

# Oswego County Bar Association High School Mock Trial Program Program Summary

The goal of mock trial program is to educate high school students about our judicial system and provide fundamental understanding of the mechanics of preparing and bringing a case to trial. The students become involved in role playing which included obtaining information and then participating in the actual mock trial competitions. Each team is paired with attorney advisor(s) who will provide professional guidance. The program will also coordinate with other county and local officials such as judges, prosecutors and the police to give teams access to additional resources who will be able to provide additional insight and guidance. Teams will compete locally to earn the right to represent Oswego County in regional, and State finals and potentially compete at the national levels. Student roles in this activity may include plaintiff, defendant, witnesses, and lawyers. The topic for this activity is selected by the New York State Bar Association, but is typically derived from a variety of timely topics.

The mock trial model allows students to become involved in discussions of the scientific, sociological, moral, ethical, religious, legal, as well as financial aspects of a real trial which invariably involve many of the latter issues. Through participation in the mock trial program, students will increase basic skills such as listening, speaking, writing, reading and problem analysis. Students learn to work cooperatively with others under the direction of a faculty coach. The program will also provide opportunities for students to develop leadership skills which will have relevance for them in any career path. The mock trial program will also promote a sense of collegiality amongst the student participants, while at the same time promote a health competitive spirit throughout the county.