



# GREAT AMERICAN MOCK TRIAL INVITATIONAL

## SPONSORED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF LAW



### RULES AND POLICIES FOR USE OF THE MOULTRIE COURTHOUSE

GAMTI is one of very few invitational tournaments where all rounds are held in courtrooms. Part of the reason we no longer have use of our previous courthouse involves at least two competing team disregarding the terms of use last Fall. This is our first GAMTI at the Moultrie Courthouse, and our future ability to use the courthouse is by no means assured. Strict compliance with all of these rules and policies is essential.

#### *In general*

- Food and drink may be consumed in the designated space in the atrium, but only in that area. The atrium is quickly and easily reached from all courtrooms. Food and drink -- including bottled water -- must be stored in sealed containers at all other times. A container is “sealed” only if it could be flipped over and shaken without leaking.
- We will supply large cardboard trash bins that will be placed in the atrium and hallways. No trash may be placed in any other trashcans, including those in the courtrooms.

#### *Courtrooms*

When the last person leaves a courtroom after the round, there should be nothing to indicate that anyone was there. In particular:

- No food or drink of any kind (including bottled water) may be brought into the courtrooms themselves except in fully sealed containers. Take-out boxes and to-go coffee cups do not qualify. Sealed food and beverage containers must be stored where they are not accessible during the round.
- We will replace the judges’ personal chairs with non-adjustable ones before the tournament. No one -- including volunteer judges -- may sit in or touch the judge’s personal chair. Presiding judges must use the one provided. These courtrooms are the judges’ personal workspaces, and they will be extremely angry if they come in on Monday to find their personal chair adjusted to someone else’s dimensions.
- Participants have use of the counsel tables, the bench, and the rest of the courtroom only as long as they do not move anything already in place and return all chairs to their original position. Participants must not touch or move podiums, computers or other electronic equipment (including microphones), papers or other documents that may be in the courtroom, or easels or exhibits. This rule applies regardless of whether any such items are in the way or will make the round more uncomfortable or difficult for the competitors and regardless of anything a volunteer “judge” may say or do to the contrary. If any questions arise, participants must consult the Faculty Tournament Director.
- The chairs at counsel table must be reset precisely as they were before a team exits the courtroom.
- No one may place papers or other trash inside the courtroom trash cans. All such items should be removed from the courtroom and placed them in the provided cardboard trash bins in the hall.

Strict adherence to all rules and policies set forth in this memo is essential. Things that may seem small to us—such as a failure to return all chairs at counsel table to their original positions before leaving the courtroom—are rarely viewed that way by the people who work in these courtrooms and will arrive on Monday with the expectation that things will be precisely as they left them on Friday.

The next page contains a form that must be completed by each team’s captain and by a coach for any team that has one. No team will be permitted to compete until we have received its form.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY

I am the captain/coach of the team indicated below.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the “Rules and Policies for Use of the Moultrie Courthouse.”

I acknowledge that I have a responsibility to ask questions if I believe that anything is unclear and always to err on the side of caution.

I acknowledge that it is my personal responsibility to ensure that all of the participants in any round in which my team competes comply with these Rules. I understand that this obligation applies not only to myself and the student members on my team, but also includes the members of the teams against which we will be competing, spectators (whether affiliated with my team or not), volunteer judges, and coaches.

I understand that I must immediately report any violations of those Rules to the Faculty Tournament Director and that failure to do so will be deemed a violation of those Rules.

I understand that the tournament hosts will be taking photographs of the courtrooms before the tournament and will be checking the courtrooms throughout the weekend to ensure strict compliance with those Rules.

I understand that failure to comply with any of these obligations will result in sanctions to be determined in the sole discretion of the Faculty Tournament Director. I understand that those sanctions may include, but are not limited to, being required to pay for any cleaning expenses. I also understand that any violations may jeopardize my program’s future ability to attend this tournament or other tournaments.

### ***Captain (all programs)***

Name:

Program:

Team:

Telephone number where I may be reached during the tournament:

Email address I check regularly:

### ***Coach (if your program has one)***

Name:

Program:

Team:

Telephone number where I may be reached during the tournament:

Email address I check regularly:

