



CONTACT: Thomas Solberg
State Bar of Wisconsin
(608) 250-6025
(608) 630-0432 (cell)
(800) 444-9404, ext. 6025
tsolberg@wisbar.org

Students across Wisconsin prepare to compete in Mock Trials

February 11, 2010 – Students from nearly 90 Wisconsin high school teams will gather in courthouses and other venues across the state on Saturday, February 13 to compete in the 27th Annual Wisconsin High School Mock Trial Tournament sponsored by the State Bar of Wisconsin. Fourteen teams will move on to statewide competition in Madison on Sunday, March 14 and Monday, March 15. The team that finishes first in that competition will go on to represent Wisconsin at the National Mock Trial Championship in Philadelphia on May 6 – 8.

Mock trials, which follow the rules and structure of a "real" court trial, offer teams of six to twelve high-school students the opportunity to argue a case before a three-person panel of judges, composed of volunteer attorneys and jurists. "This is an exceptional opportunity for students to gain a deeper understanding of our justice system and the rule of law while also developing critical thinking, public speaking, teamwork and other life skills that will serve them well throughout their careers," explains Atty. Michael Rosenberg, who helped develop the case materials for this year's competition.

Rosenberg also praises the hundreds of volunteer lawyers, judges and teachers who will also be on hand on February 13 to give students realistic insights into court operations. Mock Trial competitions are open to the media and public from 8:00 AM to about 5:00 PM. Competition locations and participating high schools (some of which have multiple teams competing) are listed below:

- **Eau Claire County Courthouse**, 721 Oxford Ave. in Eau Claire (Eau Claire Memorial, Eau Claire Regis, River Falls, Somerset, Superior and Thorp High Schools);
- **Brown County Courthouse**, 100 S. Jefferson Street in Green Bay (Bay Port, De Pere, Gibraltar, Green Bay East, Roncalli and Sturgeon Bay High Schools);
- **Wood County Courthouse**, 400 Market Street in Wisconsin Rapids (Almond Bancroft, D.C. Everest, Lakeland Union, Lincoln, Marshfield, Nekoosa, Rhinelander and Stratford High Schools);
- **Outagamie County Law Enforcement Center**, 320 S. Walnut Street in Appleton (Appleton West, Berlin, Kaukauna, Sheboygan Lutheran, St. Mary Central and Xavier High Schools);

(more)

- **La Crosse County Courthouse**, 333 Vine Street in La Crosse (Boscobel, La Crosse Central, La Crosse Logan, Prairie du Chien, Reedsburg and West Salem High Schools);
- **Rock County Courthouse**, 51 South Main Street in Janesville (Badger Union, Belleville, F J Turner, Kettle Moraine, New Glarus, Oregon, Waterford and Whitewater High Schools);
- **University of Wisconsin – Pyle Center**, 702 Langdon Street in Madison (De Forest, Madison Memorial, Madison West, Middleton, Mineral Point, Mt. Horeb, River Valley and Waunakee High Schools);
- **Marquette Law School – Sensenbrenner Hall**, 1103 West Wisconsin Avenue in Milwaukee (Brookfield Academy, Brookfield East, Messmer, New School for Community Service, Pewaukee, Pius XI, Saint Joan Antida, Shorewood, Washington and Wauwatosa High Schools);
- **Dodge County Courthouse**, 105 N. Main Street in Juneau (Beaver Dam, Dodgeland, Hustisford, Kewaskum, Lodi and Watertown High Schools);
- **Racine County Law Enforcement Center**, 717 Wisconsin Avenue in Racine (Christian Life, Franklin, Oak Creek, St. Catherine's, Whitnall and Whitefish Bay High Schools).

This year's competition will wrestle with the issue of negligence vs. confidentiality in a claim that a psychiatrist was negligent in the treatment of a young man who voluntarily admitted himself to hospital when his girlfriend left him. After the young man was released from hospital, he murdered his girlfriend before committing suicide. The parent of the girlfriend is suing the doctor and hospital, claiming that they were negligent when they released the young man, and failed to warn the young woman her ex-boyfriend wanted to hurt her. Does the parent have a point or was the psychiatrist rightfully protecting the patient's right to confidentiality? (Note: the case is entirely fictional.)

The fourteen teams that will go on to compete in the state finals include each of the regional winners; the second place team from the 2009 winning region and three wildcard teams. Contact Thomas Solberg at 608-250-6025 or tsolberg@wisbar.org for information about specific teams, including attorneys from the participating communities who have volunteered to coach a Mock Trial team. Additional information about the Mock Trial program and other law-related education activities sponsored by the State Bar of Wisconsin can be found on www.wisbar.org/lre.

The State Bar of Wisconsin is the mandatory professional association, created by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, for attorneys who hold a Wisconsin law license. With more than 23,000 members, the State Bar aids the courts in improving the administration of justice, provides continuing legal education for its members to help them maintain their expertise, and assists Wisconsin lawyers in carrying out community service initiatives to educate the public about the legal system and the value of lawyers. For more information, visit www.wisbar.org.