

**WOHS Mock Trial 2014 - 2015**

**What is Mock Trial?**

A Mock Trial is designed to reenact much of what might take place in a trial court.  Students take on the roles of attorneys and witnesses and compete against each other in real courtrooms in front of real judges and lawyers. But while the students take on roles, there is no set script (with the exception of some elementary grade trials).  As in a debate, participants must adjust to the strategies employed by the opposing side. In general, mock trials draw upon historical events, trials of contemporary interest, school or classroom situations, or hypothetical and entertaining fact patterns.

**2015 Michigan High School Mock Trial Tournament: *Jami Smith v. Lakeshore Computers, Inc.***

This year's case is a civil case surrounding a high-school student's right to privacy when using a school-provided laptop computer:

In the spring of 2011, Western High School approached Lakeshore Computers with a proposed plan to provide all Western High students with personal laptop computers. With approval of the PTA and the School Board, the program launched with the 2011-2012 school year. At the beginning of the year, Lakeshore and Western HS held information sessions for students and parents in which they discussed the positive aspects of the new program along with some general rules and insurance guidelines.

Jami Smith, a Western High senior, turned 18 at the beginning of the 2011-2012 year, so when the new laptop program started, s/he signed the applicable contract on his/her own. As the year progressed, Jami and his/her friends became suspicious that the school was spying on them using the laptops' webcams, so they created a plan to put their suspicions to the test. Their plan worked, and when they discovered that the school, Lakeshore, and CoolTech, Inc. (a Lakeshore subsidiary) had been capturing images from students' webcams and taking remote screenshots of their laptops, Jami filed his/her lawsuit.

**How Does the Competition Work?**

* Teams of 6-10 students present arguments before panels of judges. One judge presides over the trial, while the rest sit as the jury.
* Schools may register multiple teams at $250 per team.
* Beginning November 1, 2014, case materials will be released to **registered** teams.
* The tournament begins with regional competitions. Teams may select the region in which they prefer to compete; however, space is limited at regional sites, and the MCCE may assign sites based on location sites.
* The regional competitions will take place on the following dates:
  + February 28, 2015; Washtenaw County Regional
  + **March 7**, 2015; Macomb County Regional and **Kent County Regional**
  + March 14, 2015; Oakland County Regional
* The top 10 teams will compete in the State Finals on **March 28, 2015, in Lansing**.
* The state champions will be eligible to compete in the National Mock Trial Championship in Raleigh, North Carolina, May 14-16, 2015.

**What Does it Take to “Make” the WOHS Mock Trial Team?**

* ***Commitment* to your team!** We will meet once per week prior to holiday break in December and twice per week after break. Plan on Monday from 2:45 – 3:45/4pm. After break, Monday 2:45 – 4pm AND likely Thursday evening from 6-7:30pm (Location TBD). There may be some additional preparation time required outside of these practice times.
* **Public Speaking:** The Mock Trial competition requires that students are willing to prepare and deliver arguments in front of a panel of judges (acting as the judge/jury). *\*Don’t worry if you have never spoke in front of a group before…we will practice!*
* **Cost:** $40 - includes a t-shirt! (additional cost related to travel/incidentals may be required at a later date).

**Contacts:**

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