

# MBA NEWS



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## **MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION'S MOCK TRIAL FINALS WILL BE HELD IN BOSTON MARCH 28 NEWTON AND SOUTH HADLEY TEAMS WILL VIE FOR THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**

BOSTON, Mass.—High school teams from Newton and South Hadley will compete for the Massachusetts Bar Association's 2008 High School Mock Trial state championship at Faneuil Hall in Boston on Friday, March 28.

Newton South High School and Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School in South Hadley will square off at 10 a.m. in the Great Hall of Faneuil Hall. The teams advanced after winning semi-final elimination rounds held simultaneously at courthouses in Boston and Worcester yesterday afternoon.

Superior Court Justice Howard Whitehead will preside over the mock trial and will be assisted by Superior Court Justice Barbara Dortch-Okara and District Court Justice Barbara Pearson. The winning team will secure the state championship and advance to the national competition in Wilmington, Del. in May.

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, specifically the circumstances experienced by a high school senior placed into a 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. The case, though it poses sensitive questions about the office environment, features topics that frequently arise in the courts, and are relevant to teens on the brink of entering the workplace.

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](http://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](mailto:oneil@massbar.org).

**Please be advised that broadcast media must arrive and set up before the 10 a.m. start of the competition. Late arrival could prevent entry.**

*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.*