

NEWS



MASSACHUSETTS
BAR ASSOCIATION

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MOCK TRIAL TEAMS HEAD TOWARD STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**Final competition in product liability case set for
March 29, Great Hall, Faneuil Hall, Boston.**

BOSTON, Mass. — The Massachusetts Bar Association’s 2006 Mock Trial Competition has reached its final elimination rounds. The statewide competition’s final championship will be held on March 29 at 10 a.m. in the Great Hall of Faneuil Hall in Boston. Supreme Judicial Court Justice Roderick L. Ireland will preside.

The competition places over 115 high school teams from across the state in simulated courtroom situations where they assume the roles of lawyers, defendants and witnesses in hypothetical cases. After the “Elite Eight” competition during the week of March 20, the “Final Four” teams will square off in two separate trials on Tuesday, March 28, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., at the John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse, located in the Boston Seaport District. The victorious team will be decided at the March 29 finals.

This year’s case involves a trial in Superior Court on a civil matter involving product liability issues. The complaint alleges that the defendant negligently designed its product, breached express and implied warranties and that the negligence was the proximate cause of the plaintiff’s accident. An owner of a portable Global Positioning System is taking his spouse to the hospital in Boston. The driver looks down at the GPS screen and apparently misses a no right turn sign that was posted because of an easterly one-way street having been reversed to a westerly direction. The driver turns right and slams into a truck as it crosses the next intersection, leaving the plaintiff driver’s spouse in a coma. The plaintiff alleges that the accident would not have occurred had the GPS unit been properly designed.

Is the design negligent? Was the product properly used by plaintiff? Was the accident foreseeable? Did the accident occur because of negligent design of the product or because of the

plaintiff's negligent driving? The final rounds of 2006 Mock Trial Competition will demand the students demonstrate their sharpest trial skills as they argue these issues and more.

The Massachusetts Bar Association's statewide Mock Trial program is being sponsored for the seventh consecutive year by Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels, LLP in Boston.

For more information on the MBA mock trial program or upcoming competitions, visit www.massbar.org/mock, or contact Public Services Director Elizabeth O'Neil at (617) 338-0560 or by e-mail at Oneil@massbar.org.

Incorporated in 1911, the Massachusetts Bar Association is a non-profit organization that serves the legal profession and the public by promoting the administration of justice, legal education, professional excellence and respect for the law. The MBA represents a diverse group of attorneys, judges and legal professionals across the commonwealth.

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