

Greetings from the Normal Community High School and Normal Community West High School Mock Trial teams. My name is John Bierbaum and in addition to being a Social Studies teacher at Normal West, I will be coaching both of these Mock Trial teams. I have been a Mock Trial coach for the past 13 years and appreciate the fact that this area has a long, proud tradition of getting youths to participate in Mock Trials through the Illinois State Bar Association Program.

This year, the University of Illinois Mock Trial Team has offered to host a Mock Trial seminar for any teams and their students at the end of October. This is a very unique and highly beneficial opportunity for both teams as we prepare for the release of the Illinois Bar Association Mock Trial case in early November. I am reaching out to any local law firms and/or attorneys to see if there would be interest in helping to financially sponsor students to attend this seminar.

Specifically, I am hoping to raise \$580 to cover registration costs for both schools and individual registration costs for several students who have expressed interest to attend. Each student gets a t-shirt, trial book, lunch, and a day of how-to classes taught by members of the U of I Mock Trial team and coaches. I would be truly grateful for any and all help.

If you are unfamiliar with high school Mock Trial, it is a very rewarding experience for the students. Not only do they get an opportunity to work through a case, learn trial advocacy, and expand their knowledge of how our judicial system works, they have a chance to improve their public speaking skills, learn about possible law related careers, and compete around the state against some very high caliber teams. We have other opportunities if you would like to help sponsor our tournament registration fees, curriculum resources, and other costs throughout the year. For additional questions about our Mock Trial programs, school teams in Bloomington-Normal, or informational about sponsoring our programs, please feel free to contact me at: bierbauj@unit5.org. Thanks so much

Sincerely,

John Bierbaum

Social Studies

Normal West High School