

## Oswego County Mock Trial Program

The Mock Trial Program educates high school students about our judicial system and provides an understanding of the mechanics of preparing and bringing a case to trial.

Students engage in role-playing, obtain information, and participate in mock trial competitions.



The mock trial program promotes a sense of collegiality among the student participants and promotes a healthy competitive spirit throughout the county.



### TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM

Students should contact their high school principal or guidance counselor.

High Schools may contact the program Coordinator at:

Oswego County Bar Association

Mock Trial Program

PO Box 5453

Oswego, NY 13126

e-mail: [mocktrial@oswego-bar.org](mailto:mocktrial@oswego-bar.org)



### PLEASE SUPPORT THE OSWEGO COUNTY MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM

Your donation will help fund the activities and student scholarships.

Donations are tax deductible under §501(c)(3) of the IRS Code.

Send donations to:

Weston T. Hyde Educational Foundation

## Oswego County



## Mock Trial Program

**A Learning Experience  
for High School  
Students in Grades 9-12**

*A partnership between the  
Oswego County Bar Association  
and Weston T. Hyde Foundation*

## How it works

Students have the opportunity to learn from practicing attorneys; teachers work closely with attorneys to reinforce legal concepts in the classroom; and attorneys have an opportunity to share their expertise about the law and their legal skills.

The Mock Trial competitions consist of presenting a complete legal case, including opening statements, closing arguments, and six witnesses in between. Witnesses are portrayed by students, who assume the role of their character for the entirety of the trial. Students acting as attorneys are responsible for the representation of their client, and engage in opening statements, direct and cross examination of each witness, and closing arguments. Each element of the case is scored by judges based upon each team members' performance, and the team with the higher overall score wins.



## The tournament

Each of the nine area high schools are invited to enter a team in the local tournament, part of the New York State Bar Association's Law, Youth and Citizenship Program.

Teams are paired with volunteer lawyers from the Oswego County Bar Association.

Students plan and prepare their case based on materials and guidelines provided by the New York State Bar Association. The students present their case to a judge in a courtroom just like a real trial.

The members of the winning team each receive a cash scholarship that is payable upon graduation.

The winners are decided by tallying points awarded to each team during the trial based upon various objective criteria.

The team winning the local tournament wins the right to represent Oswego County at the Regional Competition in the Spring.

## Participation in mock trials helps students gain . . .

- An insider's perspective on courtroom procedures
- Critical analysis of problems
- Strategic thinking
- Listening skills
- Questioning skills
- Skills in oral and extemporaneous argument
- Skills in preparing and organizing material
- Exposure to a wide variety of law-related careers

