

MBA NEWS



20 West Street, Boston, MA 02111-1204 • communications@massbar.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 21, 2008

CONTACT:

Jennifer Rosinski (617) 338-0675

Tricia M. Oliver (617) 338-0677

MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION'S MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM HEADS INTO SEMI-FINALS

"FINAL FOUR" TO COMPETE IN BOSTON, WORCESTER MARCH 24

BOSTON, Mass.—The Massachusetts Bar Association's 2008 High School Mock Trial Competition has reached the semi-final elimination round. Four teams culled down from the original 113 will face off during trials held simultaneously at 1:30 p.m. Monday, March 24 in Boston and Worcester.

Sharon High School and Newton South High School will compete at the John Joseph Moakley Courthouse in Boston. Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School in South Hadley and Central Catholic High School in Lawrence will vie for the win at Worcester Trial Court in Worcester.

The two winning teams will advance to the finals, where they will compete for the state championship at 10 a.m. on March 28 in the Great Hall of Faneuil Hall in Boston. Superior Court Justice Howard Whitehead will preside and will be assisted by Superior Court Justice Barbara Dortch-Okara and District Court Judge Barbara Pearson.

The Mock Trial Program began its 23rd year in January. The competition places more than 100 high school teams from 16 regions across the state in simulated courtroom situations where they assume the roles of lawyers, defendants and witnesses in hypothetical cases.

This year's case deals with sexual harassment in the workplace, and specifically the circumstances experienced by a high school senior placed into work environment as part of an internship program offered through the student's school. Teams must determine if the student overreacted, or if workplace behavior exceeded the law. Although this case raises sensitive issues, it presents participants with a unique and important learning opportunity.

The Mock Trial Program is administered by the MBA, and made possible by the international law firm of Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP through its Center for the Public Interest in Boston, which has contributed \$25,000 per year to the program since 1998.

For more information on the MBA mock trial program or upcoming competitions, visit www.massbar.org/mock, or contact Elizabeth O'Neil, director of Public and Community Services, 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.