



High School Mock Trial 2025
Denver Saidi v. Wyatt Latu
Errata Sheet

Please note:

The errata sheet serves to clarify or correct errors in the Mock Trial case and/or rules, and does not address team strategy, coaching, or judging protocol. If a question received does not meet the criteria for errata (e.g., pertains to an evidence question), an email response will be sent to the individual advisor.

Errata 11/26/2024

Special Note: *In order to help teams that may be scrimmaging, a corrected case was issued with all changes, including the exhibits, incorporated up to Nov. 12th. This will aid individuals who need clean copies of witness statements and exhibits. A final update will be issued on Dec. 10, after all errata has been completed. The final date to submit errata is Dec. 3.*

- 1. Exhibit D (Emery Popovic's Resume) is incorrect. Popovic states that he wrote in the Buckeye newspaper during his time at Buckeye University but the date he graduated is "2006," and the dates he worked for the newspaper are "2008-2012."**

A corrected **Exhibit D** is included in this errata posting and will also be included in the updated case file on 12/10.

- 2. Based on the new roster rule, any team fielding 9 or more students is eligible to double. This would mean, however, they would be short a timekeeper. Is this an error?**

No – in the event a team with nine students is required to double, they would proceed without a defense timekeeper.

- 3. Did the Senior Center's New Year's Day Party happen before or after the polling was conducted on January 1st in Exhibit F (both appear to have occurred on January 1st, but we would like clarity on the time of the Party vs. time polling data was collected).**

No elaboration needed.

- 4. Do Denver Saidi, as the Plaintiff, and Wyatt Latu, as the Defendant, (and if called), have the right to sit at counsel's table/be present for the entirety of the trial and not otherwise constructively sequestered?**

Yes, as parties to the litigation both Latu and Saidi can sit at Counsel table and are not considered sequestered. Please keep in mind the following:

- 1) All Ohio High School Mock Trial rules regarding communication between team members still apply.
- 2) The set-up of each individual courtroom is determined by the competition site and rules of the courthouse. The setup may not accommodate three people at counsel table. In these instances, the attorneys in the case will have priority for the available seating.

5. Jules Melnik “I will tell you who had no idea the video was fake, was my own mother.” - grammar error - line 119, page 83.

Correction in case file: Line 119 on page 83 will now read: “I will tell you who had no idea the video was fake, my own mother.”

6. Theo’s “decades” of experience -- only graduated college in 2015- discrepancy between Ngoma’s witness statement and resume- the amount of experience does not align. Pg 91 line 174 and Exhibit C

Correction in red: Line 174 on page 91: “...in my **decade** of experience as a campaign manager,...

Errata 11/12/2024

1. There is some confusion regarding when AI technology became available, Popovic’s experience/learning with AI, and the way it has influenced their company and testimony. Can you clarify?

Line 23 of Popovic’s statement (page 107) has been modified to make clear that it is **Generative** AI that is new after their master's degree (see corrected case).

Although generative AI technology became more prevalent (and readily available) after 2014, the statement makes clear that AI existed (in less sophisticated forms) even if not widely available to the general public. Popovic has been aware of and a student of AI throughout their career, but has begun specializing more since its popular emergence in 2014. Popovic’s firm has not always specialized exclusively in AI, but it has become a larger part of their business since its popularity and availability have increased.

2. Where did Popovic receive their certifications in Generative AI?

They completed training certificates in an online learning course. Line 26 on Page 107 has been modified to read “on the topic. I have **LoopedIn Online Learning** certifications in machine learning and generative”.

3. Popovic’s CV says “suma cum laude” instead of “summa cum laude” (missing M in “summa”). Page 120, Exhibit D, “The Buckeye State University” section

A corrected **Exhibit D** is included in the newly issued case file.

- 4. In Popovic's affidavit, it says: "...could not find a job with what a degree in what amounted to...". Is the first "what" a typo? Page 107, Line 30**

Corrected on page 107, line 30: "...could not find a job with a degree in what amounted to...".

- 5. Which witnesses can testify about which exhibits?**

All exhibits per OCLRE rules are stipulated as admitted. However, in order to examine witnesses during trial in relation to or using exhibits, the students must ask questions to identify some familiarity or knowledge of the exhibit, or sufficient expertise such that their training, background, or experience would give them ability to evaluate the exhibit without personal knowledge.

- 6. We noticed that the polling company Pullag and Pullug are used. We know one is a spelling error. We just are not sure which one to use. Pages 87,88, & 91.**

Pullag is the name of the polling company. This has been corrected on Page 88 & 91.

