

# Mock Trial Competition 2026 Manual

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## About the Mock Trial Competition

### Overview

The Mock Trial Competition (MTC) is an educational programme run by the Law Society of Western Australia for secondary school students in Years 10 to 12. Currently in its 39<sup>th</sup> year, the MTC has become a strong tradition in Western Australia with many of its former student participants returning as volunteer lawyers to act as advocacy coaches and judges to pass on their skills, knowledge and benefit of their experience to the next generation.

The MTC is an immersive educational role-playing activity in which teams of school students take on the roles of barristers, instructing solicitors, witnesses, judicial associates and court officers and present both sides of a fictitious case before a mock trial judge in a real court room.

### Educational Objectives

The objective of the MTC is to provide an opportunity for students to immerse themselves in the experience of a court case so they better understand the challenges and practical realities of our justice system. To the extent possible, the rules and case materials aim to reflect how court cases are (or should, according to best practice and case management principles, be) conducted.

The MTC is a unique learning experience for all students– not just those considering or pursuing a career in law. Students who participate in the MTC will have an opportunity to develop and hone their skills and ability to think on their feet, forensically analyse information, construct and present structured evidence-based arguments and communicate effectively and persuasively while working as a team.

### WACE Accreditation

The MTC is recognised by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) as a Provider-Developed Endorsed Program. Students who participate in at least three mock trials are eligible to achieve WACE Standard Level accreditation. Students who go on to participate in at least one finals round are eligible to achieve WACE Advanced Level accreditation.

At the end of the Competition, we will issue a Certificate to all students who have participated. For those eligible for WACE Accreditation, the Certificate will include the unique number required by their school's administrators to be uploaded to SCSA.

For each mock trial, it is a requirement that the teacher completes and signs the WACE Attendance Sheet (annexed to this Manual) for each of their teams as evidence of participation for each individual student.

This is not a document that should be completed by students (not to be confused with the Notice of Appearance) as the document evidences the attendance of individual students to calculate their eligibility for WACE Accreditation at the conclusion of their participation in the Mock Trial Competition.

### Registration

Registrations open at the beginning of Term 1 and close mid-February (or earlier once the maximum number of teams (120) is reached). Please refer to the [2026 MTC Calendar](#) for further information.

To register a team:

- A school must complete the online School Team Registration Form available on the Law Society website and pay the registration fee for the total number of teams they seek to register.

- The Form allows an individual school to register up to 5 teams.

Each team must have a minimum of 6 students and a maximum of 15 students.

Schools are encouraged to register fewer teams but with more students in each team to reduce the risk of forfeits when students are unable to attend (e.g. due to illness).

### **Tips when Completing the Registration Form**

When completing the Registration Form, please note that:

- The names of each student registered must match the formal enrolment details for that student. If the student has a preferred name, please include that in brackets. The name entered on the registration form will be used to generate the Certificates and incorrect/informal names may cause a delay in that student receiving their WACE accreditation and/or Certificate.
- If you do not have the student names available in time, you can register a team with "student names TBA" provided a list of the students registered for each team is provided to the Mock Trial Coordinator by email as soon as possible thereafter and by no later than your mock trial hearing for Round 1.
- Email is the primary means of contact between the Mock Trial Coordinator and the school teams. If more than one teacher is involved in facilitating the school's participation in the MTC, please include the email address of all teachers or school staff (e.g. administrators) who need to be notified about the MTC.
- Each school team must disclose the dates during each Round that each of their teams is NOT ABLE to participate. Each school must have at least 3 available dates each round.

If you have any queries in relation to registration, please contact the Mock Trial Coordinator by email as soon as possible at [mocktrial@lawsociety.wa.asn.au](mailto:mocktrial@lawsociety.wa.asn.au).

