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### Capital University Law Mock Trial: Mock Trial Provides Law Students Real World Challenges

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# Capital University Law Mock Trial

Mock Trial Provides Law Students Real World Challenges

FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY  
**LEARNING  
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A DAY OF DISCOVERY

## Abstract

Capital University Law School's Mock Trial program provides students practical training, which is difficult to receive as a student outside of an academic setting. The Mock Trial program offers students the opportunity to compete on an inter-school basis, utilizing neutral fact patterns in a variety of practice areas to test the students' advocacy skills. The Mock Trial program concludes with a trial competition, where students participate in every aspect of a civil jury trial before judges and litigators. In recent years, there has been an increased call by clients, employers, and the American Bar Association to increase experiential learning. The Mock Trial program provides students with this experiential learning opportunity to prepare them for legal practice after passing the bar exam.

## What is Mock Trial?

- Mock Trial is a student organization where law students develop and apply the principles of trial advocacy during a simulated trial that is based on fictitious facts and evidence.
- A Mock Trial team consists of at least four students who work together to plan, draft, and present opening statements, direct examinations, cross-examinations, and closing arguments.
- Mock Trial Teams are taught/coached by practicing trial attorneys and litigators, providing additional real world examples and techniques.

## Competition

- The Mock Trial team competes in the annual American Association for Justice's Mock Trial Competition and the Ohio Attorney General's Public Service Mock Trial Competition.
- Third year day and evening and fourth year evening students who compete on the team are eligible for 1 credit hour.
- Recently, Capital University Law School won first place at the Attorney General's 2015 Public Service Mock Trial Competition.

## Developing Skills

- In Capital University Law School's Mock Trial program, students learn by doing.
- Students learn the basics of evidence and how to get evidencing admitted at trial, and put their knowledge into practice. Students learn when to object and how to do so persuasively.
- Students refine their public speaking skills and become more confident and poised.

*"Mock Trial was one of my favorite courses as a student. To hear professors talk about things like developing a theme of your case or the Rules of Evidence is much different from actually working with your teammate to develop a coherent theme or arguing before a judge about why certain evidence is admissible."*

-Capital University Law School Mock Trial student



## Beyond the Classroom

- Capital University Law School's Mock Trial program provides students practical training that they will use as litigators.
- Students work with a team to develop a theme for their case, prepare all aspects of the trial, and figure out how to keep evidence out or get it in—all skills they need as practicing attorneys.
- The Mock Trial program complements other courses, such as Evidence, Civil Procedure, and Torts, by building a bridge between abstract concepts they learn in doctrinal courses and actual practice as attorneys.

*"Mock trial has taught me to see all phases of litigation through the lens of the trial. Among the skills that a litigator must learn, trying a case to a jury is probably the hardest to practice because many cases do not go to trial. My Mock Trial experience provided me with both an incomparable advantage over my colleagues and a skill set that simply cannot be taught in other law school courses."*

-Attorney and former Mock Trial student

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