

GOALS OF THE MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

Benefits of the mock trial program extend beyond the rewards of competing against one's peers or winning a round of competition. The impact of the program is measured by successfully attaining the following objectives. The goals of the Mississippi High School Mock Trial Competition are:

To promote greater understanding of and appreciation for the law, court procedures, and the Mississippi Judicial systems

To improve basic life skills, such as critical thinking, reading, speaking, and advocacy

To improve communication and cooperation among key community members, including schools, teachers, legal professionals, and citizens

To heighten appreciation for the principle of equal justice for all

To promote an awareness of current legal issues

To promote the exchange of ideas among students from throughout the state of Mississippi while providing a rewarding and memorable experience of interaction

Education of high school students is the primary goal of the mock trial program. Healthy competition helps to achieve this goal. However, teachers are reminded of their responsibility to keep the competitive spirit at a reasonable level. The reality of the adversary system is that one party wins and the other loses, and teachers should be sure to prepare their students to be ready to accept either outcome by placing the highest value on excellent preparation and presentation, rather than winning or losing the case.

Students need to be prepared for the agony of defeat as well as how to win with class. Hurt feelings, anger and frustration are not the objectives of the mock trials. We hope students view the event as a fun and exciting learning experience. An admonition to all students, sponsors and coaches: **“Lighten up and have a good time, regardless of the competition’s outcome!”**