

MBA NEWS



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The Final 4 high school teams face off Monday, March 23 in the Massachusetts Bar Association's 24th annual Mock Trial Program

BOSTON, Mass. — The Final 4 will face off simultaneously Monday in Boston and Worcester for a chance to compete in the 2009 state championship of the Mock Trial Program presented by the Massachusetts Bar Association. The Final 4 were determined after a series of trials this week.

The semi-finals are scheduled to kick off at 1 p.m. Monday, March 23:

John Joseph Moakley U.S. Courthouse, Boston

- **Sharon High School**
- **Westford Academy**

Worcester Superior Court, Worcester

- **Maimonides School, Brookline**
- **Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter School, South Hadley**

The two remaining teams will compete for the state championship at 10 a.m. March 27 in the Great Hall of Boston's Faneuil Hall.

The Mock Trial Program places high school teams in a simulated courtroom situation, where they take on the roles of prosecutors, defense attorneys and witnesses. This year's criminal case involves a murder trial in which the defendant, a veteran, raises Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as an insanity defense against the charge of first-degree murder.

More than 100 high schools across the state initially signed up to participate in the 2009 Mock Trial Program. The preliminary trials began at the end of January. Local attorneys serve as both team coaches and judges of the preliminary trials.

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.

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.