

State Competition Information

Congratulations on advancing to the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education's (OCLRE) 2025 Mock Trial State Competition. We look forward to welcoming you and your team to Columbus Thursday March 6th through Saturday March 8th for the State Competition!

Please review the following information before the competition, which may also be accessed via the OCLRE website on the Statewide Competition tab.

Hotel Accommodations

OCLRE has arranged for a block of rooms at 2 nearby hotels, The Westin Columbus and the Plaza Columbus. The hotels are a 7–12-minute walk to the Franklin County Courthouse and the Supreme Court of Ohio where the competition is being held. *Teams wishing to book at the group rate must reserve by the deadline indicated below.*

- ◆ The Westin Great Southern Columbus (310 S High Street, Columbus, OH 43215)
 - *Reserve by Monday, February 17, 2025*
 - Room rate per night of \$159
 - You can book the group rate by visiting the Westin group website [HERE](#).

- ◆ The Plaza Hotel Columbus at Capitol Square (75 East State Street, Columbus, OH 43215)
 - *Reserve by Monday, February 17, 2025*
 - Room rate per night of \$138
 - You can book the group rate by using this link [HERE](#).

Competition Logistics

On Thursday and Friday, March 6-7, the state competition will be held at the **Franklin County Courthouse** (373 S High St, Columbus, OH 43215). On Saturday, March 8, the final round will be held at the Supreme Court of Ohio (65 S Front St., Columbus, OH 43215).

****All teams and guests must enter the courthouse through the pavilion entrance at the corner of High St. and Mound St.****

No meals will be provided for students during the competition. There are several nearby restaurants. You may want to consider bringing lunch and dinner with you. Space to sit and eat will be available in the cafeteria until 3:00 p.m. and in designated rooms reserved by OCLRE.

Food and beverages (other than water bottles with caps) are prohibited inside the Auditorium and all courtrooms.

COMPETITION SCHEDULE:

Please review this schedule carefully prior to competition.

Thursday, March 6 – Franklin County Courthouse

Trial I

11:00 – 12:00 p.m.	Team check-in – outside Auditorium
12:00 – 12:30 p.m.	Welcome announcements and room assignments (Auditorium)
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Trial I

Trial II

5:00 p.m.	Receive room assignments (Auditorium)
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Trial II
7:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Scores tallied, advancing teams announced (Auditorium)

NOTE: The announcement of teams advancing to Trial III will occur at the end of the day on March 6, after the conclusion of the second trial and review of scoresheets.

**** Enter through the pavilion entrance at the corner of High St. and Mound St.****

Friday, March 7 – Franklin County Courthouse

****Play-in Round (if necessary) ****

If more than 8 teams advance, a play-in round will be held to determine the top 8 teams. See page 19 of the case file for a breakdown of the “play-in” structure.

9:00 a.m.	Team check-in, receive room assignments – outside Auditorium
9:45 – 11:45 a.m.	Play-in Round <i>IF NEEDED</i>
11:45 – 12:15 p.m.	Scores tallied, advancing teams announced

Trial III (Quarterfinals)

12:00 p.m.	Team check-in (<i>if no play-in round</i>)
12:30 p.m. courtrooms	OCLRE draws pairings live and dismisses teams to
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Trial III
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Scores tallied, advancing teams announced

Trial IV (Semifinals)

4:00 p.m. courtrooms	OCLRE draws pairings live and dismisses teams to
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Trial IV
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Scores tallied, advancing teams announced

Saturday, March 8 – The Supreme Court of Ohio

Please do not arrive before 9:30am. The building will not be open, and security will not be on staff until 9:30 a.m.

Trial V (Championship)

9:45 a.m. –Teams Arrive

10:15 a.m. – Pre-trial

10:30 a.m. – Trial begins

12:45 p.m. – Trial ends

Scoring Break

1:00 p.m. – Judge feedback

1:15 p.m. – Presentation of Awards

TEAM CHECK-IN

All teams competing at the State Competition must check in at the OCLRE registration desk between 11:00 – 12:00 on Thursday, March 6th.

Prior to arriving for the competition, teams should eat lunch. There are several restaurants nearby, or teams can bring food and eat in the Courthouse Cafeteria. Trials will begin promptly as soon as all judges have arrived and have completed training.

- The registration desk is located outside the Auditorium in the PFM Hall. Follow signs from the pavilion entrance.
- **Registration will not open until 11:00 a.m. – no early check-in.**
- The team advisor or legal advisor must check teams in (no parents, students, chaperones, etc.)
- Upon check-in, advisors will:
 - Verify that the roster is correct and is unchanged from the District Competition
 - Turn in any remaining photo release forms.
 - Receive a team bag with scoresheets, thank you cards, and final instructions.

Please bring the following to competition:

- 2 Stop watches – Cell phones may **not** be used in the courtroom to keep time.
- **Printed** Timecards
- Name tags for all students – please wear at all times so Security can identify students.
- Photo Releases* for each team member (available [here](#))

SECURITY

All participants and spectators must pass through security before entering the courthouse. As there will be many people going through security, you must consolidate your items into bags or briefcases that can go through the scanner. Teams must stay together as they travel to and from courtrooms. Please remember that the court is open for regular business on these dates and all participants and visitors are advised to plan accordingly and to be respectful.

PARKING (Cars):

Parking is limited in downtown Columbus due to construction. Please plan to have participating students dropped off at the courthouse entrance at the corner of High Street and Mound Street.

For parents/observers, parking options include:

- Fulton Street Parking Garage, 34 E. Fulton Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Additional information is available [here](#).
- Columbus Commons Parking Garage, 55 E. Rich Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Additional information available [here](#).

BUS PARKING:

There is no designated bus parking at the Franklin County Courthouse, but you may contact your hotel for options. Buses should plan to drop students off and then park. There is bus parking near the Statehouse on State Street and Broad Street. When parking near the Statehouse, the bus driver needs to stay clear of the COTA bus stops and the entrances and exits to the parking garages.

OCLRE looks forward to seeing you at the 2025 Ohio Mock Trial State Competition. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jenna Lewis at jlewis@oclr.org or call 614-485-3515.