

Sun Devil Mock Trial

Newsletter



Welcome to the Sun Devil Mock Trial Newsletter!

Whether you're a returning member, an alum, a friend of the program, or just curious about what we do, we're thrilled to have you here. Sun Devil Mock Trial is Arizona's premier undergraduate competitive mock trial program, where students combine legal knowledge, public speaking, and storytelling to compete in simulated court cases across the country. SDMT is one of the only programs in the country with 6 competitive teams, who spend the year preparing a case, and traveling all around the West Coast and beyond competing against other top schools and programs. Many of our competitors go on to law school, and our attorney coaches provide insight, advice, and counseling through the whole admissions process.

Updates From Arizona State's Mock Trial program

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2025-26: New E-Board and
Coaches

Who We Are

The 4 C's

Sun Devil Mock Trial is centered around 4 core values that we call the **4 C's**. These principles encompass everything we do at practice, in the courtroom, and in our community.

Competition

The number one goal of SDMT is to bring home a national championship trophy: this is the mission that drives us every day, whether that be at practice, tournaments, or anywhere in between. This competitive drive ensures that our competitors are constantly improving their trial advocacy skills, professional bearing, and legal knowledge. Entering the 2025-26 season, ASU A is the highest ranked team ASU has ever fielded, at 45th in the country. Our B team isn't far behind at 66. This standard of excellence on the national stage is what motivates us every day.

Community

SDMT is built on the volunteer efforts of local attorneys, grad students, and judges. Thus, we take pride in the community work and involvement we expect from our undergraduate competitors. Our community gives us so much every year, so we do what we can to help give back. Our members coach high school mock trial teams, volunteer with local government initiatives, and participate in philanthropic internships.

Character

SDMT isn't just focused on inspiring great advocates--we're building great people, too. Our coaches, veteran competitors, and alumni assistants are always working to instill a strong moral compass in each of our competitors. By developing students with unflinching character who treat everyone with respect, we strive to influence the legal community by introducing strong, caring advocates.. Winning is important to us, but so are ethics, core values, and responsibility.

Communication

Communication is one of life's most important skills, especially in a modern, digital world. SDMT looks to develop strong communicators as well as people. The key to successful futures, no matter the field or organization, is good communication and empathy for others, and learning how to listen as well as talk. At SDMT, we learn to speak loud, speak confidently, speak slowly, and listen intently to everyone. We work everyday to ensure each of our competitors is the strongest communicator they can be.

Spring Competitive Season Recap

SDMT's success on the National Stage

The spring season is the one that really counts. After a few invitationals to start the ball rolling, SDMT competes at regionals, ORCS, and nationals for a shot at a national championship. Here's an overview of just how well we performed in 2025.

Beach Party – Irvine, California

Hosted at the beautiful UC Irvine campus, beach party is one of the most prestigious invitationals in the nation, accepting only the top teams from the top programs. ASU sent our A and B team, and brought home some hardware. **ASU A** claimed **2nd place**, an incredible achievement!

Individual Awards:

- **Linus Ros** – Outstanding Attorney Award (19 ranks)
- **Matt Crothers** – Outstanding Attorney Award (18 Ranks)
- **Jake Dueck** – Outstanding Witness Award (19.5 Ranks)
- **Abbey Hicks** – Outstanding Witness Award (17 ranks)



UCLassic – Los Angeles, California

UCLA's Spring invitational, UCLassic, was a different one for us this year. Due to the tragic LA wildfires, we could only send one team to compete, made up of competitors from across our different teams. But that didn't stop them from having an amazing underdog showing!

Individual Awards:

- **Hazel Cates** – Outstanding Attorney Award (17 Ranks)



Spring Competitive Season Recap

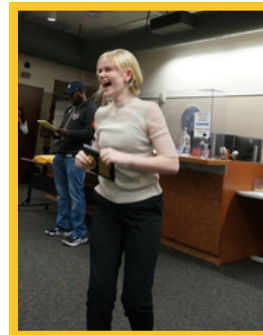
SDMT's success on the National Stage (cont.)

Rebel Trojan Invitational – Las Vegas, Nevada

A yearly tradition for SDMT, Rebel Trojan is one of our favorite tournaments, and the only one where all 6 of our teams go together. This year, we had an unbelievable outing. **ASU A** won **1st place**, **ASU B** won **3rd place**, and ASU C was an **honorable mention 6th place**. We couldn't be more proud of all 6 of our teams for another successful rebel trojan showing!

Individual Awards:

- **Elle Downey** – Outstanding Attorney Award (20 Ranks)
- **Matt Crothers** – Outstanding Attorney Award (19 Ranks)
- **Mounika Mandhari** – Outstanding Attorney Award (18 Ranks)
- **Luke Fries** – Outstanding Attorney Award (18 Ranks)
- **Anusha Rahman** – Outstanding Attorney Award (17 Ranks)
- **Abigail Axelson** – Outstanding Attorney Award (16 Ranks)
- **Sophia Baniameri** – Outstanding Attorney Award (16 Ranks)
- **Pranav Kalavath** – Outstanding Witness Award (17 Ranks)



Spring Competitive Season Recap

SDMT's success on the National Stage (cont.)

