

## State Competition Information

Congratulations on advancing to the 2026 Mock Trial State Finals. We look forward to welcoming you and your team to Columbus Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>!

Please review the following information before the competition, which may also be accessed via the OCLRE website on the Statewide Competition tab.

### IMPORTANT!

Please note that the competition structure has changed from prior years. This year all teams will be competing on both Thursday 3/12 and Friday 3/13. This means that we will be starting later in the day on Thursday. Please make careful note of the schedule within this document to plan your travel and hotel accommodations accordingly.

### Hotel Accommodations

OCLRE has arranged for a block of rooms at 2 nearby hotels, The Westin Columbus and the Renaissance Columbus Downtown. The hotels are a 7–12-minute walk to the Franklin County Courthouse and the Supreme Court of Ohio where the competition is being held. *Teams wishing to book at the group rate must reserve by the deadline indicated below.*

- ◆ **The Westin Great Southern Columbus (310 S High Street, Columbus, OH 43215)**
  - *Reserve by Thursday, February 26, 2026*
  - Room rate per night of \$179
  - You can [book the group rate by using this link](#)
  
- ◆ **The Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel (50 N 3rd St, Columbus, OH 43215)**
  - *Reserve by Friday, February 27, 2026*
  - Room rate per night of \$179
  - You can [book the group rate by using this link](#)

### Competition Logistics

On Thursday and Friday, March 12-13, the state competition will be held at the **Franklin County Courthouse** (373 S High St, Columbus, OH 43215). On Saturday, March 14, the semifinal and final rounds will be held at the Supreme Court of Ohio (65 S Front St., Columbus, OH 43215).

**\*\*All teams and guests must enter the Franklin County Courthouse through the pavilion entrance at the corner of High St. and Mound St.\*\***

No meals will be provided for students during the competition. There are several nearby restaurants. You may want to consider bringing lunch and dinner with you. Space to sit and eat will be available in the cafeteria until 3:00 p.m. and in designated rooms reserved by OCLRE.

***Food and beverages (other than water bottles with caps) are prohibited inside the Auditorium and all courtrooms.***

## **COMPETITION SCHEDULE:**

*Please review this schedule carefully prior to competition.*

### **Thursday, March 12 – Franklin County Courthouse**

**\*\* Enter through the pavilion entrance at the corner of High St. and Mound St.\*\***

#### **Trial I**

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Team check-in – outside Auditorium
2:15 – 2:30 p.m.	Welcome announcements and room assignments (Auditorium)
3:00 - 5:30 p.m.	Trial I

### **Friday, March 13 – Franklin County Courthouse**

**\*\* Enter through the pavilion entrance at the corner of High St. and Mound St.\*\***

#### **Trial II**

9:00-9:30 a.m.	Team check-in – outside Auditorium
9:30 – 10:00 p.m.	Welcome announcements and room assignments (Auditorium)
10:00 – 12:30 p.m.	Trial II
1:30 p.m.	Advancing teams announced (Auditorium)

NOTE: The announcement of teams advancing to Trial III (Quarterfinals) will occur *after* the conclusion of the second trial and review of scoresheets.

#### **Trial III (Quarterfinals)**

1:45 p.m.	Teams check-in for Quarterfinals (Auditorium)
2:00 – 2:15 p.m.	Pairings drawn live and room assignments given (Auditorium)
2:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Trial III
5:00 – 5:30 p.m.	Scores tallied, advancing teams announced

NOTE: The announcement of teams advancing to Trial IV (Semifinals) will occur *after* the conclusion of the second trial and review of scoresheets.

**Saturday, March 14 – The Supreme Court of Ohio** (65 S. Front St., Columbus, OH 43215)

***Please do not arrive before 8:45 a.m. The building will not be open, and security will not be on staff until 8:45 a.m.***

*Due to availability of space, access to courtrooms will be limited to the participating teams and advisors, with observers admitted on a space available basis. Non-advancing teams are encouraged to follow OCLRE social media and website for updates.*

**Trial IV (Semifinals)**

**8:45 a.m.** - Teams Arrive

**9:15 a.m.** - Pre-trial

**9:30 a.m.** - Trials begin

**11:45 a.m.** - Trials end

**Trial V (Championship)**

**12:45 p.m.** –Teams check-in (Room 101)

**1:00 p.m.** – Pre-trial

**1:00 p.m.** – *Semifinalist teams recognized with awards on Ohio Channel live stream.*

**1:15 p.m.** – Trial begins

**3:30 p.m.** – Trial ends

**\*Scoring Break\***

**4:00 p.m.** – Judge feedback

**4:15 p.m.** – Presentation of Awards

## TEAM CHECK-IN

**All teams competing at the State Competition must check in at the OCLRE registration desk between 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>.**

Prior to arriving for the competition, teams should eat lunch. There are several restaurants nearby, or teams can bring food and eat in the Courthouse Cafeteria. Trials will begin promptly as soon as all judges have arrived and have completed training.

- The registration desk is located outside the Auditorium in the PFM Hall. Follow signs from the pavilion entrance.
- **Registration will not open until 1:00 p.m. – no early check-in.**
- The **team advisor or legal advisor** must check teams in (no parents, students, chaperones, etc.)
- Upon check-in, advisors will:
  - Verify that the roster is correct and is unchanged from the District Competition
  - Turn in any remaining photo release forms.
  - Receive a team bag with scoresheets, thank you cards, and final instructions.

Please bring the following to competition:

- 2 Stop watches – Cell phones may **not** be used in the courtroom to keep time.
- **Printed** Timecards
- Name tags for all students – please wear at all times so Security can identify students.
- Photo Releases for each team member (available [here](#))
  - The final round will be livestreamed and recorded; All team members will be recognized on video and therefore need a signed *approved* photo release.

## SECURITY

All participants and spectators must pass through security before entering the courthouse. As there will be many people going through security, you must consolidate your items into bags or briefcases that can go through the scanner. Teams must stay together as they travel to and from courtrooms. Please remember that the court is open for regular business on these dates and all participants and visitors are advised to plan accordingly and to be respectful.

## PARKING (Cars):

Parking is limited in downtown Columbus due to construction. Please plan to have participating students dropped off at the courthouse entrance at the corner of High Street and Mound Street.

For parents/observers, parking options include:

- Fulton Street Parking Garage, 34 E. Fulton Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Additional information is available [here](#).
- Columbus Commons Parking Garage, 55 E. Rich Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Additional information available [here](#).

**BUS PARKING:**

There is no designated bus parking at the Franklin County Courthouse, but you may contact your hotel for options. Buses should plan to drop students off and then park. There is bus parking near the Statehouse on State Street and Broad Street. When parking near the Statehouse, the bus driver needs to stay clear of the COTA bus stops and the entrances and exits to the parking garages.

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OCLRE looks forward to seeing you at the 2026 Ohio Mock Trial State Competition. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ryan Suskey at [rsuskey@oclr.org](mailto:rsuskey@oclr.org) or call 614-485-3506.