



Empire Philly

The Juanita Kidd Stout Center for Criminal Justice
September 27-28, 2025



WHO WE ARE

Empire Mock Trial is a Washington, D.C. based nonprofit that coordinates mock trial programs for high school students. We believe it's critical that young people develop the knowledge, skills and empathy needed to become capable citizens in a divided world. We, also, believe that it's necessary to instill in students an appreciation for the rule of law, analytical reasoning, and civil discourse. At Empire, we work to meet these challenges by organizing intellectually rigorous mock trial programs that teach students about our legal system, connect them with their peers from across the world, and empower them to be more compassionate citizens and critical thinkers.

WHO COMPETES

We are expecting 36 high school teams from 20+ states and abroad. Each team typically consists of 7-15 students, who compete as either attorneys or witnesses. The teams are coached by experienced teachers or attorneys. Schools pay an entrance fee, which covers costs such as lunch, ceremonies, etc. We provide scholarships for local schools and financial aid for Title I schools.

In 2024, we awarded **\$8,500 aid** to schools in need, including **\$3,000 in financial aid** to local Pennsylvania schools.

HOW IT CAME TO BE

Empire brought its unique brand of mock trial to Philly because of our long history with Philadelphia schools and the continued growth of the statewide mock trial program. In 2007, a Roman Catholic High School senior gave a closing argument at the inaugural Empire City Invitational in New York City. Fast forward 15 years and that student, Steve Patton, is now the school's coach, a successful lawyer, and member of the Committee that brought Empire to Philadelphia.

PRIOR PARTNERS

Empire has previously partnered with organizations across the country to run mock trial competitions including, but not limited to, the following:

