

# JUDGING PANEL VOLUNTEER FORM



## 2008 REGIONAL COMPETITIONS

*The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season*

---

I am volunteering to serve on a judging panel in the city and on the date indicated below:

_____ Albany (2/23/08)	_____ Decatur (2/23/08)
_____ Athens (2/23/08)	_____ Douglasville (2/23/08)
_____ Atlanta (2/16/08)	_____ Jonesboro (2/15-16/08)
_____ Atlanta (2/23/08)	_____ Lawrenceville (2/22-23/08)
_____ Brunswick (2/23/08)	_____ Macon (2/23/08)
_____ Canton (2/23/08)	_____ Marietta (2/23/08)
_____ Cartersville (2/23/08)	_____ McDonough (2/16/08)
_____ Dalton (2/23/08)	_____ Savannah (2/22-23/08)

---

I would prefer the role of:  Presiding Judge  Scoring Evaluator

I have had \_\_\_\_\_ (#) **ROUNDS** of judging experience as:  Presiding Judge  Scoring Evaluator

I have had \_\_\_\_\_ (#) **YEARS** of judging experience as:  Presiding Judge  Scoring Evaluator

HSMT Coaching Experience:  Yes  No # of Years? \_\_\_\_\_ Team? \_\_\_\_\_

I have a "conflict"\* with the team(s) from (*Identify by school name*) \_\_\_\_\_

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

State Bar Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Please return this completed form to**

FAX: 404/527-8717 or [mocktrial@gabar.org](mailto:mocktrial@gabar.org)

Georgia Mock Trial Competition—ATTN: Stacy Rieke

104 Marietta Street, NW; Suite 100; Atlanta, GA 30303

*Your competition materials will be mailed to you between 18 January 2008 and 15 February 2008. The Judging Panel Manual may also be found online at [www.georgiamocktrial.org](http://www.georgiamocktrial.org) under the Mock Trial Materials tab*

# THE ROLE OF JUDGING PANEL VOLUNTEERS

## **Judging Panels**

***Presiding Judge:*** In each courtroom there will be one presiding judge who is responsible for maintaining order, moving the trial along in the designated time allotment, ruling on evidentiary motions, and overseeing all procedures during the trial.

***Scoring Evaluator:*** In each courtroom there will be three scoring evaluators who will sit in the jury box and will evaluate the students' performances and who will be responsible for completing a score sheet based upon individual performances of each team. Students are scored on their presentation skills, **not** on the merits of the case.

## **Orientation**

There will be an orientation session presented by a member of our coordinating team before each round of competition. All participating presiding judges and scoring evaluators should plan to attend the orientation before each of their scheduled rounds, even if they are scheduled in multiple rounds. This is necessary for check-in, courtroom assignments and to address issues that may arise from prior rounds.

## **Time Commitment**

Ample time will need to be allowed before the competition date to thoroughly review the case materials and listen to the orientation CD, which will be provided. Past experience shows that most judges spend approximately two hours reviewing the case materials before arriving at the competition site. On the day of competition, at least four (4) hours should be set aside per round that is scheduled.

## **Pre-Requisite**

There is no pre-requisite for volunteers serving on judging panels at the regional level. Attorney coaches may not serve on a judging panel. Please be aware that the rules and procedures are very different in a high school mock trial tournament than in a college or law school mock trial tournament. Our main goal is to have enthusiastic and well-prepared panels so that our students have the best experience that we can provide when they present their case in a competition round.

## **\*Conflicts**

The Subcommittee on the Rules has identified several areas of conflict that may include, but are not limited to the following examples: the judging panel member (J/E) formerly coached a team in the competition, the J/E is a family member of a team member or coach, the J/E works in the same firm, office or department as a coach and/or the J/E has a spouse that is a member of the faculty of a team's school. Having a conflict with a team in the competition does not necessarily exclude a volunteer from serving on a judging panel during the competition, however we must be able to identify all potential conflicts in order to address them appropriately.

## **Instructions**

Please provide **all** of the information requested on the previous page. Case materials and an assignment memo (outlining the competition schedule and J/E report time(s) and orientation location) will be sent via regular mail between 18 January and 15 February 2008, along with an orientation to the 2008 competition on an audio CD. The judging panel manual will also be available online under the Mock Trial Materials tab after 18 January if you would like to begin preparing for your service before your packet arrives in the mail. All panels will be assigned according to individual responses as much as possible. *The Judging Panel Coordinator will make the final decisions regarding presiding judge/scoring evaluator placement on competition day.*