

MBA NEWS



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The Mock Trial Finals presented by the Massachusetts Bar Association to be held in Boston Friday, March 27 **Maimonides School of Brookline and Sharon High School will compete for the 2009 State Championship at Faneuil Hall**

BOSTON, Mass. — High School teams from Maimonides School of Brookline and Sharon High School will compete for the Massachusetts Bar Association's 2009 Mock Trial State Championship at Faneuil Hall in Boston on Friday, March 27.

Maimonides School of Brookline and Sharon High School 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. **(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.)**

Superior Court Associate Justice Howard J. Whitehead will preside over the mock trial and will be assisted by Superior Court Justice Peter W. Agnes Jr. and Essex Probate and Family Court Associate Justice John D. Casey. The winning team will secure the state championship and advance to the national competition in Atlanta, Georgia in May.

The Mock Trial Program began its 24th year in January. The competition places 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 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 served 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.

For more information on the MBA mock trial program, visit www.massbar.org/mock.

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.