### **Fees**

At the time of registration, each school must pay the registration fees for their team via a credit card. The registration fee is calculated by reference to how many teams a school registers with the cost to register a team increasing with each team (up to 5 teams per school). This cap is to ensure there is an opportunity for other schools to register a team. The number of teams in the MTC in any given year is capped due to resourcing constraints. Please refer to the fee schedule for the relevant Competition year on the website. Schools will receive a Tax Invoice Receipt (automatically generated email) upon registration.

If a school wishes to withdraw a team, it must do so within a week of registering to receive a full refund. Teams who withdraw from the MTC after this will not receive a refund.

### **Student Access Program**

If a school has an ICSEA value of 1,000 or less, that school is eligible to receive support from our Student Access Partner. Eligible schools pay only a discounted registration fee for their teams with the Student Access Partner contributing the balance directly to the Law Society. Please refer to the Fee Schedule on the website for the relevant competition year.

## Competition Points

The MTC is divided into 6 rounds. All teams participate in the first three rounds of the MTC.

In the first three rounds, competition points are allocated on the following basis:

- 3 points for a win
- 1 point for a loss
- 0 points for a forfeit
- 3 points to a team whose opponent forfeits.

Upon the completion of the first three rounds, the 16 highest-ranked teams progress to the finals. The ranking for each team within the MTC is calculated by reference to their team points (as above) and then by reference to the highest percentage calculated by dividing a team's score with the score of their opposition. The rankings will not be published save that at the end of Round 3 the top 16 teams will be announced. The Mock Trial Coordinator will inform each school of their own school team's ranking/s at this time.

Please note that in most years, winning all three rounds will generally place a team within the top 22 to 25 teams. Only the top 16 ranked teams end up progressing to the final rounds.

## Finals Rounds

The Finals Rounds consist of:

- Round 4 – the preliminary finals (16 teams in 8 trials across 2-3 days in August);
- Round 5 – the semi-finals (the top 4 ranked teams from the preliminary finals compete in 2 trials in September. The ranking is calculated by reference to the same formula described above); and
- Round 6 – the grand final (the winning teams from the semi-finals compete in the Grand Final in around mid to late October).

The winner of Round 6 shall be the outright winner of the Competition for that year. Please refer to the Finals Fixture annexed to the Manual for further information about the fixtures for the Finals Rounds.

## Dates

The MTC takes place from February to October every year. The first three rounds are held in March, May and June and the finals from August onwards. Please refer to the [2026 MTC Calendar](#) for further details about the possible dates for each round.

The actual dates for each team's mock trials will be set by the Mock Trial Coordinator in the fixtures which are released prior to each round.

## School Availability

It is a requirement that school teams be available on at least 3 days in each round of the competition to facilitate the preparation of fixtures. Schools are welcome to advise the Mock Trial Coordinator by email (or ideally in the Registration Form) of any preferred dates and supporting reasons (for example, students on school camp etc). To the extent possible once competition requirements are met, preferences will be accommodated. The more availability each individual school can offer, the greater chance we have of accommodating preferences.

If a team's availability changes, please email the Mock Trial Coordinator as soon as possible.

It may be possible (subject to the availability of venue, mock trial judges and the consent of the opposing team or any other team who will be impacted) to change your date without a penalty but if this is not possible, the team who cannot attend will have to forfeit.

## **Times**

Each mock trial must commence by no later than 5:30pm and conclude by 8:00pm. Student teams are encouraged to be present onsite by no later than 5:00pm to ensure there is sufficient time to manage the administration and show each team to their allocated court room prior to the strict start time.

A team that has less than 4 members present by 5:45pm must forfeit (see Competition Rules). If both teams and the mock trial judge are present, ready to go and agree to commence the trial prior to 5:30pm, then this can occur in those circumstances.

## **Location, parking and access to the building**

Mock trials are ordinarily held at the old Supreme Court building in Stirling Gardens, Barrack Street, Perth. The students usually gather outside with their team in the gardens. Once their team is ready, the team, as a group, will be shown through to their allocated court room along with their teacher and any spectators (i.e. parents, carers or family members of the students competing).

