

AMERICAN MOCK TRIAL ASSOCIATION BALLOT



This is a pressure form. Please write firmly with ballpoint pen to make a copy.
Do not put the ballots on top of each other when you write on them.

PL./PROS. TEAM # _____ DEFENSE TEAM # _____

ROUND 1 2 3 4 _ JUDGE'S NAME _____
 (Please Print)

INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for taking the time to educate and evaluate these students. Please read the following guidelines to provide a consistent assessment of the students' skills. Each function of the trial is scored, and each counts toward the overall team points that will determine a win or loss. Please mark the score on the **SCORE/SPEED SHEET** (page 5) at the appropriate spot. Use spaces to write comments, as the forms will be given to students after the tournament. **NOTE: All areas for DEFENSE are shaded.**

All students should follow AMTA guidelines on objecting, impeaching witnesses, and admitting exhibits. You should not deduct points because those procedures differ from those used in your practice. The AMTA board has voted to eliminate bench conferences, so if there is a dispute, have the presiding judge make a ruling and move on.

Students in attorney roles should be judged on the basis of their knowledge of the law, court procedure, and grasp of the case. In addition, consider their organization, poise, clarity, and ability to focus your interest. Students in witness roles should be judged on the basis of their convincing portrayal of their characters, including consistency with facts in the affidavit, poise, clarity, and ability to focus your interest. Please use the full range of the 10-point scale below to distinguish outstanding performances from those that are good, average, or weak. Please **DO NOT** put scores on pages 1-4. Ballots are not graded and any and all notes should be included on the ballots as the trial progresses. Judges will **NOT** have time to transfer notes made on a legal pad or scrap paper to the ballot. Your comments are an important learning tool for the students, and we appreciate your efforts to provide them with feedback. Additional comments that won't fit in a given student space can be made on page 4.

10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Excellent					Average				Poor

We want to encourage the student participants to engage in the following behaviors, so please consider them in evaluating the students:

ATTORNEYS

- Made timely objections and avoided specious objections
- Demonstrated understanding of legal procedure/reasoning, could "think on feet"
- Direct examination was well-structured, coherent
- Controlled witness on cross-examination
- Articulate and professional in presentation, with minimal use of notes
- Impeached witnesses to delineate discrepancies between testimony and affidavit
- Opening statement established theory of the case
- Closing argument addressed strengths of own case, weaknesses of opponents' case
- Worked well with other team members
- Displayed appropriate decorum to team members, judges, and opposing team throughout the round
- Spoke loudly and clearly enough to be heard, understood

WITNESSES

- Dress and demeanor appropriate for witness being portrayed
- Maintained portrayal of character throughout trial, even when not on stand, without relying on notes
- Showed emotion appropriate to role
- Avoided impeachment
- Gave responses that helped team, without inventing material facts on direct examination
- Responded well to unanticipated questions on cross examination
- Knew part cold, believable performance
- Maintained poise during cross examination, did not become inappropriately flustered or uncertain
- Worked well with other team members
- Displayed appropriate decorum to team members, judges, and opposing team throughout the round
- Spoke loudly and clearly enough to be heard, understood

PL./PROS. OPENING STATEMENT NAME _____

DEFENSE OPENING STATEMENT NAME _____

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PL./PROS. TEAM # _____ DEFENSE TEAM # _____

ROUND 1 2 3 4 _ JUDGE'S NAME _____
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PL./PROS. WITNESS #1 Character Name _____

DIRECTING ATTORNEY'S NAME

WITNESS'S NAME

CROSSING ATTORNEY'S NAME

PL./PROS. WITNESS #2 Character Name _____

DIRECTING ATTORNEY'S NAME

WITNESS'S NAME

CROSSING ATTORNEY'S NAME

PL./PROS. WITNESS #3 Character Name _____

DIRECTING ATTORNEY'S NAME

WITNESS'S NAME

CROSSING ATTORNEY'S NAME

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PL./PROS. TEAM # _____ DEFENSE TEAM # _____

ROUND 1 2 3 4 _ JUDGE'S NAME _____
(Please Print)

DEFENSE WITNESS #1 Character Name _____

DIRECTING ATTORNEY'S NAME	WITNESS'S NAME
CROSSING ATTORNEY'S NAME	

DEFENSE WITNESS #2 Character Name _____

DIRECTING ATTORNEY'S NAME	WITNESS'S NAME
CROSSING ATTORNEY'S NAME	

DEFENSE WITNESS #3 Character Name _____

DIRECTING ATTORNEY'S NAME	WITNESS'S NAME
CROSSING ATTORNEY'S NAME	

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PL./PROS. TEAM # _____ DEFENSE TEAM # _____

ROUND 1 2 3 4 _ JUDGE'S NAME _____
(Please Print)

PL./PROS. CLOSING ARGUMENT NAME _____

DEFENSE CLOSING ARGUMENT NAME _____

PL./PROS. REBUTTAL (AMTA rules allow, but do not require, a pl./pros. rebuttal. If used, your score for the closing argument should include this speech.)

The space below may be used for additional comments to the teams, such as the round's highlights, major accomplishments, areas for general improvement, reactions to case strategies, or reasons for the decision on the merits.



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ROUND 1 2 3 4 _ JUDGE'S NAME _____
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SCORE SUMMARY/SPEED SHEET

Please fill out this sheet and hand it in **IMMEDIATELY** after the trial, before you consult with the other judges or offer any oral critique. The prompt completion of this sheet is important to the timeliness of the next round and the efficiency of the entire tournament. Thanks for your cooperation. (Please **DO NOT** use decimals or fractions in judging performances.)

PLAINTIFF/PROSECUTION

_____ Opening statement

PL./PROS. CASE-IN-CHIEF

_____ Direct exam of π #1
 _____ Witness #1 direct
 _____ Witness #1 cross

_____ Direct exam of π #2
 _____ Witness #2 direct
 _____ Witness #2 cross

_____ Direct exam of π #3
 _____ Witness #3 direct
 _____ Witness #3 cross

_____ Cross exam of Δ #1

_____ Cross exam of Δ #2

_____ Cross exam of Δ #3

_____ Pl./Pros. closing argument

DEFENSE

_____ Opening statement

_____ Cross exam of π #1

_____ Cross exam of π #2

_____ Cross exam of π #3

DEFENSE CASE-IN-CHIEF

_____ Direct exam of Δ #1
 _____ Witness #1 direct
 _____ Witness #1 cross

_____ Direct exam of Δ #2
 _____ Witness #2 direct
 _____ Witness #2 cross

_____ Direct exam of Δ #3
 _____ Witness #3 direct
 _____ Witness #3 cross

_____ Defense closing argument

OUTSTANDING ATTORNEYS AND WITNESSES

Each judge should rank the top four attorneys and witnesses where rank #1 represents the best performance. Please indicate which side the nominees represent by circling P or D. Use the student's name, not the character's name – look at pages 2 and 3 if in doubt.

ATTORNEYS

- 1. _____ P D
- 2. _____ P D
- 3. _____ P D
- 4. _____ P D

WITNESSES

- 1. _____ P D
- 2. _____ P D
- 3. _____ P D
- 4. _____ P D