



# American University Mock Trial

Developing Skills by Practicing Law

## SAMPLE CASE COURSES

### Case 1

#### **State of Midlands v. Chase Covington and Avery Bancroft**

In 2015, Chase Covington, Chair of the Midlands Gambling Commission, cast the deciding vote to give Avery Bancroft the license to open a new casino in Midlands. Following the decision Chase Covington and Avery Bancroft were both arrested on charges of bribery. Covington and Bancroft will face bifurcated trials and the prosecution may select which one of them will be on the stand.

### Case 2

#### **State of Midlands vs. Dylan Hendricks**

In 2017, Carmen Bell-Leon and Dylan Hendricks met and fell in love through a dating app called Tender. Although Carmen Bell-Leon was married to an airline pilot named Kerry Bell-Leon, the affair continued until months later, when someone tried to strangle Kerry Bell-Leon to death using an extension cord. Kerry Bell-Leon, who was under the influence of a memory-altering drug called "Everest" at the time of the attack, claims that the attacker was Dylan Hendricks. Authorities have now charged Dylan Hendricks with the attempted murder of Kerry Bell-Leon.

American University's **Mock Trial Team** is currently is a top-tier program, **ranking 22** out of more than 600 teams nationally. By engaging in trial simulations in competition with teams from other college institutions, students develop critical thinking and public speaking skills, as well as a knowledge of legal practices and procedures.





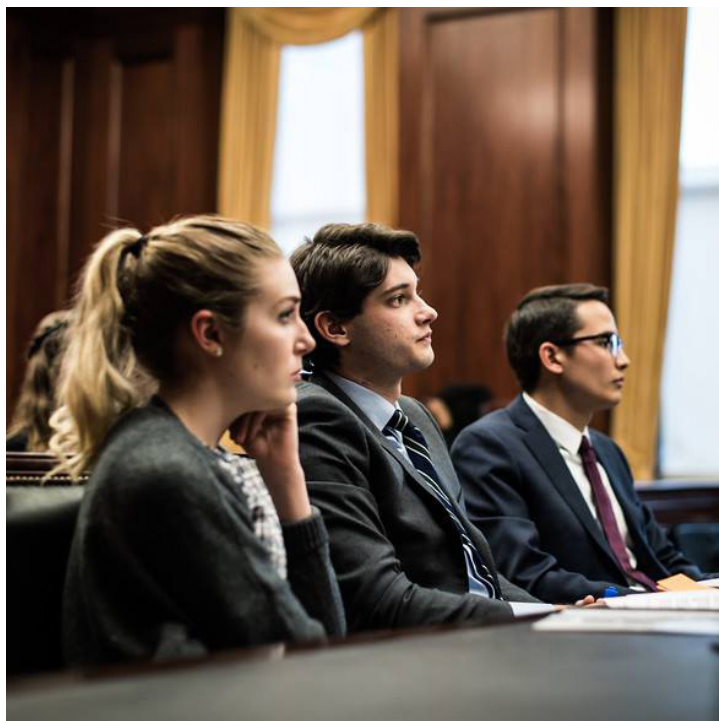
The American University Mock Trial team holding a trophy.

## HOW DOES MOCK TRIAL WORK?

Typically, a tournament brings in around 20 different teams who compete in four sets of trials over the course of a weekend. Mock trial competitors, or “mockers” are assigned different roles to present their case. In any given trial, three mockers act as attorneys and three act as witnesses. The attorneys are responsible for conducting opening and closing statements, questioning witnesses on direct and cross examinations, and handling objection battles with the other team’s attorneys.

Witnesses are responsible for portraying their characters convincingly and presenting evidence for their team’s side while they are being questioned on the witness stand.

In most trials, two judges evaluate mockers’ performances on a scale of 1-10. You don’t earn 10’s for winning your case. You win by presenting your evidence confidently, persuasively, and in accordance with the rules of evidence.



## MOCK TRIAL AT A GLANCE

At the start of each year, we are given a case problem for either a civil or criminal case. This case problem includes unique witness statements, expert testimony, inflammatory evidence, police reports, and case law. Then it’s up to us to put together a case and attend tournaments.

» Mock Trial is a mix of law, theater, debate, competition, and critical thinking.

» AU’s Mock Trial team competes in more than 18 regional and national-level competitions annually.

» Students participate as part of one of the nation’s top-ranked teams.

» It’s a proven way to improve public speaking and learn how to craft an argument.

» The Mock Trial team holds auditions once a year and compete in intercollegiate competitions once a month.

» AU hosts its own tournament every year.

» Students travel to other schools to complete in more than 18 competitions annually.

## QUESTIONS?

### CONTACT

Justin Williams,  
Assistant Director of Undergraduate  
Recruitment & Retention

### PHONE

202-885-6200

### EMAIL

[aupublicaffairs@american.edu](mailto:aupublicaffairs@american.edu)

### TWITTER

[@AUjwilliams](https://twitter.com/AUjwilliams)