



26TH ANNUAL
CNMI HIGH SCHOOL
MOCK TRIAL
C O M P E T I T I O N

CRUZ v. VIC'S VÂPORIUM

March 5-6, 2026

United States Courthouse
1671 Gualo Rai Rd., Gualo Rai
Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 03** COMPETITION SCHEDULE
- 04** INTRODUCTION
- 05** CASE SUMMARY
- 06** TEAM OVERVIEW
- 13** AWARDS CEREMONY PROGRAM
- 15** 2026 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP INFORMATION
- 16** 2025 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP - CNMI TEAM HIGHLIGHTS
- 17** PAST CHAMPIONS
- 18** RECOGNITION
- 19** APPRECIATION

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

- 7:30 AM** **Check-In & Registration**
1st Floor Lobby for Teams
3rd Floor Lobby for Attorney Volunteers
All rounds of the competition will be held at the following assigned rooms:
3rd Floor Main Courtroom
3rd Floor Clerk's Office Conference Room
1st Floor Jury Assembly Room
-
- 7:50 AM** **Welcome Remarks & Announcements**
3rd Floor Main Courtroom
Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona
Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy
-
- 8:00 AM-10:00 AM** **Preliminary Round 1**
-
- 10:15 AM-12:15 PM** **Preliminary Round 2**
-
- 12:15 PM-1:00 PM** **Lunch**
provided at U.S. District Court
-
- 1:00 PM-03:00 PM** **Preliminary Round 3**
-
- 3:15 PM-5:15 PM** **Preliminary Round 4**

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026

- 8:00 AM** **Announcement of Finalists**
3rd Floor Main Courtroom
-
- 8:15 AM-10:15 AM** **Championship Round**
3rd Floor Main Courtroom
Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona
-
- 11:00 AM** **Award Ceremony**
3rd Floor Main Courtroom
Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona
Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy



HAFA ADAI!

Welcome to the **26th Annual CNMI High School Mock Trial Competition!** Since its inception in 1999 to 2025, the competition was hosted by the NMI Judiciary at the Guma' Hustisia in Susupe. This year, the U.S. District Court for the NMI is proud to host the competition where seven teams from seven different schools across all three islands will step into the roles of attorneys and witnesses and compete for the Championship Perpetual Trophy.

We have high hopes that all of you will find this experience to be rewarding. We further hope that the glimpse of the legal profession this competition provides will educate and inspire many of you to pursue careers in the law – and to return home to serve the legal needs of the communities near and dear to your hearts as counselors, advocates, jurists, and leaders.

This year's competition would not be possible without the following partnerships, all of which continue to make Mock Trial program feasible:

- **The Public School System and Federal Programs Office** for funding the travel expenses for the regional competitors and, hopefully the champions at the national competition;
- **The NMI Bar Association** members for their service as attorney coaches, and Presiding and Scoring Judges at each competition;
- **The NMI Judiciary** for their assistance with the transition and printing of the competition program;
- **The U.S. District Court** leadership and staff for their tireless work in preparing and coordinating this year's competition; and
- **The students and coaches** who have dedicated countless hours in honing their legal skills.

We wish each team the best of luck! May this year's champions light a fiery torch in Iowa as they embody the American Bar Association's Law Day 2026 theme:

The Rule of Law and the American Dream.

CASE SUMMARY

CRUZ V. VIC'S VÂPORIUM

Carter Cruz was an outgoing, friendly, popular sophomore at Pagan High School. Unfortunately, like others at PHS, Carter got into vaping. Carter's vaping started with a bit of peer pressure from others; he soon became part of the growing statistic of today's adolescent population that uses e-cigarette devices. Carter tragically died on March 19, 2024. His autopsy showed that he had asthma, which was made worse by his vaping and ultimately led to a fatal heart attack. Carter's death prompted the Cruz family to file a lawsuit against both multi-generational tobacco company Maurice Phillippe and local smoke shop Vic's Vâporium. Maurice Phillippe settled their suit with the Cruz family but the suit against the Vâporium continues.





