Mock Trial

- What is Mock Trial?
  
  o Students develop critical thinking and public speaking skills, as well as a knowledge of legal practices, courtroom techniques, trial strategies and procedures through an engaging trial simulation. During the simulation, students will present a complete civil or criminal case by creating a case theory, questioning witnesses, entering exhibits, presenting evidence, and building and countering arguments from the opposite side before a mock jury and judge.

- History of Collegiate Mock Trial
  
  o The American Mock Trial Association was founded in 1985 by Dean Richard Calkins of Drake Law School. AMTA serves as the governing body for intercollegiate mock trial competition. AMTA sponsors regional and national-level competitions, as well as providing interesting and complex case materials for academic use. Presently, AMTA hosts 25 regional tournaments, eight opening round championship tournaments and a national championship tournament each season. Approximately 600 teams from over 350 universities and colleges will compete in these tournaments. In total, AMTA provides a forum for over 5,300 undergraduate students each academic year to engage in intercollegiate mock trial competitions across the country.

  o Mock Trial at UTA began in 2013 by Criminology and Criminal Justice Prof. Royce West II

- How to Participate
  
  o Each year, candidates for the regional tournament are selected from among those students enrolled in the Fall Mock Trial I course CRCJ 4388-001 taught by Director Amber White.
o Students with the status of Sophomore to Senior are eligible to enroll in the Mock Trial I course and, if selected, will be invited to enroll in Mock Trial II and will be able to participate in the Spring Regional tournament, an academic distinction in Pre-Law. Mock Trial I is a prerequisite to Mock Trial II.

o The UTA mock trial teams are selected and coached by Amber White

• Year In Review

o Spring 2018
  ▪ A team of competitors travelled to the Inaugural Kangaroo Mock Trial Invitational Tournament in Sherman, TX [Insert Photos]
  ▪ In February, students travelled to Richardson

o Fall 2017
  ▪ Teams competed at the OU Sooner Mock Trial Competition where students Hailey Moore and Salman Danesh were awarded Best Advocate and Best Witness respectively. Each student also received a financial award as a result of their title wins.

o Fall 2016
  ▪ Hustle City Challenge, St. Thomas University, Houston, TX
  ▪ 2 teams traveled to Houston to compete in the inaugural mock trial tournament hosted by St. Thomas University
  ▪ UTA Intramural Mock Trial Competition Rounds
  ▪ Students competed for UTA titles
• Best Defense Advocate
  - 1st Place - Mickaela Alves
  - 2nd Place - Jessica Bebawi
  - 3rd Place - Marcus Braymer/Robert Dixon
• Best Plaintiff Advocate
  - 1st Place - Jordan Tambara
  - 2nd Place - Negin Tofigh
  - 3rd Place - Meghan Clingenpeel
• Best Plaintiff Witness
  - 1st Place - Mickaela Alves
  - 2nd Place - Jessica Bebawi
  - 3rd Place - Ryan Santos/Mehwish Merchant
• Best Defense Witness
  - 1st Place - Jonathon Salguero
  - 2nd Place - Amanda Sandlin
  - 3rd Place - Meghan Clingenpeel

  o Fall 2015
    • Student Competitors included
  o Spring 2015
    • Student Competitors included

  • Mock Trial FAQs

  o How much does it cost to participate?
    • Each year, the competition and associated travel and lodging costs are covered by the UTA Pre-Law Center for participation in at least 1 invitational tournament, regional tournament, Opening Round Championship Series in Memphis, TN and Nationals in Florida. Students don’t have to pay anything out of pocket associated with those tournaments.

  o How can I participate in Mock Trial as a Freshman?
    • Mock Trial and other oral advocacy programs are open for students with 30 credit hours or more. Freshman students should focus on building strong GPAs to ensure they have a firm foundation before planning to participate in Mock Trial. Freshman are welcome to observe classes with the permission of the course instructor.

• For more information about the American Mock Trial Association or upcoming invitational tournaments, visit collegemocktrial.org. Questions about UTA Mock Trial may be sent to amber.white@uta.edu.