Students can be dropped off and picked up directly outside the building (cars can enter from 5pm through the Barrack Street gates). We do not have access to any car parking bays at the court. Any MTC participants who choose to park in any available bays do so at their own risk.

For schools with large buses, it may not be possible for the bus to fit through the bollards to gain access to the front of the Court. There is an alternative car park out the back of the Court or behind Government House (i.e. Governor's Avenue or Terrace Road) which may be more suitable. Alternatively, the old Supreme Court building is within a 5-minute walk of Elizabeth Quay train and bus station. Please note that all travel involved shall be at the school's own expense and remains the sole responsibility of the school.

On occasion, there may be mock trials for specific teams in other locations including the Old Courthouse Museum, Mandurah Courthouse or other suburban or regional courthouses as need be. The Mock Trial Coordinator will liaise with the relevant teacher/s if the need, or possibility, for a change of location for a specific mock trial arises.

## **Access**

The Supreme Court building is accessible by wheelchair. However, certain courtrooms are more convenient than others particularly given the event is held after hours.

If a team (or any of their spectators) requires wheelchair access or any other support or assistance to facilitate a student participating in the MTC, please contact the Mock Trial Coordinator as arrangements can be made with advance notice to increase access and convenience for such students and their families or carers.

For example, if a student is on crutches we will try move their trial to a closer courtroom or one on the ground floor etc. Please email the Mock Trial Coordinator if you have any concerns or requests in this regard.



## Competition Rules

The Competition Rules are available on the website. Please ensure you are referring to the current year in case the Rules have changed from the previous year. The Competition Rules are developed by the Law Society of Western Australia informed by feedback from participating schools, schools experiencing barriers to participating, volunteer lawyers and law students who support and participate in the competition and feedback from the broader legal profession and judiciary. They are reviewed periodically to ensure the conduct of the mock trials aligns with the MTC educational objectives and ensure, to the extent possible, that the experience of the students in the mock trials prepares them for what they may expect in real life.

Teachers and students are encouraged to focus on the overarching educational objectives when participating in the MTC to ensure the experience is positive for all concerned and within the spirit of the Competition.

## About the MTC Hearings

### Preparing for the Mock Trial Hearings

Once registrations close, each school will receive the Case Materials and Fixtures (via email to their teacher contact). Every team in each round is given the same Case Materials and allocated their side (Plaintiff/Prosecution or Defendant/Defence). Teams should refer to the Fixtures to see which side they have been allocated.

All teams participate in the first three rounds. In those rounds, teams should expect:

- To participate in at least one criminal and one civil mock trial;
- That the Case Materials may be new or those used previously in the MTC (with updating amendments); and
- They will have the chance to present a case from both sides (i.e. Plaintiff/Prosecution and Defendant/Defence)
- To receive a range of feedback from different competition judges (which reflects the diversity of opinion within the profession as to preferred styles and approaches to advocacy).

Student teams are encouraged to take constructive feedback on board to assist them to develop their own advocacy style through the competition and beyond. This is a key educational objective of the MTC but one some students struggle with (i.e. based on feedback received from students, it appears that those who struggle are coming from an expectation that there is a right answer or way to do things rather than viewing the judges' comments as that individual's preference or opinion based on their own experience).

### Case Materials

The Case Materials are developed by the Mock Trial Coordinator and/or by volunteer lawyers, law students and interns (working with the Mock Trial Coordinator). They are often adapted from real cases experienced in practice or from reported decisions which have been modified and simplified to make them suitable for use in this competition.

The Case Materials aim is to provide the students with an opportunity to gain exposure to issues and scenarios they are likely to experience in real legal matters. It is up to each school and their team to decide how they want to prepare their case including which roles the students play within the mock trial,



how they want to prepare (e.g. allocation of work within team members) and to what extent (if any) they are assisted by an advocacy coach.