DR. RITA HOCOG INOS JR. SR. HIGH SCHOOL

TEACHER COACH

Joycelynn Atalig

ATTORNEY COACH

Joseph Hallahan

Charity Hodson

Oliver Manglona

TEAM MEMBERS

Ellie Barcinas

Rianna T. Barcinas

Carlos A. Calvo

Zaijan Lorenzo Hocog

Kaden Manglona

Kylee Manglona

Edward Maratita

Joachim Maratita

Brandon Asher Reyel

Sayema Sidur

Katrina Tacud

Jashly Villaspir





KAGMAN HIGH SCHOOL

TEACHER COACH

Elizabeth Basa
Joaquin Kiyoshi

ATTORNEY COACH

Alison Nelson
Rellani Ogumoro

TEAM MEMBERS

Cyrena C. Ada
Jeffrey M. Atalig
Cherish N. Camacho
Carlos Cashwell
Zachary G. Dafrow
Bethanie C. Delos Santos
Jesse Lin
Monica S. Mangarero
KayaLucia DLG Mojica
Charles B. Nicholas II
Amado A. Santiago
Connie Seman





TEACHER COACH

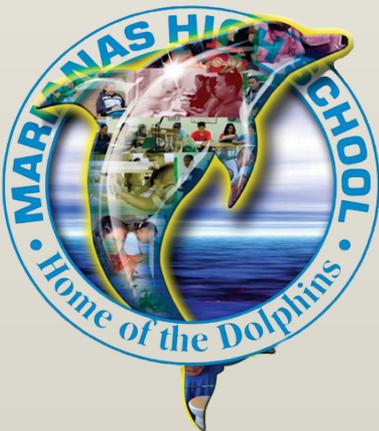
Robyn Spaeth
Jacoby Winkfield

ATTORNEY COACH

Michael Dotts
Rebecca Wiggins

TEAM MEMBERS

Ainsley Ancheta
Angelica Hope Calvo
Danice Fernando
Steven Lian
Frances Ariane Licda
Isabella Mallari
David Park
Aquinna Dion Santos
Trixia Jhoanne Singca
D'Ana Teregeyo
Reese Kaeley Tolentino





TEACHER COACH

John Blanco

ATTORNEY COACH

J. Robert Glass, Jr.

Joseph L.G. Tajeron

TEAM MEMBERS

William Matthew B. Cano

Jaclyn Rose Davis

Christopher N. Dela Cruz

Nyla-Jordan N. Deleon Guerrero

Alexandria Ysabelle Dysangco

Seunghee Jeon

Mikaebla Paige R. Mendoza

Patricia Denielle G. Ordas

Edsel Benedict A. Pagtalunan

Leonard Jake B. Regalado

Keanu S. Silva

Jessiana B. Tenorio





TEACHER COACH

Stacia Beiniks

ATTORNEY COACH

Garth Backe

Janet King

TEAM MEMBERS

Michael Guintu

Ashlynn Han

Yiming Li

Irene Park

Jose Sablan

Selina Santiago

Alleena Villaluz

Qihan Wang

Tony Xiao

James Xiong

Joshua Yoo

Olivia Zhang





SAIPAN SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOL

TEACHER COACH

Dora Miura
Paul Miura

ATTORNEY COACH

Kassandra Knoff

TEAM MEMBERS

Giovanni DLG. Ada
Jude S. Burgos
Cedric H. Catacutan
Rexy B. Doronila
Denilyn A. Jacoba
Yu Rong Jiang
McKelly A. Reyes
Edwin E. Sibucac, Jr.
Annabella M. Tudela





TINIAN HIGH SCHOOL

TEACHER COACH

Edward Joseph Hofschneider

Patricia Joy Hofschneider

ATTORNEY COACH

Chester Hinds



TEAM MEMBERS

Niesa Andrea F. Borja

Ayeesha Faith Margarette D. Cajilla

Mercy Anne Christian

Piper Rose Christian

Jireh Anna C. Cruz

Amovy Stephan J. Lagunay

Austin Jeremy L. Muna

Geremy L. Santos

Chae Yun Seo

Alicia Wen L. Teope

Adam Xuan

Ying S. Zhang



26TH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL
MOCK TRIAL
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Awards Ceremony

WELCOME REMARKS
CHIEF JUDGE RAMONA V. MANGLONA

Awards

BEST PLAINTIFF'S WITNESS

BEST DEFENSE WITNESS

BEST PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY

BEST DEFENSE ATTORNEY

PROFESSIONALISM AWARD

THIRD PLACE

SECOND PLACE

2026 MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONS

GROUP PHOTOS

CLOSING REMARKS
MAGISTRATE JUDGE HEATHER L. KENNEDY

AWARDS

- **2026 Mock Trial Champion**

The Championship Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to this year's winning team, along with a first-place plaque. The team will also earn the honor of representing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands at the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Des Moines, Iowa, subject to available funding.

- **Second Place**

The second place team will be awarded a second-place plaque in recognition of its excellent performance in the preliminary rounds and championship round.

- **Third Place**

The third place team will be awarded a third-place plaque in recognition of its excellent performance in the preliminary rounds.

- **Professionalism Award**

A plaque is presented to the team, selected by competing teams and coordinators, that exemplifies the guiding principles of advocacy, professionalism, courtesy, and respect to judges, jurors, fellow participants, and the justice system.

