

Mock Trial Competition Event Wrap Up

The 2020 Mock Trial Competition was successfully staged despite some changes to its usual time frame and format, imposed upon us by the coronavirus emergency. We were able to provide the opportunity for students to complete three rounds and thereby achieve WACE accreditation. 625 school students participated in the 2020 season.

We suspended our programme in the middle of March, and in May we hosted two successful trials on Zoom. In June we obtained permission from the Chief Justice to return to the courtrooms of the Supreme Court for mock trials. The remaining Round 1 trials could then be rescheduled as courtroom trials. Round 2 was enacted in August in the courtrooms of the Supreme Court in Stirling Gardens, as was the third and final round in September.

The team at the top of the table at the end of Round 3 was chosen as the winning team. That team was 'La Salle Legal' from La Salle College in Middle Swan. The team included several Year 12 students who had been participating for three seasons, and who had reached the finals rounds in previous years. Congratulations to the whole team and to their teacher, Ms Peta Handley.

La Salle College has been part of the Society's Competition for many years. Perth College teacher, Ms Haylie Pepper, taught at La Salle previously, and her former mock trial students Luke Spadano and Chanel Dimascio now act as coaches in the programme. The Law Society encourages lawyers and law students who enjoyed this co-curricular activity as

school students to join us as judges or coaches in 2021.

Students from 'La Salle Legal' were awarded trophies and plaques by Nicholas van Hattem, President of the Law Society, at a formal assembly at La Salle College on 11 November, 2020. Mr van Hattem honoured the students' achievement and spoke about the importance of the rule of law.

The President acknowledged the support for the Mock Trial Competition provided by the Supreme Court of Western Australia and by the Department of Justice and the Public Purposes Trust. He noted that the Competition is also supported by its Law School Partners: Curtin University, Murdoch University and the University of Western Australia; and by Francis Burt Chambers in its role as the Student Access Partner, covering the registration fees for less advantaged schools.

The Society would like to extend its gratitude to the many members of the legal profession including the 78 judges' associates, legal practitioners, legal academics and law students who acted as coaches and judges in the 2020 Competition.

The Law Society's Mock Trial Competition gives students an enjoyable and dynamic introduction to the law. The mock trials are fictional civil and criminal cases, with the rules of evidence and procedures modified and simplified. Each team

prepares their own case, with support from a volunteer practitioner who takes on the role of a coach, and in the mock trials the students take on the roles of barristers, solicitors, court staff and witnesses.

Students are judged on their opening addresses, witness examinations, objections based on responses, closing statements and other court activities.

Teams of between eight and 12 compete in the Supreme Court and other local

courthouses. Each trial lasts up to two and a half hours.

Lawyers interested in volunteering as a coach or judge in 2021 are invited to contact the Mock Trial Coordinator at mocktrial@lawsocietywa.asn.au

The Society will be running an information session in February 2021 as an introduction to the Competition for new volunteers.





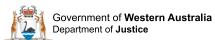
President Nicholas van Hattem , the winning team and Clinton Russell from Francis Burt Chambers – Students Access Partner.

Premium Partners

awards presentation



Giovanna Fiume at La Salle Assembly for Mock Trial



Student Access Partner



WA Law School Partners







We extend our thanks to the following members of the profession who volunteered as coaches or judges in the 2020 Competition. The programme would not be possible without your support.

COACHES

Anthony Durand Chanel Dimascio Claire Rossi Craig McIntosh Danika Adair-La Eugene Wong Gerald Hoe John McKechnie John Robertson Kenyon Lee Kiri-Lee George Luke Spadano Marc Saupin Niamh Wilkins Nicholas Camer-Pesci Rein Squires Sean Gomes

JUDGES

Adam Ebell
Alexander Dew
Aoning Li
Ashley Roberts
Ashooja Chandra
Caris Tysoe
Carolyn Meighan
Catinca Hozoc-Martin

Chad Silver
Chadd Graham
Clancy Hindmarsh
Clinton Ducas
Daniel Harrop
Daniel Morey
Daphne Schilizzi
Gad Coffie
Gemma McGrath
Gerald Hoe
Greg Mohen
Hannah Pike
Heidi Watson
James Jackson

Jay Tampi Jessica Tower Johanna More Jon Papalia Kate Offer Kathryn Roach Khew Wong Leslie Gabriel Mark Hemery Michael Cornes Midaiah Harnett Nicholas Mountain Nicola Thomas-Evans

James Marzec

Patrick Mackenzie Philip Hardless Rachael King Rhianna Brims Rhiarne Bruce Rhys Mola Rob Coales Robert Lilley Roisin Keating Sam Hemachandra Seamus Rafferty Sean Stocks Timothy Lethbridge