



Memorandum

To: All Mock Trial Team Members, Attorney Coaches, Teachers, and Observers
From: Colorado Bar Association
Date: January 22, 2010
Subject: **CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT for all Participants of the Colorado Mock Trial Competition**

The purpose of the Colorado Bar Association (CBA) High School Mock Trial Program is to stimulate and encourage a deeper understanding and appreciation of the American legal system. This purpose is accomplished by providing students the opportunity to participate actively in the learning process. **The education of young people is the primary goal of the mock trial program.** Healthy competition helps to achieve this goal. Other important objectives include: improving proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and reasoning skills; promoting effective communication and cooperation between the educational and legal communities; providing an opportunity to compete in an academic setting; and promoting cooperation among young people of diverse interests and abilities. As a means of diligent application of the CBA High School Mock Trial Program Rules of Competition, the CBA Public Legal Education Committee and its Mock Trial Subcommittee has adopted the following Code of Ethical Conduct for all participants and their observers:

- 1 Team members and all student participants in local and state Mock Trial programs promise to compete with the highest standards of deportment, showing respect for their fellow team members and participants, opponents, judges, evaluators, attorney coaches, teacher coaches and mock trial personnel. All teams, coaches and supporters will focus on accepting defeat and success with dignity and restraint. Trials, contests, and activities will be conducted honestly, fairly, and with the utmost civility. Students, coaches and supporters will avoid all tactics they know are wrong or in violation of the Rules, including the use of unfair extrapolations. Teams, coaches and participants will not willfully violate or misrepresent the Rules of the program in spirit or in practice.
- 2 Teacher Coaches agree to focus the attorney coach and student attention on the educational value of the Mock Trial Program. They shall discourage willful violations of the Rules and the unprofessional and contentious behavior of their attorney coaches, students and supporters. Teachers will instruct students as to proper procedure and decorum and will assist their students in understanding and abiding by the program's Rules and this Code of Ethical Conduct.
- 3 Attorney Coaches agree to uphold the highest standards of the legal profession and will zealously encourage fair play, as well as demonstrate fair play and courteous respect towards their peers at all times during participation in any program-related activities. They will promote conduct and decorum in accordance with the program's Rules and this Code of Ethical Conduct. They will emphasize and focus on the educational value of the experience by requiring that all questions, objections, responses, opening statements, and closing arguments be substantially the work product of the students. Attorney Coaches are reminded that they are in a position of authority and thus serve as positive role models for the students. They shall also conduct themselves a professional manner at all times during any program related meetings.
- 4 All participants (including observers) are bound by all sections of this Code and agree to abide by the provisions. Students, and attorney and teacher coaches, are responsible for insuring that all team observers are aware of and abide by the Code. Students, teacher coaches and attorney coaches will be required to sign a copy of this Code. This signature will serve as evidence of knowledge and agreement to the provisions of this Code. Violations of this Code of Ethical Conduct, either by participants and/or observers, may be grounds for reductions in scores, disqualification from a contest, and/or suspension or expulsion from the Mock Trial Program.
- 5 Presiding judges and evaluators are asked to observe the trials with an objective eye. Interjecting one's own personal style and biases adds no value in the education process. Students have agreed to abide by the Rules and this Code in spirit and in practice; therefore, violations should result in a lowering of the score. All judges and evaluators promise to be prepared and knowledgeable the Rules of the Competition, the problem, and the mock trial procedures. The appearance of impropriety, bias, or favoritism shall be avoided. Presiding judges will conduct trials with objectivity and honesty. Presiding judges and evaluators will also exercise sensitivity and respect to all students of diversity at all times, especially during round after-chats.