

# Ohio Mock Trial High School Competition 2017



## Important Dates

Ohio Mock Trial Professional Development: September 17th  
First Materials Shipped: September 20<sup>th</sup>  
Errata: updated every other Tuesday starting October 18<sup>th</sup> until January 10<sup>th</sup>.  
Registration Deadline: December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Late Registration Deadline: December 19<sup>th</sup>  
Team Withdrawal Deadline: December 20<sup>th</sup>  
Rosters and Behavior Standard Form Due: December 20<sup>th</sup>  
Assignments Posted: January 4<sup>th</sup>  
Side-Playing First Posted: January 18<sup>th</sup>  
District Competition: January 20<sup>th</sup>  
Regional Competition: February 10<sup>th</sup>  
State Competition: March 9-11

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## Case Capsule:

*In the 2017 case, Pat Justice v. CAT News et al., students will consider a case of defamation of a public official by a news station. Pat Justice recently ran for re-election as Governor of the State of Ohio. During the campaign, Trillium High school's We the People club invited Governor Justice to speak during the lunch hour. Afterward, the Governor met with a student in the principal's office. Principal I.M Veritas was a rival of Governor Justice in college, and once the two were alone, an argument began which ended with the Governor storming out. As the Governor left, Principal Veritas suffered a fatal brain aneurysm and died. A student reporter heard the argument and reported to a local news affiliate CAT News that the Governor had killed the principal. While it was disproven quickly, the story went viral. Governor Justice lost the election, and has now filed a civil suit against CAT News, alleging defamation. The former Governor will seek to prove that the station published the story with reckless disregard to the truth, and that the story damaged his/her reputation and cost him/her the election.*