bakko Professionalism and Civility Award*. A team may not nominate itself. A team may nominate another team they competed against in one of their rounds, or not, as it sees fit. The NHTMTC Board of Directors will not recommend a particular process by which each team determines their nomination, but suggests that coaches take student input into account when completing the nomination ballot. How a team reaches the decision to nominate another team for this award is completely within the purview of that team. The qualities that teams nominated for the award must demonstrate inside and outside the courtroom include: professional demeanor, civility, integrity, honesty, fair play, respect for competition, respect for fellow competitors, and respect for volunteers and all associated with the program inside and outside the courtroom throughout the competition.

The nomination form will become available during Trial 4. Nominations must be submitted by 3:00 pm ET on Saturday, May 15.

### **Grace and Civility**

We recognize that online mock trial is new for you and your students. We hope you keep in mind it is new to your mock trial opponent, the Indiana Bar Foundation, and the National High School Mock Trial Championship. With that, we ask all teams to be graceful and understanding as we continue to work on this together and make the best experience possible for all participants. Many things will go right, but realistically, we expect some bumps along the way. We ask for your patience and understanding as we work through the issues and at the competitions.

A goal of Mock Trial is to provide an educational opportunity for students to learn about our legal system and government in an authentic manner. We understand the format of a trial naturally creates conflict, but resolution of the issue before the court should and must be done civilly and respectfully. We remind all members of a mock trial team they should conduct themselves with civility, dignity, and respect. They are representing themselves, their teachers, their legal advisors, their schools, their communities, and their states throughout the process. It is expected that teachers, advisors, coaches, and parents will also model civil behavior toward and respect for the court, the volunteers, and members and supporters of the opposing teams.