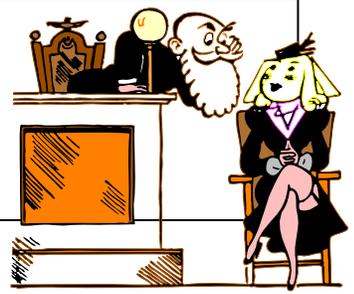


# El Dorado Mock Trial Team

**ORANGE COUNTY CHAMPIONS 1988, 1992, 1994, 2003, 2008, 2010**

**ORANGE COUNTY RUNNERS-UP 1985, 1993, 2009, 2013, 2014**



## What is Mock trial?

A mock trial is much like a real criminal court trial. Team members, acting as attorneys, witnesses, a bailiff, and a court clerk, prepare a case for trial before real judges. All competing teams prepare the same case. Local teams compete in the Orange County competition with the winner advancing to the statewide competition in March. The state champion has the option of competing nationally later in May.

## What does a team do?

With the help of attorney and teacher coaches, teams prepare for competition according to established rules of trial procedure, which have been modified somewhat from those of formal trials. Team members learn the trial rules, rehearse their own roles in a trial, prepare strategy, and must be able to think quickly during competition. Teams are judged on their ability to follow procedures and present a plausible case.

## Who is eligible to try out?

Any El Dorado student, grades 9-12, in good academic standing is eligible to audition. Prior experience is not necessary, though you should be comfortable with public speaking.

## How many people are on the team?

There are 8 attorneys, 8 witnesses, a clerk, and a bailiff on each team. Other students may be part of the team and enrolled in the class, but generally are not able to take part in the competition. Sometimes, one individual may have multiple roles on the team. Sometimes, two people may share one role. Sometimes, El Dorado fields two teams.

## When are practices and competitions?

Practices are generally held on one weekday within the 5:45-8:45 p.m. window and Sundays from 5:00-8:30pm. Evening and weekend practices allow our attorney coaches to be here after work, while one longer weekend and one weeknight practice help team members better manage their other scholastic and family commitments. Students are encouraged to meet on their own for team-driven practices as well, and attorneys may be asked to come to one extra practice some weeks to focus on specific skills. Competitions are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in November and early December. Students should only miss practices under exceptional circumstances, and are expected to communicate in advance should a conflict arise.

## Is Mock trial a class or a competitive team?

It is both. Students are enrolled in a semester "Academic Competition Elective" course on contract and are part of a team that competes interscholastically.

## Is El Dorado any good?

Yes. We are one of the best teams in Orange County. We have been finalists 11 times, and have been champions 6 times! We routinely rank among the top 4-8 teams in the county and have earned an exceptional record over our 30+ years in the program.

## Will I have to work hard?

Of course. To be the best takes effort. We only want people on the team who are willing to give their best effort and make a devoted commitment to excellence!

## I'm Like so Busy and stuff, What about ...band, choir, sports, church, drama, etc.?)

Yes, we know you are busy. We are all busy. You need to be the one to decide how much you can handle. If you make the commitment to join Mock Trial, then we will expect your *absolute best effort*. Most of our team members do many different things here at El Dorado, and are still able to participate fully in Mock Trial. We are generally able to work out practice and competition conflicts that arise with other programs. El Dorado is committed to producing well-rounded students and we are committed to supporting that endeavor. We want you to do a great job in your classes, other activities, and mock trial.

## Is Mock trial fun?

Yes. (Wicked-Crazy-Fun!)

## How Can I try out?

We're glad you asked! Tryouts are held at the beginning of school year (listen for a bulleting announcement the second week of school about an informational lunch meeting!) and typically consist of delivering trial material as both a witness and an attorney in preseason practices, as well as participating in strategy sessions regarding the current year's case, all of which are used to evaluate prospective members for placement on the team. We typically finalize roles and responsibilities in late September.

## El Dorado Mock Trial Grads • What do they do?

EDHS Mock Trial team members are routinely among the elite students here at EDHS and at major universities throughout the nation. Five of the past eleven EDHS Hawks of the Year and a significant number of Golden Hawk Award, Distinguished Service Plaque, and Spirit of Commitment Award winners have been a part of our program. Team members have attended Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Oxford, Cambridge, Georgetown, UCLA, UCSF-Hastings, UC Davis, LMU, and Chapman Law Schools. Additionally, mock trial grads have gone on to elite universities that include Yale, Stanford, Harvard, MIT, Northwestern, Dartmouth, UC Berkeley, UCLA, UCSD, UCI, UCSB, UCSC, UCR, USC, Cal Poly SLO, CSUF, CSULB, CSUSF, CSUS, Claremont McKenna, Chapman, Occidental, and Illinois. EDHS mock trial members have competed in collegiate mock trial at some of the country's best programs, including UCLA, Cal, USC, Northwestern, Georgetown, UCI, Boston College, UCSD, and Chapman, and have gone on to become, among other things, attorneys, doctors, teachers, entrepreneurs, motivational speakers, actors, and Congressional staff members.

## Who are the Mock Trial Coaches?

Currently, our teacher coaches are Mrs. Cavalluzzi, a former four-year EDHS Mock Trial alum and Ms. McIntosh, also an EDMT alum. Attorneys Tony Cavalluzzi, Gerard Gully, Amanda Herman, Nina Kovacs, and Eric Reynolds all serve as attorney coaches. If you or your parents have any questions about Mock Trial, please contact Mrs. Cavalluzzi at (714) 786-9580 (x11303) or via email at [scavalluzzi@pylusd.org](mailto:scavalluzzi@pylusd.org)

