

### Courthouse and Parking Logistics

**1. Can other team members not presenting, parents, and others come to watch the trial?**

Currently, we ask that you please limit the number of people attending the trials, if possible, especially for Senior Round 1 (11/2) and Senior Round 2 (11/8). We also ask that you please exit the courthouse as soon as the scoring panel is done providing feedback. Please promptly walk to the Hill Street exit on the first floor.

**2. Where will the LA County Mock Trials take place?**

All trials will take place at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse - 111 North Hill Street (Hill Street & 1<sup>st</sup> Street.)

**3. Where do I enter the courthouse?**

- The main courthouse entrance is on Hill Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Street - this entrance will remain open during the competition.
- Two other entrances:
  - 1st Street and Olive Street will close at 4:00 p.m.
  - Grand Avenue and 1<sup>st</sup> Street will close at 4:30 p.m.

**4. Where do I park?**

Lot #14 – Music Center (135 N. Grand Avenue across from the courthouse/Grand Park)

- Each team will receive one parking pass. Carpooling is highly recommended.
- Any additional parking needed – the rate is \$20 before 4:00 p.m. and \$10 after 4:00 p.m.

There are several public parking lots surrounding the courthouse.

**5. Where do buses park or drop-off students?**

There is no bus parking, only pick-up and drop-off areas. Students may be dropped off in front of the courthouse on Olive and 1st Street or on Grand Avenue between 1st Street and Temple Boulevard.

### Check-in Information

**6. What time does my team need to be at the courthouse?**

Team Check-in is on the 2nd Floor from 4:00p.m.-4:30p.m. The teacher/attorney coach must check-in and submit a copy of the Team Roster Form prior to each trial using their team code; there is no need to bring the entire team to the check-in area. At check-in you will receive your courtroom assignment, Most Valuable Participant certificate, a blank CRF thank you card (Round 1 Only), and other information. Reminder the teacher/attorney coach must stay with the team for the entire trial.

**7. What is the Most Valuable Participant certificate for?**

At the end of each trial, the presider will instruct each team that they have a few minutes to determine the winner of the MVP certificate from the opposing team. Then each team will present the certificate.

**8. What is the blank Teach Democracy thank you card for?**

During Round 1, each team must sign and leave on the bench to thank the presider (might not be the same person presiding over your trial) that allowed us to use their courtroom.

### Forms for Competition

**9. What forms do I need to bring?**

- Observer Form – 1 per team. Submit to presider at the end of the trial.

- Timesheet – 1 per clerk (and 1 per any unofficial timer) Submit to presider at the end of the trial.
- Team Roster Forms – each team must bring 6 completed forms.
  - one copy submitted to Teach Democracy staff at check-in.
  - before the trial begins, the clerk and bailiff will distribute one copy to:
    - the presider
    - each attorney scorer
    - the opposing team
- All forms can be found at <http://crf-usa.org/mock-trial-los-angeles/la-mock-trial-download-forms.html>.

#### 10. What is the observer form for?

Each team (both prosecution and defense) is required to designate an adult to serve as official Courtroom Observer/Chaperone. No one should enter the courtroom until the observers have entered and completed a survey of the room. The general rule is that nothing in the courtroom should be touched or moved by Mock Trial participants and spectators. The official Courtroom Observer/Chaperone must make sure the team leaves the courtroom exactly as it was. The observer form must be turned in to the presider at the end of the trial.

### Team Logistics

#### 11. Do all teams present a Pretrial argument?

Pretrial argument is mandatory for the high school teams. Middle schools do not present a pretrial argument.

#### 12. What side provides the bailiff?

The defense team provides the bailiff. The bailiff must bring a copy of the 2023 Team Rulebook and case packet along with errata.

#### 13. What side provides the clerk?

The prosecution provides the clerk (official timer). The clerk must bring a timesheet, pen/pencil, and stopwatch (no cell phones, tablets, or other digital devices). Calculators are allowed. You may borrow a Teach Democracy stopwatch at check-in. The presider will provide Teach Democracy laminated time remaining cards but must return to the presider after each trial.

Optional - The defense team provides the unofficial timer. The unofficial timer must sit next to the official timer to compare timesheets.

#### 14. Can clerk (or unofficial timer) use a phone or tablet to keep time?

No phones, tablets, or other electronic devices allowed at all during the competition. Clerk and unofficial timer can only use a stopwatch to keep time.

#### 15. What side provides the exhibits?

The prosecution team must bring the exhibits. The exhibits can be as small as the original size found in the case but no larger than 22 x 28 inches. It cannot be altered in any way.

### Rounds and Score Logistics

#### 16. How many rounds does each team participate in?

Each team is guaranteed to present Round 1 and Round 2. After Round 2, only teams that are undefeated advance to the next round.

#### 17. How long are the rounds?

Rounds are scheduled to start at 5:00 p.m. and last about 2 to 2 ½ hours. Please exit the courthouse as soon as the trial is over. We ask that all teams exit the courthouse before 8:00 p.m.

#### 18. Where do I find Round 2 side assignments?

All teams will do the opposite from Round 1. For example, if your team was prosecution for Round 1 you will present defense for Round 2.

