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More than 1,500 Massachusetts high school students participating in 29th annual Mock Trial Program

Top two teams to meet in State Championship at Faneuil Hall on March 25

BOSTON, Mass. — More than 1,500 students across the state are turning their classrooms into courtrooms this year to assume the roles of both lawyers and witnesses during the 29th annual Mock Trial Program, presented by the Massachusetts Bar Association.

First organized in 1985, the 2014 Mock Trial Program began on Jan. 21 and runs through March 25. The program places high school teams from 16 regions across the state in a simulated courtroom. Student competitors at more than 130 schools across the commonwealth are expected to participate in the 2014 Mock Trial Program. (See list of participating schools below.)

The Mass. Bar Association's Mock Trial Program is unique in that it includes teams from public and private schools, including charter and parochial schools.

Following a tournament schedule similar to college basketball's championship, 16 teams of students will be announced as regional winners next week. Four teams will ultimately advance to the semi-final elimination round and face off during trials held simultaneously on March 20 in Boston and Worcester. The two finalists will then advance to the state championship, to be held on March 25 in the Great Hall of Faneuil Hall in Boston. In 2013, the Winsor School of Boston won the state championship, its second win since 2010.

This year's case revolves around whether or not the wing of a stunt plane sheared off due to a design defect or as a result of pilot error. The plaintiff is the child of a stunt pilot who died performing an advanced aerobatic maneuver while practicing for a stunt show at the Devlin County Fair. The plaintiff asserts that the defendant, Carborite Aircraft Inc., failed to design the plane to withstand the standard amount of g-force necessary for a stunt plane in order to save money. Carborite's position is that the plane was designed correctly, and that the plane's maximum permitted g-force was only exceeded because of the negligent actions of the pilot.

The Mock Trial Program is administered by the Mass. Bar Association with support from the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp. and the Massachusetts Bar Foundation. More than 100 lawyers across the state will volunteer as coaches and judges.

All participating communities and their corresponding schools are listed on the following pages:

Acton

Acton-Boxborough Regional

High School

Voyagers, Incorporated

Andover

Andover High School

Phillips Academy

Arlington

Arlington High School

Ashburnham

Cushing Academy

Oakmont Regional High School

Attleboro

Bishop Feehan High School

Aver

Ayer High School

Bellingham

Bellingham High School

Belmont

Belmont High School

Boston

Another Course To College Boston College High School

Boston Latin School Cathedral High School

Match Charter Public High

School

The Newman School

The Winsor School

Braintree

Braintree High School

Thayer Academy

Bridgewater

Bridgewater-Raynham High

School

Brockton

Cardinal Spellman High School

Brookline

Brookline High School Maimonides School

Cambridge

Cambridge Rindge & Latin Community Charter School of

Cambridge

Canton

Canton High School

Carver

Carver High School

Chelsea

Chelsea High School

Chestnut Hill

Beaver Country Day School

Concord

Concord Academy

Dalton

Wahconah Regional High

School

Danvers

St. John's Preparatory

Devens

Francis W. Parker Charter

Essential School

Dorchester

Boston Latin Academy

Dover

Dover-Sherborn High School

East Longmeadow

East Longmeadow High School

Everett

Everett High School

Fall River

B.M.C. Durfee High School Bishop Connolly High School

Falmouth

Falmouth High School

Fiskdale

Tantasqua Regional High

School

Foxborough

Foxborough High School

Framingham

Marian High School

Franklin

Franklin High School

Granby

Granby Jr.-Sr. High School

Greenfield

Four Rivers Charter Public

School

Hadley

Hopkins Academy

Hardwick

Eagle Hill School

Harwich

Harwich High School

Hingham

Hingham High School

Hopedale

Hopedale Jr.-Sr. High School

Hopkinton

Hopkinton High School

Hull

Hull High School

Hvannis

Barnstable Gateway Program Sturgis West Charter Public

School

Sturgis East Charter School

Lawrence

Central Catholic High School Performing and Fine Arts High School

Lee

Lee Middle and High School

Lenox

Lenox Memorial High School

Lexington

Lexington High School

Longmeadow

Longmeadow High School

Lowell

Lowell Catholic High School Lowell High School

Lunenburg

Lunenburg High School

Lynn

Lynn Classical High School Lynn English High School Lynn Vocational & Technical Institute

Lynnfield

Lynnfield High School

Malden

Malden Catholic High School Malden High School

Mansfield

Mansfield High School

Marblehead

Marblehead High School

Marshfield

Marshfield High School

Mattapoisett

Old Rochester Regional High School Maynard

Maynard High School

Medfield

Medfield Senior High School

Melrose

Melrose High School

Methuen

Methuen High School

Milford

Milford High School

Milton

Milton High School

Natick

Natick High School

Needham

Needham High School

Newton

Newton Country Day School Newton North High School Newton South High School

North Chelmsford

Chelmsford High School

North Dartmouth

Bishop Stang High School

North Dighton

Dighton-Rehoboth Regional

High School

North Eastham

Nauset Regional High School

North Easton

Oliver Ames High School

North Reading

North Reading High School

Northboro

Algonquin Regional High

School

Norwell

Norwell High School

Northfield

Pioneer Valley Regional School

Osterville

Cape Cod Academy

Peabody

Peabody Veterans Memorial

High School

Pittsfield

Pittsfield High School

Reading

Reading Memorial High School

Revere

Revere High School

Rockland

Rockland Senior High School

Salem

Salem High School

Sharon

Sharon High School

Shrewsbury

St. John's High School

Somerville

Somerville High School

South Hadley

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts

Charter Public School

Southwick

Southwick-Tolland Regional

High School

Springfield

Springfield Renaissance School

Swampscott

Swampscott High School

Swansea

Joseph Case High School

Tewksbury

Tewksbury Memorial High

School

Townsend

North Middlesex Regional

Walpole

Walpole High School

Waltham

Gann Academy - New Jewish High School

Wayland

Wayland High School

Webster

Bartlett Jr.- Sr. High School

Westford

Nashoba Valley Technical High School Westford Academy

Westwood

Westwood High School

Whitman

Whitman -Hanson Regional High School

Wilbraham

Minnechaug Regional High School

Wilmington

Wilmington High School

Winthrop

Winthrop Sr. High School

Worcester

Holy Name Central Catholic High School Massachusetts Academy for Math & Science South High Community School St. Peter-Marian Central Catholic High School