

Final-Four Mock Trial Team from Newton South seeks attorney coach for 2022 - 23 season



Newton South High School is seeking a new “attorney” coach for its Mock Trial Team for the upcoming 2022-23 season. Mock Trial is a program of the Massachusetts Bar Association and high schools teams participate in this tournament that can lead to Nationals!. This past year, Newton South placed in the Final Four out of 95 teams in the State! The team regularly does well, reaching Final Four in 2018, Elite Eight in 2021 and 2020 and they were State champions in 2008. Unfortunately, with the pandemic, the team has not had an attorney coach for the past two virtual seasons and they have been coached by non-lawyer alumni and a teacher-coach. The team is really looking forward to having a coach with legal experience to volunteer this year!

If you are a lawyer, a judge – practicing or retired – the attorney coach is a rewarding, fun and exciting way to work with motivated high school students.

What is the role of the attorney coach?

- Provide legal expertise and familiarity with mock trial rules and processes
- Assist team to develop case strategy and arguments
- Explain basic trial procedures - opening statements and closing arguments, direct and cross-examination, calling witnesses, objections
- Provide feedback on preparation of the case with the law and burden of proof required

Attorney coach(es) do not need to be present at all team activities. This is a volunteer role

- Traditionally, the Newton South team meets on Wednesday nights from 7-9 pm and usually 1-3 pm on Sundays. The schedule is adapted based on the trial season. The attorney coach would work with the team on a suitable schedule, especially if the attorney coach is sharing the role and/or can only attend once a week or periodically. The weekly schedule is usually in place from November to April.
- There are scrimmages in the fall and the primary Mass Bar Tournament runs January to March and it is expected that the upcoming season will be back in nearby district courts.
- The Newton South Mock Trial Team is a co-ed, diverse group across grades 9 – 12. This year the team has three senior captains and a teacher-coach and is seeking a lawyer-coach.

If you are interested in participating as an attorney coach or would like to learn more about this volunteer commitment, please contact the individuals below.

Theodore Loynd, teacher coach loyndt@newton.k12.ma.us

Talia Gallagher, history teacher gallaghert@newton.k12.ma.us

INFORMATION ABOUT MOCK TRIAL - <https://www.massbar.org/mock-trial>

What is the Mass Bar Mock Trial Program?

Since 1985, the Massachusetts Bar Association has hosted an annual, statewide Mock Trial Program to help high school students learn more about the law, court procedures and the legal system, and give them an opportunity to sharpen their analytical, listening and speaking skills. Participating high schools have Mock Trial teams and members of the Mass Bar serve as attorney coaches and judges for the Mock Trial Program, while thousands of high school students across Massachusetts participate. Students prepare a hypothetical case and then test their skills as lawyers and witnesses in a simulated courtroom competition. (Source: MBA Mock Trial Program website)

2020 Newton South Mock Trial Team in the news:

<https://newton.wickedlocal.com/news/20200309/newton-south-high-school-mock-trial-team-advances-in-tournament>

https://www.instagram.com/nshs_mocktrial/