#### 19. How are teams matched-up after R1?

After Round 1, teams are power-matched by on a ballot system (see rulebook for more details).

#### 20. When will team matchups be posted?

Team matchups (teams must know their team code) will be posted via Tabroom prior to each round. However, the teacher/attorney coach must check-in on the 2nd floor prior to each round before taking the team to their assigned courtroom. Most courtrooms will still be in session, please have your team wait quietly outside their assigned courtroom until 5:00 p.m.

#### 21. Where can I get our team scores?

Team scores will be posted via Tabroom the day after each trial.

#### 22. How can I find out if a team won or lost a round?

You will not know whether you won or lost a round until after Round 2. After Round 2, you can go back and retrieve your scores again and you could see if your team won or did not win that round. You will NOT receive the scores of your opponent.

### Courtroom Artist Information

- Artists may sit in the jury box when available but away from the scorers.
- Artists must bring their own art supplies.
- Artists are welcome to watch and draw their team's Round 1 as practice, but a Round 1 drawing will not be considered.
- The official round for courtroom artists is Round 2.
- Artwork should be given to the presider at the end of Round 2 with the artist label (picked up during team check-in) on the back of the drawing.
- High School (only) the top two winners will be eligible to compete at the state level.
- See complete rules at <http://crf-usa.org/mock-trial-los-angeles/courtroom-artist-competition.html>.

### Journalist Information

- Journalists may sit in jury box when available but away from the scorers.
- Journalists must provide their own supplies – no laptops or tablets are allowed to be used in the courtroom.
- Journalists are welcome to watch their team's Round 1 but must write their articles based on their team's Round 2 participation.
- All journalists must type their articles and emailed to [daisy@teachdemocracy.org](mailto:daisy@teachdemocracy.org) by 5:30p.m. on Nov. 9th (Senior Division) and Nov. 14th (Junior Division)
- High School (only) the top two winners will be eligible to compete at the state finals.
- See complete rules at <http://crf-usa.org/mock-trial-los-angeles/courtroom-journalist-competition.html>

The Coaches' Orientation, Team Rulebook, Case Packet, and Errata have the information below with additional details. Please make sure to review all thoroughly before the competition.

### Other questions

23. Can an attorney enter the well to show a witness an exhibit or their statement?

Attorneys may ask the presider for permission to enter the well for the limited purpose of presenting an exhibit (or their witness statement) to a witness and questioning them about it. If the presider grants the attorney permission, then the attorney may enter the well to present the exhibit/statement to the witness and question the witness about the exhibit/statement. Once the attorney is done questioning the witness about the exhibit/statement then they must return to the podium or behind the counsel table to finish their questioning. The attorneys may not make their opening statement, conduct their direct examination/cross-examination/re-direct examination of witnesses, or closing argument from the well. They must remain behind the podium or counsel table.

24. Could you please clarify; may the cross-examination questions be about something NOT asked during direct examination? And is re-direct the same way, or are re-direct questions limited to what was asked during direct and cross-examination?

The cross-examination is not limited to direct examination since a witness cannot be recalled. Re-direct is limited to the cross-examination since there is no re-cross.

25. Are we allowed to alter the exhibit to reflect Errata 15: "Page 56, Exhibit A and Page 57, Exhibit B: change the scale to "1 square = 15ft. x 15ft."?

Again, the exhibit **must not** be altered in any way. The errata should be used to reference any modifications/corrections to the original case materials including the exhibits.

26. The rulebook says that the timekeeper stops time when a witness asks for a question to be repeated. Does the timekeeper start time when the attorney starts to repeat the question or does time start when the witness starts their answer after listening to the question again?

Time starts when the witness begins their response.

27. Can other team members not presenting, parents, and others come to watch the trial?

We are not limiting the number of attendees. HOWEVER, we ask that you please limit, if possible, the number of people attending the trials, especially for Senior Round 1 (11/2) and Senior Round 2 (11/8). We understand that teams need drivers and others want to attend, we ask those extra people to enter the courthouse before 4:30 p.m. Reminder also that several courtrooms have limited seating.

28. Is there a dress code?

All participants and attendees are required to wear appropriate courtroom attire. Participants and spectators are prohibited from wearing clothing that identifies their school.

29. Are students allowed to bring a plastic water bottle with them.

Water is allowed in the courtrooms, no food or other drinks. I would recommend bringing an unopen water bottle.

30. May Exhibit A be used during the pretrial argument for demonstrative purposes?

Yes

31. Is it correct that we only ask the judge to mark the ones we are actually going to use, and just make the rest available for the Defense to use if they so choose?

Whether a team introduces, uses, and moves the physical evidence into evidence is entirely optional, but all physical evidence must be accessible by all team members.

**32. Are the students allowed to bring snacks? If not, where can we purchase food without leaving the courthouse? We will be traveling starting from 2:30 and arriving back at school by 8:30pm so it will be a long day.**

Students can bring snacks to the courthouse but not inside the courtrooms. Prior to entering the courtrooms, please make sure students throw away their trash in the trash bins. There is a small café on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, but they tend to close early.

**32. Are we allowed to take photos in the courtroom?**

Team must get permission from the presider and opposing team to take photos. If permission is granted, the person taking the photos cannot be disruptive while taking pictures.