



American University Mock Trial

Pursuing Excellence in Practicing Law

DEVELOPING SKILLS FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

American University Mock Trial competes against other college teams within the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA). Each team studies legal documents, witness affidavits, and exhibits provided by AMTA to develop a case for both the prosecution/plaintiff and defense.

Competitors are assigned different roles to present each case in a simulated trial. In any given trial, three students act as attorneys and three act as witnesses. Attorneys are responsible for performing statements, questioning witnesses, and handling objection arguments. Witnesses are responsible for building a convincing story—in their portrayal of a character and presenting evidence—that helps their team's case.

MOCK TRIAL AT A GLANCE

- Mock Trial is a mix of law, theater, debate, competition, and critical thinking
- Students travel across the East Coast to compete in over 15 regional and national-level competitions annually
- AU Mock Trial develops future advocates, dedicated performers, persuasive orators, and lifelong relationships.
- Joining Mock Trial is a proven way to improve public speaking, acting, and argumentation skills
- AU Mock Trial holds auditions each fall and competes in intercollegiate competitions approximately once a month
- Traditionally, AU hosts its own invitational or regional tournament every year



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The American University Mock Trial team holding a trophy.

Why Join AU Mock Trial?

We welcome students of all different majors, and have members from every school at AU. Some of our members have been doing mock trial since high school, but many of our members had no courtroom experience when they first joined AU Mock Trial. By consistently engaging in competition with teams from other institutions, students can develop critical thinking and public speaking skills, as well as knowledge of legal practices and procedures. AU Mock Trial can create and build lasting friendships with passionate, likeminded individuals.



CASE PROBLEMS

Each year, the American Mock Trial Association releases a case problem for students to use throughout the season. This switches between civil and criminal cases. The case problem includes unique witness statements, expert testimony, inflammatory evidence, and relevant case law. It's then up to AUMT to put together a case to compete with.

Typically, a criminal case involves a homicide charge, in which a death has alleged foul play. For example:

- Jordan Ryder was indicted for aggravated murder or involuntary manslaughter for causing the death of their daughter, Parker Paige, on a hiking trail at Calkins Campground.
- Dakota Sutcliffe was indicted for Aggravated Arson after the burning of Chuggie's Bar and the death of local firefighter, Jaylen Williams.

A civil case can involve a large range of offenses, including:

- Harper Martini, who was sued for battery after their child's spouse, Genesis Petrillo, died from pesticide poisoning the night before their wedding.
- Alex Grace and Danny Kosack both sued each other for negligence after a chimpanzee, Elias, attacked and killed one of Grace's employees.

QUESTIONS?

Contact

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