



**RE: MODIFICATIONS TO LOUISIANA HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL REGIONS**

Dear Mock Trial Students, Teacher-coaches and Attorney-advisors:

Thank you for participating in the 2010-2011 Louisiana State High School Mock Trial Tournament. As you are aware, this program is sponsored by the Louisiana State Bar Association's Young Lawyer Division. Many thanks to the numerous local bar associations across the state that sponsor mock trial tournaments in their parishes and to the parish regional coordinators who spend many hours managing the local tournaments. Thank you also goes to the teacher-coaches and attorney-advisors who dedicate countless hours to the students across the state. Most importantly, a special thank you to all students who devote their time and energy to prepare for the tournament. Their incredible performances, year after year, never cease to amaze us. Congratulations to Jesuit High School, the winner of the 2010 Mock Trial Tournament.

The Mock Trial program is a competition that has two purposes. The first to teach high school students basic trial practice skills. Students learn how to conduct and direct cross examinations, how to present opening and closing statements, how to think on their feet and learn the dynamics of the courtroom. Students will also learn how to analyze legal issues and apply the law to the facts of the case. The level of skill shown by the students is extraordinary, and it is due to the dedication and hard work of both the students and their teacher-coaches and attorney-advisors. The second and the most important purpose of this competition is to teach professionalism. Students learn ethics, civility, and how to be zealous, but courteous, advocates for their clients. Good sportsmanship and respect for all participants are central to this competition. We thank all of you coaches, advisors and judges not only for the skills that you teach, but for the professional example that they set to direct this tournament.

There is a significant change to the regional divisions this year. We have decided to condense the current six regions into four. This is being done with the hopes of increasing participation, competition and excellence of High School Mock Trial competition.

The new regions will be as follows:

- Region 1: Rapides, Caddo, Bossier, Lincoln, Natchitoches Parish, and Ouachita Parish
- Region 2: Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, St. Mary, Terrebonne, Lafourche and Lafayette, St. Landry, and Vermilion,

Region 3: East and West Baton Rouge, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Assumption, Ascension and Livingston,  
Region 4: St. Charles, St. John, St. James, Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines

We have not listed all 64 of the State's parishes. If there is any school which is interested in participating, but their parish is not listed, please contact the High School Mock Trial chair and we will advise which region you will participate in.

We will still require the hard work of each coordinator in each original region to recruit high schools to participate in the modified region's competition. For example, the representative for District 6 would still be responsible for sending out letters and being the contact person for the high schools in their area and will assist the coordinator in the city where the competition will be held, despite the fact the competition may not be in Alexandria. So for Mock Trial Region 1, the coordinators for original regions 6, 7, & 8 would all work together to put on the Mock Trial Region 1 competition and the location could simply rotate every year.

The tournament finals will be held in Gretna, Louisiana on March 19, 2011. The top two teams that are successful in achieving the regional championship in each of the four mock trial regions will be invited to participate in the state finals.

This year's mock trial tournament materials will be posted in early November on Louisiana State Bar Association website, [www.lsba.org](http://www.lsba.org). Throughout the competition you should check the website for important announcements about the competition.

We hope you enjoy working on this year's case. Best wishes to all of you for a successful and challenging mock trial tournament. Please direct all questions and comments to this year's committee chairman, Erin Braud, at [erin.braud@libertymutual.com](mailto:erin.braud@libertymutual.com) and/or 504-837-7050 ext 32909.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Erin Braud", is written on a light yellow rectangular background.