## **Format of the Mock Trial Hearings**

Ordinarily, each mock trial runs from 5:30pm to 8:00pm (or earlier as the case may be) and is adjudicated by a volunteer lawyer, associate or law student (most of whom participated in the MTC themselves). At the end of each mock trial, the mock trial judge will announce which side “won” the hearing (i.e. which side the judge was most persuaded by) and announce the scores they allocated to each team (i.e. the competition outcome). The team with the highest score is the winner for the purposes of the competition.

## **Roles for Students**

There are 6 active roles for students in each team with the balance of students in the team acting as reserves. All team members including reserves should participate in the preparation of the case as reserves are expected to step into a role if a student is unable to compete (e.g. due to illness or a family emergency).

The active roles of students in a mock trial are:

- Barrister 1: a speaking role - announces appearances, gives the Opening Address and shares examination-in-chief and the testing of evidence with Barrister 1 for the witnesses in accordance with the Run Sheet;
- Barrister 2: a speaking role – presents the Closing Address and shares testing of evidence with Barrister 1 in accordance with the Run Sheet
- Instructing Solicitor: a non-speaking but a pivotal role. Actively manages the case to assist Barristers 1 and 2;
- Witnesses: a speaking role - each team supplies 2 witnesses whose role is to use the information in the Case Materials to get into the character of that witness and give evidence as required or directed by the relevant Barrister and/or competition judge;
- The Judges Associate: the Defendant/Defence side supplies a student to take on the role of the judge’s associate. This is mostly a non-speaking role with a focus on assisting the judge to manage the proceedings through record keeping (managing List of Objections and List of Exhibits); and
- Court Orderly: the Plaintiff/Prosecution side supplies a student to take on the role of court orderly. This is a role with scripted speaking with a focus on assisting the judge to manage the proceedings through announcing when court commences and adjourns, swearing in witnesses, passing documents between barristers, witnesses and the Judge’s Associate (as required), timekeeping (ringing a bell at certain intervals) and record-keeping (managing the Timesheet).

See the [Mock Trial Run Sheet](#) for more details about when and what should happen in the mock trials in the MTC.

For schools new to the MTC, it is up to each school how they want to allocate their roles. Some rotate their team members through the roles across the rounds to ensure the team as a whole benefits from everyone understanding the challenges and requirements of each role. Other schools keep students in the same roles so those students can hone their skills across the rounds. Some schools also open the roles of witnesses up to students who may not be interested in law but keen to participate (e.g. drama students).

## **Practical Information for Teams on the Day of a Mock Trial**

### **On the Day of the Trial**

On the morning of your Mock Trial, the Mock Trial Coordinator will email each teacher contact to confirm the logistical and practical information for the mock trial that evening (which may have changed at last notice if, for example, a team has forfeited, the venue has had to change to accommodate the Supreme Court's operations or an unforeseen event).

Please note we have no control over which court rooms we are allowed to use on any given night for the MTC. Some of the court rooms are quite large and traditional while others can be very small with limited seating. We are very grateful to the Department of Justice and the Courts for the use of the courtrooms for the competition. Being able to hold the mock trials in a real-life court room adds to the value of the experience for the students. To ensure we can continue to offer this, we would appreciate if teachers can assist to manage the expectations of the students, schools and any spectators when it comes to the courtrooms they ultimately use.

### **Dress Standards**

Students may wear either their school uniform or dress for the part. This may mean a gown for barristers (if the school supplies their own) or for witnesses, it might mean being in costume in keeping with their character). Irrespective of whether a uniform or costume is worn, the standard of dress must be neat and tidy at all times (as is required by usual courtroom etiquette). Hats must not be worn in any court room at any time. Hair coverings, including wigs for those in character, are permitted.

