



*La Salle Legal team, From left to right: 'La Salle Legal' - Jordan Curry, Christof Nguyen, Jordan Jakimowicz, Michaelynn Alfred, Gillina Miller and Georgia Marciano. (Absent: Tim Tolich.)*

## 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](mailto: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 and college principal Giovanna Fiume at La Salle Assembly for Mock Trial awards presentation



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

Premium Partners



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of Justice

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

James Marzec  
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

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