

VOLUNTEER WITH



DISCOVERING JUSTICE



MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM



The Mock Trial Program propels middle school students into the role of trial lawyers. With the support of attorney volunteers, students tackle age-appropriate legal problems, focusing on either the First or Fourth Amendment as applied in public schools. Students engage in legal analysis and ultimately try a case in a real courtroom before an actual judge and a jury made up of community members.

WHEN, WHERE, AND HOW LONG DO CLASSES MEET?

Students and attorneys meet once a week during the fall semester for 60-to-90 minute sessions afterschool at a law office, afterschool site, or on occasion, participating school. Over an 11-week period, there are nine classroom sessions and one field trip to a courthouse followed by a culminating event during which students try their case in a real courtroom before a real judge and a jury made up of community members.

WHO TEACHES THE CLASSES?

A team of attorneys teaches a team of students. Typically, the legal team is made up of three or four attorneys, one of whom serves as the lead teacher and primary contact. We recognize that scheduling conflicts arise on occasion and not all volunteer attorneys must be present every week.

WHAT ARE THE DETAILS OF THE CULMINATING EVENT?

The culminating event will be held at a courthouse in the students' community at the end of the semester. The students and attorneys arrive an hour before the trial to practice one last time. The teams conduct their trials in real courtrooms before real judges and juries made up of community members who render verdicts. Following the trials, everyone is invited to enjoy a pizza reception.

IS THERE TRAINING FOR THE VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS?

Prior to the start of the semester, volunteer attorneys attend a training (typically two hours), where they receive a Teaching Manual, case details, and all necessary class materials, i.e. student handouts. Discovering Justice staff is always available to answer questions, provide assistance, and offer ongoing resources throughout the semester.



For more information about the **Mock Trial Program**, contact MJ Bastien at 617.748.9641 or mjbastien@discoveringjustice.org.