### **Arrival on site**

Ideally, teams should aim to be present on site 30 minutes before the start of their mock trial (so ordinarily at 5pm). Students are requested to gather with their teams outside the Court building (weather dependent). Teachers should make contact with the Mock Trial Coordinator as soon as they arrive on site. Once all students for a team are present, the teacher should hand their signed Attendance Sheet to the Mock Trial Coordinator prior to the commencement of the trial (or if this is not practicable at some point during the trial). The Mock Trial Coordinator will then show the whole team (as a group including any spectators) through to their allocated court room. There are only 30 minutes in which to get up to 14 teams processed and shown through so the cooperation of teachers is vital for the trials to run (and finish) on time.

For this reason, teams are requested to please refrain from entering the court building without the Mock Trial Coordinator and to be on their best behaviour when outside the court building. Remember that real judges and lawyers (as well as members of the public) are using the court building so it is imperative that students be on their best behaviour to ensure continued access to the venue for this competition.

Spectators should be asked to be on-site with the team or otherwise, they will need to wait until after all the teams have gone through before being shown through (the priority is to get the students and the mock trial judges through so trials can commence on time).

### **Photos and Video Recordings**

It is prohibited to take photographs or video recordings within any part of the building (including the main foyer and the courtroom). If your team wants to take a team photo, please do so either in the gardens or out the front of the building before you enter (while there is still sunlight outside). Mobile phones must be switched off and kept in school bags. They cannot be used to keep time or to make any visual or audio recording of the mock trials.

Students may take water bottles into the court, but no other food or drink is permitted. School bags must be kept in courtrooms with the students and should be stored neatly inside the courtroom where they do

not pose a trip hazard. Mobile phones and other devices must be stored away and not used in the court room during the mock trial hearings.

### **Conduct of the Trial**

It is expected that each mock trial will:

- be conducted in compliance with the Competition Rules (annexed to this Manual);
- run as per the procedure outlined in the [Mock Trial Run Sheet](#) (annexed to this Manual) subject to any specific directions made during a mock trial by the mock trial judge. Each mock trial judge has the discretion to run their mock trial and courtroom as they see fit. The Run Sheet is provided by way of guidance and to give an indication of time to assist everyone keep the trial within the time limits. Schools who do not follow the Run Sheet (for example, by not having their barristers stick to each respective witness) may be penalised in points by the judge.
- apply the [Simplified Rules of Evidence for use in the mock trial hearings](#). In the MTC, the focus is on advocacy skills and techniques and not knowledge of substantive law. For this reason, students are directed to not go beyond the modified law as outlined in the Case Materials and this Manual.

Due to security requirements, participants must not wander around the building or enter areas other than those as verbally directed by the Mock Trial Coordinator on the night. This will usually be the allocated court room, the closest bathroom, the water fountain or the nearby waiting area. Any directions given on a particular evening apply only to that particular evening. Please contact the Mock Trial Coordinator for further information.

### **After the Trial**

If the trial ends before 8pm and the Mock Trial Judge indicates they are happy to stay behind for questions, students may approach the Mock Trial Judge for the purpose of thanking them for their time and/or asking for further constructive feedback. Please be mindful that the Mock Trial Judges are all volunteers, have usually worked a full day prior to giving up their evening for the students and have their own commitments to return to once the trial concludes. Please keep questions brief and constructive (and remember a well-meant thank you can make all the difference to a volunteer returning, or not, in the future). We have had a number of volunteers not return because of how they were treated by teachers and spectators which is obviously a concern.

The Courts must be vacated by 8pm. All participants must follow the directions of the Mock Trial Coordinator to vacate the premises after trial. It is the responsibility of each school to organise, administer and supervise the departure of students from the venue at the conclusion of the mock trial. The completed Scoresheet should be returned to the Mock Trial Coordinator. The Mock Trial Coordinator will check the Scoresheet before the scores are recorded and will email a scanned copy of the Scoresheet to each teacher as soon as practicable following the mock trial. It is up to each school if and how they share the content in the Scoresheet with their students and/or coaches.

### **Scoring and Feedback**

Each Mock Trial Judge must complete the Scoresheet for each side during the trial. The [Scoresheet](#) outlines the criteria for the allocation of points for the particular components of the trial and for the performance of individual roles by the students.

