Street Law's Classroom Guide to Mock Trials and Moot Courts

ABBREVIATED TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION FOR TEACHERS

This section includes: an overview of mock trials and moot courts, links to national standards for civics and government, and resources for teaching mock trials and moot courts.

MOCK TRIALS

This section includes: time factors, student involvement, judge or jury, classroom arrangement, selecting and instructing the clerk, preparing the observers, mock trial administrative checklist

MOCK TRIAL LESSON PLANS

Lesson 1: The Trial: How Do You Get There?; **Lesson 2:** Steps in a Trial: What Are They?; **Lesson 3:** The Jury: How Do You Select One?; **Lesson 4:** A Talk Show: What's the Case About?; **Lesson 5:** Theory of the Case and Opening Statements; **Lesson 6:** Opening Statements, Witness Examinations, and Closing Arguments; **Lesson 7:** The Rules of Evidence and Procedure; **Lesson 8:** The Mock Trial; **Lesson 9:** Debriefing the Mock Trial

SIMPLIFIED MOCK TRIALS

These mock trials contain two short witness statements per side. Students could prepare and conduct these mock trials in one to two 45 minute classes.
State v. Randall (Criminal Law: Assault and Battery) and *W.B. Walker v. Cynthia Jones* (Landlord/Tenant: Failure to Pay)

MOCK TRIALS FOR A MOCK TRIAL UNIT

The following mock trials can be presented in a 45 minute class period, but depending on your goals, it is recommended that students have two to five class periods to prepare for any of these trials. Each trial contains two witness statements per side and summaries on the applicable laws.

Battle v. Battle (Family Law: A Child Custody Hearing - no jury); ***Vickers v. Hearst*** (Tort Law: Third Party "Host" Liability); ***Floyd v. Baldwin*** (Breach of Contract: Consumer Home Improvement); ***Hudson v. Daily Metropolis*** (Constitutional Law: First Amendment Freedom of the Press - no jury)

CHALLENGING MOCK TRIALS

These mock trials, written by the Washington, DC, Street Law Project of the Georgetown University Law Center, were used for the Washington, DC area high schools mock trial competition. Students in that competition had approximately one month to prepare for the trial; however, depending on your class and whether you decide to teach evidence and trial procedures, preparation time will vary. Each trial has three witnesses.

Elyse Roberts v. the District of Columbia (Civil Rights: Sexual Harassment in the Workplace); ***Ricki Jones v. Metro City*** (Tort Law: Strict Liability and Negligence re: a City's Water Contamination); ***Walker v. Brewster*** (Tort Law: Negligent Storage of a Handgun and Supervision of a Child)

MOOT COURTS

This section includes: student involvement, classroom arrangement, moot court checklist

MOOT COURT LESSON PLANS

Lesson 1: The Court System: Who Decides?; **Lesson 2:** The Court System: How Do You Appeal?; **Lesson 3:** A Mini-Case Study: You be the Justice; **Lesson 4:** A Mini-Case Study: Deciphering the Actual Opinion; **Lesson 5:** Precedent: What's That Gotta Do with It?; **Lesson 6:** The Anatomy of a Case Study: Putting the Pieces Together; **Lesson 7:** Moot Court: It's Show Time

THE MOOT COURTS

Davis v. Monroe (1999) (Civil Rights, *Title* IX: Sexual Harassment in School); ***Wisconsin v. Yoder*** (1972) (First Amendment: Freedom of Religion); ***United States v. Virginia*** (1996) (Constitutional Law: Equal Protection Based on Gender); ***PGA Tour. Inc. v. Martin*** (2001) (Civil Rights: Discrimination Based on Disability); ***Board of Education of Independent School District No. 92* of *Pottawatomie County v. Earls, et al., 563 U.S. 822*** (2002) (Fourth Amendment: Search and Seizure); ***Gratz, et al. v. Bollinger*** (2003) (Fourteenth Amendment: Equal Protection/Affirmative Action)