



**Mock Trial 2023-2024  
Summary of Rule Changes**

- Clarification to the bailiff/timekeeper role
  - On the Prosecution side, this can be filled by the same *or* different students.
  - Clarification on recreating timecards
- Change to ballot advancement
  - To advance from the District Competition based on ballots, teams must win the majority of the judges' ballots (more than 50%), including at least one judge's ballot from each trial.
- Schools may register a maximum of three teams for the 2024 competition.
  - Please refer to the Mock Trial rules for guidance on team site assignments and other important information.
  - Third teams may be required to compete anywhere in the state, regardless of distance.
- New judge qualifications
  - Any high school graduate with significant Mock Trial experience, paralegal, or current law student is eligible to serve as a scoring.
  - Presiding judges must still have a J.D., and preference will be given to those with Mock Trial experience.
- Updated flow charts for winning the trial and ballot advancement
- Added language to clarify that the errata is part of the case materials and may be used during trial.
  - Attorneys may reference the errata
  - Witnesses are bound by the errata, in addition to their written statements
  - Errata updates related to witness testimony may be shown for the purpose of impeaching that witness' testimony
- Updated bailiff script
- Added rule for criminal cases where the defendant is a witness
  - Defendant has the right to be present for the entirety of the trial and is not subject to witness separation.
- Added rule to clarify that visual aids, other than the exhibits included in the case materials, are prohibited during trial.
- Added rule to clarify the use of exhibits during closing arguments