The allocation of points is at the sole discretion of the Mock Trial Judge. Students and teachers should be mindful that advocacy is more an art, than a science, and there are many different opinions as to how it is best done. This means that there will be discrepancies between individual judges as to the weight they place on different aspects.

In the competition, as in real life, there is no "absolutely correct" way to advocate – students should be encouraged to take any and all feedback to develop your own personal style of advocacy and understand when/how to adapt their style (i.e. be agile) as needed.

The only mandatory requirement of mock trial judges is that the [Scoresheet](#) clearly reflects the allocation of points for each component of the trial and the team with the most points is announced as the winner at the end of the mock trial. There are strictly no draws allowed in the MTC.

### **Recording feedback**

It is at the discretion of each mock trial judge (and often dictated by time constraints):

- Whether they give a draft "judgement" (i.e. the verdict of the judge in the mock trial case);
- How much (if any) written feedback is provided to the teams in the [Scoresheet](#); and
- How much verbal feedback is provided to the teams at the end of the trial (teachers should task their reserves with writing down all verbal feedback given by the mock trial judge to capture it).

The competition judges tend to provide most of their feedback verbally at the end of the mock trial.

We recommend teachers assign one of the reserves in your team the role of recording the judge's feedback. This feedback can then be properly captured, used by your team as part of your trial de-brief and when preparing for the next mock trial and become a resource in and of itself to your school in the future.

### **Dealing with scoresheet errors or anomalies**

If a mistake is identified after the mock trial has concluded, this should be raised by the teacher with the Mock Trial Coordinator as soon as possible. For example, the mock trial judge may have incorrectly added up the score or exceeded the maximum points allowable in the [Scoresheet](#). In such a case, the Mock Trial Coordinator will inform both sides of the issue and then put the position of both sides (if relevant) to the mock trial judge for clarification. The mock trial judge will then notify the Mock Trial Coordinator what amendments (if any) to make to the [Scoresheet](#) to ensure it reflects how it was intended to read. The Mock Trial Coordinator will notify both schools of the outcome and this is regarded as the end of the matter.

It is not feasible within the scope and resources of the MTC to conduct re-trials or appeals.

### **Dealing with Forfeits**

It is expected that facilitating teachers will take all reasonable steps to avoid their team having to forfeit (which includes ensuring wherever possible each team has sufficient reserves briefed on the matter to step in on short notice and that students registering to participate have availability to attend the mock trials on top of other commitments (see Calendar for competition dates)).

For WACE Accreditation purposes, a student needs to participate in at least three rounds to obtain Standard Level accreditation. If a team has forfeited (or has been forfeited against) and requires WACE Accreditation, they will need to participate in a form of modified activity. The details and timing of any modified activity will be worked out between the facilitating teacher and the Mock Trial Coordinator and effort taken to provide the students with options within resourcing constraints.

For competition purposes, it is useful to know in advance if a team has to forfeit as there may be options to limit the impact of this on their opposing team.

If a team is at risk of forfeiting, teachers should contact the Mock Trial Coordinator as early as possible to discuss possibilities and options.

## **Process for Resolving Complaints or Alleged Breaches of Competition Rules**

All teachers facilitating the attendance of their schools are required to be present during the mock trial, ideally observing the mock trial/s if possible. If during a mock trial there is a concern that a Competition Rule has been breached, the teacher should raise this as soon as practicable with the Mock Trial Coordinator.

While the exact course of action will depend on the nature of the concern raised, the Mock Trial Coordinator will (where appropriate) take steps to afford all teams procedural fairness by notifying the teacher of the other side about the concern raised and ensuring both teachers understand the position of the other with respect to the issue before anything is then communicated by the Mock Trial Coordinator to the mock trial judge (where this is appropriate).