- 7. What is the Harmony Happenings in exhibit f? We are assuming that it is a section from the local newspaper "The Harmony Hail"**

Harmony Happenings is a column in the local newspaper called The Harmony Hale.

- 8. Did Wyatt Latu attach a caption to the TakTik video? Exhibit B, page 116**

There was no caption to the TakTik video.

- 9. Has Wyatt Latu posted any videos on their account "LatuLombardi" prior to the Saidi deepfake?**

No.

- 10. We noticed a discrepancy between Theo Ngoma's witness statement and Exhibit C (Ngoma's CV) regarding Ngoma's education. In lines 31-33 of the witness statement, Ngoma explains: "I gave you my CV, so you know a bit about my history. But let me explain to you right now, I went to school for education, so I'm educated on how to educate people. I like to think that I can educate anybody on anybody else now." However, in the "Education" section of the CV differs.**

Correction in red on Page 85, line 32 of the case file: But let me explain to you right now, I went to school for **campaigning**, so I'm educated on how to educate people.

- 11. In Rossi's statement, lines 43-46 (pg. 100-101), they mention the 30 Under 30 Recognition Gala and the Senior Center's New Year's Day Party. They go on to**

mention an unnamed Senior Center event and a local charity auction in lines 71-72 (pg. 102). Are these events the same? Or are they completely separate occasions?

The 30 under 30 Recognition Gala and the local charity auction are the same event.

Errata 10/29/2024

1. Is there a transcript of Ngoma/Latu's texts that could be an Exhibit?

No. The parties agree that the report of the texts in witness statements is accurate.

2. How much of the harmony population is the elderly vote?

No elaboration needed.

3. In Emery Popovich's witness statement, Emery says they received their BA in 2006. Their resume says they earned the BA in 2012. Which is accurate?

Emery received their BA in 2006. A corrected **Exhibit D** is attached.

4. Theo Ngoma's testimony at lines 9-10 indicates that Alex Leslie was elected to the Buckeye Senate. Ngoma's resume, Exhibit C, indicates that it was a "lacking election result," implying that Alex Leslie lost the election.

A corrected **Exhibit C** is attached.

5. Please clarify the date of the "Fireside Chat" mentioned in Saidi's statement on lines 103-104, as well as the "Senior Center Event" mentioned in Rossi's statement on lines 71-73.

The Fireside chat was part of the Senior Center New Years Day event, which occurred on New Year's Day.

6. Can we assume that the election has not occurred yet regardless of whether we are competing at districts, regionals or states?

Yes, for the purposes of simulation, we will assume that the hearing is happening before the election, regardless of which level of competition.

7. Is there a grammatical error on page 104 line 134? It appears that the word "be" should be before "people".

This is a grammatical mistake. Correction (in red) to page 104, line 134 of the case file: "While everyone I talked to knew it was fake, there have to **be** people..."

8. **On page 90-91 of the case file, the manager mentions how Wyatt sent him his number, then proceeds to say how he prefers text over email for a digital footprint. However, at the end of the conversation, it says he "hung up the phone." Was this conversation a voice call or was it through text message?**

This is an error. Correction (in red) to page 91, line 162: “– I just wrote the prompt” and **then stopped responding.**”

9. **Throughout Sloane Rossi's statement there seems to be a conflation of the name Buckeye with Harmony for the name of the city that is the situs of this case. Example: Line 9 the reference is to the "Harmony School Board" but at line 17 it is referred to as the "Buckeye School Board".**

There are errors in this statement regarding the naming of specific institutions. For the purposes of this year's case, the correct references are: Harmony School Board, Harmony City Council. A corrected witness statement complying with these changes will be issued as part of the corrected case on 11/12/24.

10. **Did Wyatt Latu use a video (or a photo, or something else) to generate their AI video? Saidi's statement indicates that the official video was not posted until AFTER the AI video was posted.**

Wyatt trained the model using screen recorded footage from the livestream that was ongoing. Line 53-56 on page 95 of the case file will now read:

“I got onto my computer and captured the livestream that was ongoing, and thought, why not spruce up the content of this speech while I'm at it? So, I did, a little bit. It's so easy to make AI say anything you want it to—you just type it in the prompt. Sometimes I am so funny I surprise even myself. The only thing I regret about what I wrote is not including a Taylor Swift reference.”

