



ROCKLAND COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
337 NORTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 1
NEW CITY, NEW YORK 10956
845-634-2149

FAX (845) 634-1055
e-mail office@rocklandbar.org

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Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Sabrina Charles-
Pierre
845-634-2149

PRESS RELEASE

**HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION
FINAL ROUND THIS WEEK**

The Final Round of Rockland County's High School Mock Trial competition for 2018 will be held on Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 5:00 PM at the Rockland County Courthouse. The two teams who will face-off in the Final Round are Clarkstown High School South and Nyack High School.

Mock Trial tournaments in Rockland County are sponsored by the Rockland County Bar Association, in collaboration with participating local high schools. They are a part of the New York Statewide High School Mock Trial Competition program sponsored by the New York State Bar Association.

Rockland County high schools that participated in the earlier in the Preliminary and Semi-final Rounds this year were: Albertus Magnus High School, Clarkstown High School North, Clarkstown High School South, North Rockland High School and Nyack High School.

Students who participate on their school's team enjoy the challenge and exhilaration of competition. Students learn about the U.S. Constitution, the rule of law, and the role of the prosecution and the defense in a real trial. Stephanie Costa, Social Studies Teacher and Faculty Coach from Clarkstown

High School South says about the program: “Mock Trial is a unique experience for high school students regardless of whether or not a student wants to pursue a career in law. Students learn to work collaboratively, be personable, respect authority and...reflect on their rhetoric and demeanor...The students who participate...graduate ready to take on any discipline they pursue in higher education. It is truly amazing...to witness the success of students.”

Rockland County Bar Association attorneys volunteer their time to coach the high school teams and local Attorneys and sitting Judges score the teams and preside at the court hearings. Brandon W. Rothstein, an attorney at Kantrowitz, Goldhamer & Graifman, P.C., and Attorney Advisor for the Nyack team says of the program: “This experience has truly been life-changing. To work with such a wonderful group of young adults and watch them wrestle with complicated topics and legal skills that lawyers study for years to master is truly inspiring.”

The winner of the final Rockland round on Thursday will participate in the Regional Tournaments, and the winner of that tournament goes on to the Statewide Finals. “I really enjoy Mock Trial,” said Ryan Silverstein, a Senior at Albertus Magnus High School and Co-Captain of the Albertus Magnus Team, “because it really helps people my age learn about the law and helps make us better people in general. The lawyers who helped us were terrific; we are lucky to learn from their intelligence and experience.”

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