In most cases, it is necessary for the Mock Trial Coordinator to make further enquiries or independently observe the conduct of part of a mock trial. This is why teachers should raise any concern as early as practicable during the mock trial and not wait until the trial has concluded (when there are limited options to resolve a matter).

It is important teachers keep in mind that the mock trial judges are volunteering their own time to adjudicate the trial and the MTC cannot run without their support. Any feedback about a particular mock trial judge should be made privately to the Mock Trial Coordinator.

## **Advocacy Resources for School Teams**

### **Law Society's Resource – Mock Trial Competition Advocacy**

The Law Society is developing some video resources for students participating in the MTC to provide some additional support and guidance in relation to advocacy within the context of the MTC.

At the time of publishing, the videos available to view include:

- [The ABCs of Advocacy: Tips from mock trial coaches](#) presented by Gerald Hoe and Nicholas Fung of Hoe Lawyers.

Gerald Hoe is a long-term volunteer and supporter of the Mock Trial Competition as both a competition judge and, together with Nicholas, as advocacy coach to several schools across the years. In this video, Gerald and Nicholas deliver a 1-hour presentation to pass on their tips and tricks from mock trial advocacy gleaned from their respective experiences in this competition with students from all schools in the competition.

- [2017 MTC Grand Final Video](#)

This recording of the 2017 Grand Final, and the [relevant Case Materials](#), has been made available as a teaching resource. Students and teachers watching should be used as a guide for what to expect in terms of how mock trials in the competition are conducted (i.e. the roles students play, how the judge may interact with student barristers, court etiquette and the individual components of the mock trial).

These resources are intended to assist schools either new to the competition, whose coordinating teacher has not studied or practiced law and/or who do not have access to advocacy coaches to help

provide a more even playing field between the student teams. Further videos will be released over the course of the competition year, as and when resourcing permits. Teachers will be informed when these become available.

## **Other Advocacy Resources for Students**

To complement the teaching resource, the below list of recommended video resources (most are around 5 minutes each) are publicly available (and free of charge at the time of writing):

### **Preparing for the Trial**

- How to analyse your case for the trial - [https://youtu.be/DTRWdQDwR70?si=W4hx\\_2Hqh7cPLJOb](https://youtu.be/DTRWdQDwR70?si=W4hx_2Hqh7cPLJOb)
- How lawyers should behave in court - barrister's rap: courtroom etiquette and conventions - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-hVb12VCSal>
- Making an effective closing speech (made for juries but equally as applicable to trial by judge) - <https://youtu.be/O7iW0YRAyrw>

### **Evidence**

- Dos and don'ts of examination-in-chief - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N34DzMMWIZU>
- Can you ask open questions in cross-examination - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yEJpUpTWtFQ>
- Cross-Examination – how to handle difficult witnesses - [https://youtu.be/x7PG0CFSr\\_g?si=Vc-DqVKQS4To56DH](https://youtu.be/x7PG0CFSr_g?si=Vc-DqVKQS4To56DH)
- Cross-Examination – leading questions - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4\\_j7\\_CMzuc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4_j7_CMzuc)
- Cross-Examination – putting your case to the witness - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rptu8lq199U>
- How to deal with weaknesses in your witness's examination - <https://youtu.be/cDowIBZETTU?si=kMAC8BwF4obrZV9P>
- Your witness has forgotten their evidence – help? <https://youtu.be/iFD56fkPXMU?si=QE3gM2B9BSMFFDXF>
- Irving Younger's 10 Commandments of Cross-Examination at UC Hastings College of The Law. Please note that this video is 43 minutes duration, but highly regarded by the legal profession - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBP2if0l-a8>

## **Advocacy Coaches**

It is up to each individual school to decide whether or not (and if so how) they want to involve an advocacy coach to support their students to prepare for their mock trial hearings. It is not a requirement that each school or school team have an advocacy coach.