- **Best Defense Attorney and Best Plaintiff's Attorney**

A plaque will be presented to the advocates selected by the jurors for outstanding performance during the preliminary rounds of competition.

- **Best Defense Witness and Best Plaintiff's Witness**

A plaque will be presented to the witnesses selected by the jurors for outstanding performance during the preliminary rounds of competition.





NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

MAY 5-10, 2026, DES MOINES, IOWA

Tuesday, May 5

NMI Team arrives in Des Moines, Iowa.

Wednesday, May 6

Other teams and volunteers arrive. Registration opens for Teams and Observers. Scrimmages between volunteer schools begin.

Thursday, May 7

Team Portraits are taken and Orientation is provided for coaches and timekeepers. Schools partake in a pin exchange.

Friday, May 8

National competition rounds 1 and 2 are held. Teams explore host city for dinner.

Saturday, May 9

Rounds 3 and 4 are held. Final round determines the championship. Awards banquet and reception announces the winner.

Sunday, May 10

Team departs to Saipan.



2025 CNMI MOCK TRIAL TEAM

Marianas High School

Marianas High School represented the Commonwealth at the 2025 National High School Mock Trial Competition held in Phoenix, Arizona, on May 9–10, 2025, competing alongside more than forty state teams. Over 40,000 high school students take part in Mock Trial competitions each year.



The team visited Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law before competing. Pictured from left: Juan Banacia, Steven Lian, Angelica Calvo, Prapti Mondal, Reese Tolentino, Irene Wang, Jim Sison, David Park, MaryGrace Legaspi, Trixia Singca, and Hannah Lim. Not in photo: Jia Ross Nicdao.

NMI CHAMPIONS

2025

Marianas High School

Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. Sr. High School, Runner-up

2024

Marianas High School

No Runner up

2023

Marianas High School

Saipan Southern High School, Runner-up

2021 and 2022

No Competition Held (COVID-19)

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

2025

Montgomery Bell Academy
Tennessee

2024

Abingdon Heights High School
Pennsylvania

2023

Ankeny High School
Iowa

2022

Montgomery County High School
Kentucky

2021

Park School of Baltimore
Maryland



Si Yu'us Ma'ase yan Thank you

for making this year's Mock Trial Competition successful!

Hon. Ramona V. Manglona
Chief Judge, U.S. District Court, NMI

Hon. Heather L. Kennedy
*Clerk of Court / Magistrate Judge
U.S. District Court, NMI
Mock Trial Coordinator*

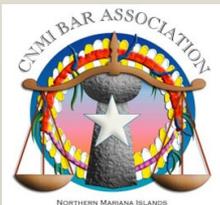
Hon. Lillian A. Tenorio
Associate Judge, NMI Superior Court

Francine P. Atalig
Amanda C. Hayes
Michel A. Li
Jonathan V. Liwag
Michelle C. Macaranas
Aeyanna S. Maratita
Glenn G. Mendoza
Bernard E. Paraiso
Justin X. Poon
Nicole B. Sablan
Yun-Da Tsai
Timothy V. Wesley
U.S. District Court, NMI

Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho
Commissioner of Education

ATTORNEY VOLUNTEERS

Judy T. Aldan
Heather Barcinas
Bruce Berline
Carmen V. Borja
Matthew Brown
Catherine Cachero
Katrina Carney
Keith Chambers II
Karie Comstock
Katherine Eckrote
Chandler Farquhar
Sean Frink
John Furnari
James Hallisey
Christopher Heeb
Susan Hong
Savana M. Jefferson
Hyun Jae Lee
Marlisa Marquez
Joe McDoulett
Rob McNeill
Richard Miller
Denny Nie
Eric O'Malley
Michelle Palacios
Steven Pixley
Jeanne Rayphand
Charles Reyes Jr.
Kate Rues
Joey P. San Nicolas
Mark A. Scoggins
Gretchen Smith
Michael White



Si Yu'us Ma'ase

**to everyone for your support
to the students and this competition.**

NMI Judiciary

Governor David M. Apatang
Lt. Governor Dennis C. Mendiola

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez
Rep. Angelo A. Camacho
Rep. John Paul P. Sablan

CNMI Veterans Affairs Office

Marianas Management Corporation (MMC)

And special thanks to

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan

McDonald's

Saipan World Resort

Star Marianas Air

Triple J Saipan, Inc.



United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands

1671 Gualo Rai Road, Saipan, MP 96950

Visit us at NMID.USCourts.gov



Follow us on Facebook at
facebook.com/DistrictCourtNMI



Follow us on YouTube at
youtube.com/@USDCNMI