Errata 10/15/2024

Special Note: *The email listed in the case file (LemonadeFan3000@gmail.com) on page 90, line 145 is **not affiliated** with the 2025 case and no responses from the email account is permitted to be used in the competition.*

1. **What is Denver Saidi's Master's degree in?**

This witness statement will be corrected. The sentence that begins on line 3 of Denver Saidi's witness statement will now read (addition in red) “I attended and graduated from Miami University with a B.S. in Education and acquired my Master's **in Educational Leadership** from The Buckeye State University.”

2. **There is a grammatical error in Theo Ngoma's Witness Statement. There is punctuation missing that would clarify who is speaking.**

The error will be corrected. Line 138-139 of Theo Ngoma's witness statement should read (correction in red): "No," said Denver. "I have no idea what this is. I never said any of this stuff. It must be fake."

- 3. Do we assume that there are no other copies of the TakTik video in question on other platforms? In other words, if the preliminary injunction is granted that there has not been nor will there be any future proliferation of the video elsewhere?**

The preliminary injunction is being sought regarding the video posted on TakTik. It has not been posted anywhere else, and for the purposes of this simulation it is assumed it will not be posted anywhere else.

- 4. Besides the transcripts of the speech and the AI video, is there an actual video that we can view.**

As this is a fictional case, and Denver Saidi can be played by any student, there will be no video exhibit. We will not be releasing the deepfake video. Refer to the transcript, exhibit B.

- 5. Please confirm that the Snow Ball was held on December 20th (and not in January). p 95, line 45: "Snow Ball in January."**

Yes, the Snow Ball was held on December 20th. Line 45 of Wyatt Latu's statement should read (correction in red): "The Snow Ball actually rolled around, in **December**,"

- 6. The Eiler Award nomination form has the wrong date/year for the deadline on page 55.**

Correction on page 55 of the case file: Nominations for the Eiler Award must be submitted by July 11, 202**5**.

- 7. The information on page 68-69 in Saidi's witness statement is inconsistent regarding Latu's year in school and when Saidi began as Principal. If Latu is a Senior in 2024/2025 they would not have been a freshman during the "prior year" when Saidi started in 2021.**

Correction in red on page 68, line 17: "At the time, Latu was **an eighth grader**."

- 8. Why does the City Council term start over a year following the election? p.70 line 57.**

There is an error on page 70, line 57 (correction in red): "The next City Council election is in February 2025 for the term to begin on April 1, 202**5**."

- 9. Line 90 on page 102 says "YouTube" instead of "MeTube."**

Correction in red on page 102, line 90 of the case file: “Like every year before, Denver’s announcement was going to be filmed and livestreamed on the school district’s **MeTube** channel;”

10. Page 102 lines 90-91 state "the following Monday, Jan 3" but the Monday following the Snow Ball would be Dec 23.

Correction in red on page 102, line 91 of the case file: “It was also going to be archived to go on the school’s social media pages **following the Holiday break on** January 3, 2025.”

11. Is there a factual dispute as to when the video was posted? This line says that it was posted the night after the dance (which would be Dec 21st) but all other references indicate that it was posted on Jan 2 (p.103 line 92)

Sloane Rossi’s statement will be corrected on lines 92-94 to read as follows (changes in red): “I was working at Rossi’s **about a week after** the dance. I was chatting with a table full of regulars who were cracking up laughing when one of them asked me if I’d seen the video of the announcement Denver made **the night before.**”

Exhibit D
CV of Expert Parodist

Emery Popovic

FREELANCE PARODIST & CONSULTANT

Summary

I have always been captivated by the power of humor and satire to comment on broader societal issues and criticize others. This is why I decided to specialize in parodies when I was getting my dual bachelor's degrees at The Buckeye State University and my master's degree at Case Western Reserve University. My expertise includes understanding the technical aspects of AI-generated content, its potential for misuse, and the ethical and legal considerations surrounding its use. I have published hundreds of satirical articles and videos over almost 10 years.

2014 **Case Western Reserve University**
Master of Fine Arts and Creative Writing

2006 **The Buckeye State University**
Dual Bachelor of Arts degrees
Majors: Communications and Media Studies
Summa Cum Laude

Experience

2014-Present **Verdict Visionaries, LLC, Founder and CEO**
A consulting firm that specializes in providing expert consulting to both the State and Defense Departments regarding issues that deal with parodies, deepfakes, and AI. I have testified in various court cases from defamation to intellectual property disputes.

2012-2014 **The Shallot, Founder**
A digital media firm and newspaper entity specializing in publishing humorous articles satirizing international, national, and local news, and parodically manipulating politicians and celebrities through digital means.

2002-2006 **The Buckeye Beacon, Lead Writer**
A premier student-run newspaper, known for its satirical take on campus news and events.