## **Role of Coach**

The role of the advocacy coach is to provide support and guidance to the teacher to ensure the students know how a mock trial is conducted (the role of the judge and each individual role within the mock trial) and how to prepare and present their case based on the Case Materials (e.g. advocacy techniques). While it is envisaged that coaches will offer guidance, it is expected that any preparation of material for presentation to the court is done by the students themselves.

The coach should determine the time and venue for their coaching in consultation with the facilitating teacher. The Law Society does not expect coaches to spend more than 2-3 hours per round coaching their team. Coaches should liaise with the coordinating teacher regarding any Working With Children Check (WWCC) requirements. All coaches should read the Manual as some of the procedures in the mock trials differ from those used in actual courtrooms.

## **Sourcing a coach**

Some schools approach lawyers directly to engage their services on a volunteer basis to coach their team (e.g. through their alumni community or networks). Other schools have a tradition whereby former students take on the role of advocacy coach.

If a school would like the assistance of an advocacy coach and is unsuccessful in securing one themselves, the Law Society can make enquiries of the members and MTC network to see if a suitable advocacy coach can be found.

Please contact the Mock Trial Coordinator if you have any queries or require assistance in this respect.

The details of all coaches (including their full name and a contact email address) should be communicated to the Mock Trial Coordinator by email.

## **CPD Units for Volunteer Practicing Lawyers (Coaching or Judging)**

For judges and coaches who have practicing certificates, the Law Society as a CPD Provider is able to issue CPD units for their attendance at a mock trial hearing (1 Professional Skill unit per hour of attendance up to a cap of units in any CPD year). Those wishing to claim CPD units from attending the mock trials must sign the CPD Attendance Sheet at the start of the mock trial and note their time of entry and departure. The CPD units shall be uploaded to the LPBWA directly by the Law Society twice per CPD year. Any enquiries about CPD units from the MTC should be made via email to the Mock Trial Coordinator.

Unfortunately, due to LPBWA requirements, no CPD points can be issued for time spent coaching outside actual attendance at the mock trial hearings.

## **Feedback**

Teachers are welcome to provide feedback at any stage of the MTC to the Mock Trial Coordinator. There is an opportunity for teachers and students to provide constructive de-identified feedback at the end of the MTC year through a survey.

## **Further Information**

If you have any queries about the Mock Trial Competition, please contact the Mock Trial Coordinator at [mocktrial@lawsocietywa.asn.au](mailto:mocktrial@lawsocietywa.asn.au) (email is the preferred contact method as the role is 2 days per week).



## Annexures – Documents about the Competition

Below is a list of, and hyperlinks to, the documents we use to run the Mock Trial Competition:

- [Competition Rules 2026](#)
- [MTC Finals Fixtures](#)
- [WACE Attendance Sheet](#) (Endorsed SCSA Record evidencing student attendance – to be completed by the teacher. Copy also attached to the Manual).
- [Scoresheet](#)
- [Mock Trial - Run Sheet](#)
- [Simplified Rules of Evidence for use in MTC Hearings](#)

To assist with printing, a bundle of all these competition related documents is available [here](#).

## Annexures – Court documents used by students in the mock trial

Below is a list of, and hyperlinks to, the documents to be used by the students in their individual mock trial hearings:

- [Notice of Appearance](#)
- [List of Objections](#)
- [List of Exhibits](#)
- [Timesheet](#)

To assist with printing, a complete bundle of all these documents for use by students in the mock trial hearings is available [here](#).

## Attendance Sheet (WACE Endorsement Record)

**Instructions:** This document must be completed and signed by the teacher (separate sheet for each student team).

It is used to verify the attendance of individual students at each mock trial hearing to determine the eligibility of that student for any WACE Accreditation.

<b>Round</b>		<b>Date</b>	
<b>School Name</b>			
<b>Team Name</b>			
<b>Coach's Name</b> (if not a teacher)			

No.	Student's Name (as per enrolment records)	Year (10,11,12)	Role (B1, B2, IS, W1, W2 etc, CO, JA or R)
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			
16.			

**Teacher's Name** .....

**Teacher's Signature** .....