



TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

Dear Judicial Delegates,

It is my honor as your Youth Attorney General of Texas to welcome you to the 2021-2022 Texas Youth and Government Judicial Mock Trial season. Whether you are returning from the virtual competition last year or just beginning in this program, I am excited and hopeful to witness—in person—the incredible achievements that each and every delegate will accomplish.

Our time in Youth and Government is limited, so I charge you to be intentional about getting outside your comfort zone. Daunting as it may be to deliver arguments or testify in trial, take comfort in the fact that we are all students, seeking to find our own voices. It's alright to be nervous. However, growth happens when we embrace what we find challenging.

The mock trial case this year is particularly lengthy. Not only must you master the facts of the case, but you should also pay attention to the details found in the affidavits and exhibits. Trials are won by teams who have the best grasp of the case fact pattern and are able to articulate that understanding most effectively.

Attorneys, know and use the Rules of Evidence and Rules of Procedure. Demonstrating a complex proficiency in objections and courtroom decorum will be what gets your teams those extra points from evaluators. When delivering or responding to an objection, utilize the useful commentary in the Rules of Evidence to help form your statements. Since objections are made in the heat of the moment, being able to concisely express your position shows mastery in courtroom control and presence.

Witnesses, understand that your testimony is as important as the legal arguments made by the attorneys. Develop a character and personality for your witness based on your affidavit. Answer direct-examination questioning as if you are having a conversation. Hold your ground on cross-examination, but do not quarrel unnecessarily over trivial details with opposing attorneys.

Judges, your demeanor shapes the way trials unfold. Rule on objections quickly and decisively. Master the relevant statutes to the case so that you are able to judge fairly and impartially with respect to the law. Give constructive guidance and critiques to competing teams.

No adequate words in this letter can capture the immense gratitude I have not only for this program and its students, but also for the volunteers and staff whose diligent efforts make YG possible. As youth, we can return thanks to them by developing a vision for tomorrow—what our society can be. I look forward to serving you this year. Good luck in all your YG endeavors!

Sincerely,

Liam J. Lee
2021-2022 Texas Youth Attorney General