

the WRITS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BUCKS COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



SPRING 2019

"WE'RE STILL HERE" *A Visit With Bucks County's Law Librarian*

2019 MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

**NEW CLEAN SLATE ACT EXPANDS
OPTIONS FOR CLEARING A
CRIMINAL RECORD IN PA**

2019 Mock Trial Competition

By Erin K. Aronson

THE FLOWERS ARE BLOOMING, TEMPERATURES ARE RISING, AND YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED A MASS EMAIL FROM ME IMPLORING YOU TO VOLUNTEER IN SEVERAL WEEKS; all are signs that the 2019 Mock Trial Competition is successfully completed for another year.

Each year the Young Lawyers Division of the BCBA takes the lead in organizing this county-wide competition, which is part of the Pennsylvania Bar Association statewide mock trial competition. As one of the largest mock trial competitions in the nation, the PBA/YLD Mock Trial Competition includes more than 300 high school student teams from across the Commonwealth. Teams advance through county, regional and statewide levels of competition, with the statewide winner ultimately representing Pennsylvania nationally.

Locally, this year's competition featured 17 teams vying for the number one spot and the chance to represent Bucks County at regionals. Following the first round of competition, in which each team competes twice, just four undefeated teams remained and moved onto the semi-finals. Ultimately, Central Bucks South High School and Bensalem High School squared off in the final round, with Central Bucks South High School advancing to regionals.

Coordinating the competition is a herculean task and all BCBA members should take pride in what we accomplish together. In total, this year's competition featured 20 trials, which required 20 Judges, 20 jury panels, and 20 bailiffs, all in the span of just six weeks. As Coordinator of this year's competition, it gave me immense pride in YLD, our membership, and our local legal community, which you should all share.

Our esteemed judges from the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas and Magisterial District Courts presided over each hearing. Students unfailingly report that the chance to appear before actual judges is a highlight of our competition. To be sure, this does not occur in every county competition. We are fortunate to have the support of our Judges, and for their willingness to volunteer their time and expertise. Each Judge's administrative staff also



Bensalem High School Mock Trial Team

Coordinating the competition is a herculean task and all BCBA members should take pride in what we accomplish together. In total, this year's competition featured 20 trials, which required 20 Judges, 20 jury panels, and 20 bailiffs, all in the span of just six weeks.

supported this endeavor and are to be thanked for their patience and support.

The competition also would not take place without the assistance and cooperation of the Office of Court Administration. Opening the courthouse doors at night to large numbers of enthusiastic teenagers and their families for 20 trials in actual courtrooms is no small undertaking. Under the leadership of our Court Administrator, Steve Heckman, and with the assistance of Assistant Court Administrator Sherri Wohrle, we were able to do just that, even while juggling trial schedules and weather cancellations. We appreciate the efforts of Steve, Sherri, and everyone in the Office of Court Administration.

Finally, BCBA members faithfully answered the call to serve as jurors and bailiffs each night of the competition. Our schedules are demanding as it is, yet so many of you volunteered to cap off busy work days with an evening at the courthouse (with many volunteering multiple nights). Each hearing I witnessed BCBA members encourage students in their ambitions, happily reconnect with colleagues after long intervals, or sign up to serve with close friends (and more often than not, go to MOM's afterward). In every instance, our membership exhibited a collegiality which reflects well on the association, and

which represented our membership well to the many parents and students who attended each trial.

Below you will find a list of those who served this year as a juror or bailiff, as well as the Judges who presided over hearings. Thank you again to everyone who answered my many requests for volunteers. If you are not listed, please join us next year, and rest assured that YLD will be sending recruitment emails in no time. 📧

Thank You Volunteers!

BCBA MEMBERS:

Hugh Algeo	Sean Gresh
Rusty Allen	Kyong Ha Growney
Maureen Anderson	Danielle C. Guiteras
Carolyn Angelaccio	Peter Hall
Cameron Banks	Judy Hayman
Timothy Barton	Steven Heckman
Julieanne Bateman	Britain Henry
Mitch Baylarian	Mariam Ibrahim
Meredith Buck	Bonnie Irvin
Robbie Cain	Jamie Jamison
Melissa Cantwell	Sarah Jammer
Kathryn Carlson	Shannon Kanavy
Maureen Carlton	Dan Keane
Kirsten Carper	Gabrielle Kelerchian
Allison Carr	Brittney Kern
Joe Chellew	Emma Kline
Jahn Chesnov	Rob LaBar
Patty Collins	Paul Lang
Ashley Dayoub	Macy Laster
Dawn DiDonato-Burke	Josephine Lee
Jennifer Donaldson	Kim Litzke
Tim Duffy	Chris Mahoney
Mark Eastburn	Mary Kate Marsden
Sarah Eastburn	Tina Mazaheri
Kelly Eberly	Brian McBeth
Susan Levy Eisenberg	Joe McGinley
Scott L. Feldman	Kellie A. McGowan
Christine Finello	Donna McKillop
Elizabeth Fineman	Kristine Michael
Richard Fink	Gabriel Montemuro
Lynelle Gleason	Joanne Murray
	Katelyn Naso



Central Bucks South High School Mock Trial Team

Jennifer Nause	Sharon Spickler
Breandan Nemec	Adam Tanke
Jeff Nowak	Tyler Tomlinson
Jeff Orchinik	Jessica VanderKam
Lisa Patterson	Seth Weber
Michael Peters	Jason Weiss
Hon. Scott Petri	Robin Schleifer Weiss
Jennifer Pierce	Melanie J. Wender
Jessica Pritchard	Jeremy Whalen
Jeremy Puglia	Shari Gelfont Williams
Anthony Rachuba	Diane Yaglinski
Bob Repko	Elaine T. Yandrisevits
Todd Savarese	
Lisa Schaner	
Larry Scheetz	
Stephanie Schwartzberg	
Chris Serpico	
Maureen Serpico	
Michael Shelton	
Zachary Sivertsen	
Mindy Snyder	
Joanne D. Sommer	

JUDGES:

J. Robert O. Baldi
J. Wallace H. Bateman, P.J.
J. William J. Benz
J. Daniel Finello
J. Jeffrey L. Finley
J. Brian T. McGuffin
J. James M. McMaster
J. Jeffrey G. Trauger