

Equipment for Mock Trial Students

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The equipment for the mock trial kids:

(1) **One trial box.** A large plastic file boxes with handles – not too large. It should be a letter-sized box and have drop down letter-sized folders with tabs. It should contain:

- Team rosters, and competition round rosters (these rosters should be completed well ahead of competition).
- About 12 clean copies of **each** witness statements.
- About 10 clean copies of each exhibit (more copies if you are marking the exhibits).
- As many stopwatches for the timekeeper as teams competing.
- Same number of time marks.
- One (only one) copy of the Mock Trial Rules of Evidence.
- One copy of the competition rules.
- Extra pens.
- Markers.
- A clipboard.
- One or two large sticky notepads.
- Extra large paper clips and small binder clips.

The trial box should not contain anything else. The goal for the box is for the team to have ready access to stuff they need or to restock their trial binders. Students should only access the box before competition. Unless it is an emergency, they should not access it during competition (goal to avoid fumbling). A witness, who is competing, should be “in charge” of the trial box.

(2) **One 1/2" three-ring trial binder**, with pockets and tab dividers, for each attorney and witness. Give these to the students early in practice so they get used to it. The binder should not be any larger because it becomes cumbersome to carry and use.

- The **attorney binder** should contain, in order
 - Evidence “cheat sheets” printed on different color heavy card stock (see Trial Practice Sheets “1, 2 and 5”).
- [Tab 1]
 - Three-column format direct of witness.
 - The direct witness’s affidavit that the student has highlighted for refreshing memory.
 - Exhibit, if any, the witness will introduce and/or use with the direct witness (also highlighted and marked by student).

- [Tab 2]
 - Three-column format cross of witness (with space for writing during direct).
 - The cross witness's affidavit that the student has highlighted for refreshing memory.
 - Exhibit(s), if any, the witness will introduce and/or use with the cross witness (also highlighted and marked by student).
- [Tab 3]
 - Marked copies of other exhibit(s) whether it will be used or not
- [In Binder Pockets]
 - Four clean copies of the direct-witness affidavit (for refreshing memory or re-direct).
 - Four clean copies of x-exam witness affidavit (for impeachment).
 - Five clean copies of each exhibit(s) the student will use.
 - One clean notepad.
- The **witness binder** should contain:
 - Evidence "cheat sheets" printed on different color card stock (see Trial Practice Sheets "1, 2 and 5").
- [Tab 1]
 - Their affidavit (does not matter if marked or not).
 - Exhibit(s), if any, the witness will use (do not put in other exhibits).
- [Tab 2]
 - Three-column of their direct (make witnesses do the same thing as attorneys, that can anticipate directs and crosses)

The binders are all the student-attorneys should take and use at the podium. Obviously, student-witnesses should not have their binders with them at the stand during competition. But let them take it to the competition as they will read and review it while waiting to testify. **Most importantly, avoid having witness look at unnecessary exhibits and other witness affidavits to prevent witness from becoming confused and guessing on the stand.**