



## “How To Guide” for Mock Trial Lawyer Mentors and Coaches\*

Lawyers can volunteer as mentors to students, in order to enhance the learning experience for teams participating in mock trial tournaments.

### How Can Lawyer Mentors be Involved?

1. Mock trial organizers identify lawyers able to volunteer as mentors or coaches, and match these individuals to participating school teams (and provided with the participating teacher’s name, e-mail, school telephone and fax numbers). If a lawyer has an existing relationship with a school or a team member, it may be possible to assign the lawyer to that school team.
2. Students then prepare their case and compile a list of questions or concerns for their teacher coach to forward to the lawyer mentor for expert advice. The teacher coach and lawyer mentor can arrange a mutually convenient method to communicate with each other, perhaps by e-mail or fax. It may also be possible (and most likely very welcome) for the lawyer mentor to meet with the students and teacher, to discuss the issues and offer advice and suggestions.
3. Some lawyer mentors are available to attend the tournament itself, to offer support and last minute tips to their team.

### Possible Questions Lawyer Mentors Might Expect From Student Teams:

- What are the elements of a good opening / closing statement?
- How do you write effective direct / cross-examination questions?
- How do you enter exhibits?
- What procedural or substantive issues are relevant in this case?
- How does a witness deal with damaging testimony during cross-examination?
- Clarify or explain the relevant sections of Criminal Code.
- What formalities are observed in court? What is the proper etiquette?
- When is it appropriate to make objections: hearsay, speculation, etc.?

*\* Prepared by OJEN from information provided by the Peel Local Education Committee*