‘Elite 8’ schools advance in Mass. Bar Association’s Mock Trial Program
‘Final Four,’ March 20; State Championship at Faneuil Hall, March 25

BOSTON, Mass. — Eight high schools from across the state have reached the quarterfinals of the 29th annual High School Mock Trial Program presented by the Massachusetts Bar Association.

The remaining “Elite 8” teams will now compete in trials throughout this week. Four winners will emerge and compete on March 20 in the “Final Four” elimination round, in separate semifinal trials held simultaneously in Boston and Worcester. The two finalists will then advance to the state championship, to be held March 25 in the Great Hall at Faneuil Hall in Boston.

The “Elite 8” schools earned their regional titles and quarterfinal berths by competing in trials throughout January, February and March. More than 1,500 students at 130 high schools across the state participate in the annual program, in which students turn their classrooms into courtrooms to assume the roles of both lawyers and witnesses. The Massachusetts Bar Association’s Mock Trial Program, which began in 1985, is unique in that it includes teams from public and private schools, including charter and parochial schools.

This year’s case revolves around whether or not the wing of a stunt plane sheared off due to a design defect or as a result of pilot error. The plaintiff is the child of a stunt pilot who died performing an advanced aerobatic maneuver while practicing for a stunt show at the Devlin County Fair.

The Mock Trial Program is administered by the Mass. Bar Association with support from the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp. and the Massachusetts Bar Foundation. More than 100 lawyers across the state will volunteer as coaches and judges.

This year’s “Elite 8” include:

Marshfield High School, Wayland High School, The Winsor School (Boston), Maimonides School (Brookline), Malden Catholic High School, Marblehead High School, Holy Name Central Catholic High School (Worcester) and Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School (South Hadley)

In 2013, the Winsor School of Boston won the state championship, its second win since 2010.

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.

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