

MBA NEWS



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High schools throughout the state named Sweet 16 regional finalists in the Massachusetts Bar Association's 24th annual Mock Trial Program

BOSTON, Mass. — Sixteen high schools (see full list below) throughout the state have been named Sweet 16 regional finalists in the 24th annual Mock Trial Program presented by the Massachusetts Bar Association. They will continue in the program by competing in trials throughout this week.

The Sweet 16 winners vied for their titles by competing in trials throughout January, February and early March. More than 100 high schools across the state initially signed up to participate in the program.

The Mock Trial Program places high school teams in a simulated courtroom situation, where they take on the roles of prosecutors, defense attorneys and witnesses. This year's criminal case involves a murder trial in which the defendant, a veteran, raises Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as an insanity defense against the charge of first-degree murder. Local attorneys serve as both team coaches and judges of the trials.

After this week's trials, four teams will advance to the semi-final elimination round and face off during trials held simultaneously on March 23 in Boston and Worcester. The two remaining teams will compete for the state championship at 10 a.m. March 27 in the Great Hall of Boston's Faneuil Hall. In 2008, Newton South High School won the state championship and placed 22nd overall in the national tournament.

The Mock Trial Program is administered by the MBA, and made possible by the international law firm of Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP through its Center for the Public Interest in Boston, which has contributed \$25,000 per year to the program since 1998.

The 16 regional winners are:

Region 1: Carver High School

Region 2: Mansfield High School

Region 3: Marshfield High School

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Region 4: Algonquin Regional High School, Northborough

Region 5: Sharon High School

Region 6: Newton South High School

Region 7: The Winsor School, Boston

Region 8: Maimonides School, Brookline

Region 9: Our Lady of Nazareth Academy, Wakefield

Region 10: Marblehead High School

Region 11: Phillips Academy, Andover

Region 12: Westford Academy

Region 13: Lowell Catholic High School

Region 14: Massachusetts Academy of Mathematics and Science, Worcester

Region 15: Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter School, South Hadley

Region 16: Longmeadow High School

Incorporated in 1911, the Massachusetts Bar Association is a non-profit organization that serves the legal profession and the public by promoting the administration of justice, legal education, professional excellence and respect for the law. The MBA represents a diverse group of attorneys, judges and legal professionals across the commonwealth.