



UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER



Dear Members of the Rochester Legal Community:

The University of Rochester Mock Trial Organization is proud to announce that it will host the second annual Yellowjacket Invitational on Saturday and Sunday, February 4-5, 2012. Mock trial teams from colleges across the country will compete in four different trials on the University of Rochester campus.

Throughout the weekend each team will have the opportunity to compete as the prosecution twice and the defense twice. For the event to be successful, we invite local judges, attorneys, law students, and other members of the legal profession to volunteer as trial judges for one or more of the mock trial sessions. On behalf of the University of Rochester mock trial team, it is my pleasure to invite you to volunteer as a judge at our invitational. Some of you will be asked to act as a presiding judge and make rulings on the students' objections. Others will act in just a scoring capacity. If you only feel comfortable in one of these roles and have a strong preference, let us know!

There will be two trial sessions each day (one each morning and afternoon of the tournament). We call upon the generosity of the Western New York legal community in making the tournament a success. Last year we had a solid turnout of attorneys and judges from the local legal community. This year we hope to improve on the number of volunteers. As a token of our appreciation, we will provide breakfast and lunch before each trial session.

We are very thankful for Nixon Peabody LLP for continually supporting our organization. They are sponsoring this tournament by acting as a provider of CLE credit. Nixon Peabody LLP is an accredited provider of continuing legal education in California, New Hampshire, New York and Rhode Island. This course is approved for 3.5 credit hours in the category of skills, and is approved for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys. For other jurisdictions where reciprocity does not apply, Nixon Peabody will assist with seeking course CLE approval upon request. Please note that the CLE Boards have the final authority on the acceptance and granting of CLE credit for individual courses. Certificates of Completion will be mailed 30-days after the course. Attendees are responsible for self-reporting their CLE credits.

If you are interested in offering your time or have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at: tournament.urmt@gmail.com. I am happy to send you additional information about the case and to answer any questions regarding the Yellowjacket Invitational.

Thank you very much for your time. I hope to hear from you soon, and to see you at the tournament in February.

Sincerely,

Andrew Debbins
University of Rochester
Mock Trial Tournament Director
Tournament.URMT@gmail.com

Yoni (Jonathan) Bokser
University of Rochester
Mock Trial President
Jonathan.Bokser@Rochester.edu

P.S. This year we will be highlighting some outstanding judges with awards!

CASE SUMMARY:

American Mock Trial Association
2011-2012

State of Midlands v. Danny Dawson:

Vanessa Sullivan, the daughter of Midland's prominent chief prosecutor, celebrated her 21st birthday with her two friends, Danny Dawson and Taylor Hobson, at Chuggie's Pub. After a night of revelry, Dawson agreed to drive Sullivan and Hopson home in Sullivan's car. On a winding and sparsely traveled road, in a fierce rainstorm, Dawson lost control of the automobile. The automobile left the road, struck a utility pole and tree. Ms. Sullivan was killed in the collision.

The Midlands Grand Jury handed down a four-count indictment against Dawson for murder, manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, and driving under the influence of alcohol. The prosecution team is required, by rule, to seek a guilty verdict on the murder charge; the defense team may pursue a not-guilty charge on all counts, or seek a verdict on a lesser charge.

Please contact me if you wish to have access to the full set of case documents. AMTA rules and copyrights do not allow me to release these until you make a commitment to volunteer as a judge.

Some of the Colleges that are expected at this years tournament:

- Carnegie Mellon University
- Case Western
- Colgate University
- Dickinson College
- Ithaca College
- Indiana University
- Penn State
- St. Bonaventure University
- St. John Fisher College
- SUNY Geneseo
- Swarthmore College
- University of Massachusetts Amherst
- University of Michigan
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Rochester
- University of Vermont
- Washington & Jefferson

Competition rules prevent judges from knowing the school they are judging until after a round, so if you have a conflict with a particular team please let me know!