

JUDGING PANEL VOLUNTEER FORM



2018 DISTRICT COMPETITIONS

Thank you for your interest in volunteering to serve on a Judging Panel for the 2018 District Competitions. Please complete the form and e-mail it to mocktrial@gabar.org or fax to (404) 287-8383. The Mock Trial Office will forward your information to the District Coordinator of your indicated District.

All District Competitions will take place on **Saturday, February 17, 2018**, with the one exception below.

I am volunteering to serve on a District Judging Panel in the city indicated below:

Athens

Jonesboro (Thurs. PM 2/15 & Sun. afternoon 2/20)

Atlanta

Lawrenceville

Cartersville

Savannah

Douglasville

Valdosta

I would prefer the role of: Presiding Judge Scoring Evaluator

I have prior coaching experience and used to coach the team from: _____

I _____ judged or evaluated before this season's District competition.

I helped/plan on helping this season with the Regional competition(s) in _____.

I have conflict(s) (**see reverse page*) with the team(s) from (*identify by school name*): _____

Reason for conflict(s) (*if any*): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

State Bar Number: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Cell Phone (to be used only for emergency regarding competition day): _____

Thank you for your interest in the program!

Your District Coordinator will be in touch with you soon with detailed competition information.

*All Judging Panel materials will be found in an electronic format online at www.georgiamocktrial.org under the **Judging Panel Information** section in January/February. Your District Coordinator will provide you with the required log-in information.*

THE ROLE OF JUDGING PANEL VOLUNTEERS AT DISTRICTS

DISTRICT 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.

DISTRICT 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, regardless of prior years' service on a HSMT Judging Panel. This is necessary for check-in, courtroom assignments and to address issues that may arise from prior Rounds.

DISTRICT Time Commitment

Ample preparation time should be allowed before the competition date to thoroughly review materials competition materials. Past experience indicates that well-prepared volunteers spend a minimum of two hours reviewing the case, rules and preparation materials before arriving at the competition site. On the day of competition, at least four (4) hours should be set aside per scheduled round.

DISTRICT Pre-Requisite

District Judging Panel members should have at least **one Round of HSMT Judging or Evaluating experience** for volunteer service at the **District level**. Active attorney coaches may not serve on a Judging Panel. All volunteers should be aware that the Rules and procedures for a high school mock trial tournament are very different than in a college or law school mock trial tournament.

***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 faculty member at a school** in the competition. 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 preceding page (including a cell phone number, which will be kept confidential and only be used if an emergency should arise on competition day). **Your District Coordinator will be in contact with you in late January or early February, most likely by email, to confirm your Round assignment, convey information on the competition day schedule and location and provide you with the instructions for obtaining the preparation materials.** All preparation materials will be provided through the Mock Trial website. All panels will be assigned according to individual responses as much as possible. The on-site Judging Panel Coordinator will make the final decisions regarding presiding Judge/Scoring Evaluator placement.