

National High School Mock Trial Championship

“Best State Champion Team Song” Contest

Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Bar Association

Philadelphia, PA is associated with many of our nation’s historically significant people, buildings and events. To name just a few, Ben Franklin, Independence Hall, the constitutional convention, and American Bandstand! Music is as much a part of our country’s history and development as is our government and legal systems. Music helps us connect to each other, it communicates ideas and feelings, it helps us celebrate special moments, it can teach us about life, it demonstrates our patriotism and unites us, and sometimes it’s just fun to sing and dance!

This year we are inviting each of the state champion teams to write their own song. Sing about your how much you love mock trial and if you want to get even more creative, include a group performance of your song. This will be a fun way for teams to show their team, school and state pride. Working on the words to a song and performing it are great ways to unwind or take a mental break from preparations for the national championship. It can help remind teams of the reasons they love participating in mock trial, the skills that are important, legal concepts, and their journey to this point, including plans for winning the national championship title! Maybe the chorus becomes a tune your team uses to calm nerves or build team spirit. So start humming a catchy tune, add some clever phrases and get moving as you perform your new team song.

To enter the contest, make an audio or video recording of your team’s performance. You can just sing the song (audio only) or you can design a whole performance around the song (video). Involve your school’s technology, media or music department to help support your performance and recording efforts. The song writing has to be done by the mock trial team and all members of the mock trial team have to participate in singing/performing the song (i.e., you can’t write the song then get your music teacher or just one person from the team to sing it) but if you need help with the technology or musical end of things, what a great way to involve more of your school and fellow students. The potential is only limited by your own creativity. Have fun with this.

The top three songs/performances will be selected and asked to perform during the Opening Team Reception/Pin Exchange event on Thursday, May 6th at the 12th and Market Marriott Hotel. The winning team song will be announced and the award presented during the event.

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Adjudication Guidelines 2010

Overview

State Champion mock trial teams participating in the 2010 National High School Mock Trial Championship in Philadelphia, May 6-8, 2010, are invited to submit digital entries for a “Best State Champion Team Song” contest. The winning team song will be announced and performed at the Opening Team Reception/Pin Exchange on Thursday, May 6, 2010 and will be posted on the tournament website.

Contest Timeline

Submissions will be accepted electronically from 12:00 a.m. EST on **Monday, 1 February 2010** through 11:59 p.m. EDT **Monday, 19 April 2010**.

Guidelines for Song Development

1. The song should celebrate the team’s state championship, the team’s commitment to and love of the mock trial program, and/or the team’s goals in the national competition.
2. The message of the song should be positive and should not degrade or belittle any of the team’s past or future opponents.
3. The song and performance should communicate imagery that positively represents your school, your mock trial team, your state mock trial program and/or the National High School Mock Trial Championship.
4. The words of the song must be your team’s own original work and must not contain any copyrighted material. Parodies of popular songs, as well as original musical compositions, are welcome. Wit and humor are clearly allowed.
5. All team members must participate in singing/performing the song. (The contest is not to find the best singer or performer. It is meant to showcase a team’s creativity and ability to have fun as a team.)
6. Team’s may simply sing the song and submit an audio file or they may develop a performance of the song and submit a video file. It can be as simple or as creative as you wish.
7. Songs and performances are limited to a maximum of three minutes.
8. Teams are permitted to work with the school’s audio-visual, technology, media and/or music departments for assistance in recording the song. The song writing must be done by the mock trial team and all members of the mock trial team must participate in singing/performing the song (i.e., you can’t write the song then get your music teacher or just one person from the team to sing it). Teams may, for example, use their music teacher or student musicians for musical accompaniment and have outside assistance

from teachers or students with the taping of the performance and uploading it for submission.

Guidelines for Submitting Songs

1. Teams wishing to enter their 2010 state champion song for consideration as the “Best State Champion Team Song” will submit a video or audio file of their song/performance.
2. There is a limit one (1) mock trial state champion song submission per team.
3. Entries must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. EDT on Monday, 19 April 2010.
4. All teams must send an email with the following information
 - a. State, territory or country you are representing
 - b. School name and address
 - c. Contact person’s name, email address, phone number
 - d. The words of your song
 - e. A brief description of how you developed the song and who was involved
5. If your file is 6 MB or less you should attach it to the email above and send it to Susan Etter, susan.etter@pabar.org. (If your email system will not allow files of this size, please see the instructions below for larger files.)
6. If you are submitting larger video files please send the email as described in #4 above and then use a web-based resource like DropSend (www.dropsend.com) to upload your file.
7. Teams will receive email confirmation that their entries have been received. If you do not receive an email confirmation within one week of submission, please notify Susan Etter at susan.etter@pabar.org

Judging Criteria

Judges will evaluate submissions on the basis of the following criteria (*in random order*):

1. **Creativity** - judges may consider the following aspects and will assign a score between 1-10, with 10 being the highest score possible.
 - a. Originality and creativity of words
 - b. Originality of music or creativity of selection of music
 - c. Relevance to mock trial, promotion of mock trial concepts
 - d. Celebration of mock trial, team, school and national championships
 - e. If applicable, originality of performance to include choreography, dress, etc.
2. **Presentation and execution of idea** (on a scale of 1-10)
 - a. Involvement or participation of all team members
 - b. Quality of performance
 - c. Overall quality of message
3. **Entertainment** (on a scale of 1-10)

Selection and Announcement of Winning Entries

The top three songs/performances will be notified by Friday, April 30 and invited to perform during the Opening Team Reception/Pin Exchange event on Thursday, May 6th at the 12th and Market Marriott Hotel. The winning team song will be announced and the award presented during the event.

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Host Committee of the 2010 National High School Mock Trial Championship, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your participation in this contest.

For an article on Parody and Fair Use under Copyright law refer to this article by Lloyd Rich, a Colorado attorney practicing publishing and intellectual property law. <http://www.publaw.com/parody.html>