Regionals – Claremont, California

Our first regionals of the year was the Claremont regionals. ASU sent 2 teams to Claremont, and secured our first (but surely not last!) bid to ORCS of 2025. This bid was a monumental achievement, too. ASU F became the first F team in *AMTA history* to get a bid out of regionals! Yes, you read that right, the first F team **ever**. This was a dream start to our competitive run, and we commend **ASU F** on their 6-2 ORCS bid!

Individual Awards:

- **Sophia Baniameri** – All-Regional Attorney Award (18 Ranks)
- **Radha Bhaskarwar** – All-Regional Witness Award (17 Ranks)
- **Pranav Kalavath** – All-Regional Witness Award (17 Ranks)



Regionals – Tempe, Arizona

SDMT hosted regionals once again this year, and we concluded the weekend with our second bid to ORCS. **ASU B** won a statement 5.5 - 2.5 bid, while **ASU D** brought home a 5-3 honorable mention seventh place. Congrats to both of our teams on a great tournament!

Individual Awards:

- **Meghan Searle** – All-Regional Attorney Award (18 Ranks)
- **Abbey Hicks** – All-Regional Witness Award (16 Ranks)



Spring Competitive Season Recap

SDMT's success on the National Stage (cont.)

Regionals – San Diego, California

ASU C and ASU A attended our final regionals of the year in San Diego, and once again, SDMT walked away with a bid to ORCS: our third of the year. Congratulations to **ASU A** for a dominant 7.5-0.5 bid to the opening round championship series!

Individual Awards:

- **Will Barrett** – All-Regional Attorney Award (18 Ranks)
- **Jake Dueck** – All-Regional Witness Award (18 Ranks)



Opening Round Championship Series – LA, California

ASU sent the maximum 2 teams to ORCS last season, and delivered in a historic way. For the first time in program history, **both** of our teams earned a bid to the national championship. **ASU B** took home a **6-2 bid**, and **ASU A** earned a **5-3 bid**. SDMT was one of only 4 programs in the entire country to send 2 teams to the national championship. Safe to say that this year, we burst on to the national stage in a big way. Congrats to our amazing competitors and coaches who made this achievement happen!

Individual Awards:

- **Lola Deibert** – All-National Attorney Award (18 Ranks)
- **Will Barrett** – All-National Attorney Award (17 ranks)
- **Joe Beining** – All-National Witness Award (20 Ranks)



Spring Competitive Season Recap

SDMT's success on the National Stage (cont.)

The National Championship – Cleveland, Ohio

Our final tournament of the year was the National Championship in Cleveland, Ohio. Our A and B teams traveled through storms, delays, and a night at O'Hare airport to compete at the highest level possible. And while we didn't bring the Nats trophy back to Tempe, we put the country on notice: ASU is here to stay. This opportunity was only possible because of our amazing community. Many friends, families, organizations, and programs were generous enough to donate to our program in the spring, making it possible to get everyone to Cleveland for this incredible experience. It can't be stressed enough how important donations and support are for our program. Without the backing of the community, none of this would be possible. We can't thank all of you enough for your continued support of SDMT. **You** are the reason we were able to have as successful of a season as we did. **Thank you!**



Summer Competition Review

A look into our summer

Rookie Rumble

We're happy to announce that ASU fielded two teams in the Rookie Rumble national online tournament this summer, from July 26-27. Rookie Rumble is a tournament offered to any competitor in the country in their first 2 years of mock trial. Competitors receive the case a mere few weeks before the tournament, and to win, must show incredible preparation, poise, skill, and teamwork. Both of our ASU squads performed incredibly well, especially for the short preparation time. Congrats, Devils!

Competitors:

- Atharva Goel, Elle Downey, Aanya Jain, Reid Foster, Abbey Hicks, Isheetta Gore, Sam Luba, Vivian Boetger, Zahra Alam, Will Barrett, Riley Reese, Gauri Murkoth, Tushar Gowda, Pranav Kalavath, Michael Lynch, Naeha Ravikumar

Summer Trial – Tucson, Arizona

Every year at the beginning of the fall semester, ASU competes in a day long mini tournament against the University of Arizona and their program. This year, the competition was in Tucson on August 23. The case? A murder trial about the unmasking and death of an undercover police officer killed while investigating a drug ring. We had an awesome time competing with our friends at the U of A, and all of our competitors did amazing! It was a great way to start the new school year off strong.

The Teams (can you guess the theme?)

- Team Rope, Team Lead Pipe, Team Wrench, Team Candlestick

Competitor Spotlight

Get to Know 3 of our Amazing Competitors!



Sam Luba

Sam is a sophomore majoring in Political Science and Justice Studies with a certificate in Political History and Leadership. He started mock trial in high school after founding his school's first team, and he's been hooked ever since. At SDMT, he currently serves as Tournament Director and says the people are what make it all worth it. "I've met some of the funniest, kindest, and most driven people here," he says. Outside of mock trial, Sam is a senior reporter for the State Press and works at Cactus Sports. In his free time, you'll find him playing basketball, hanging with friends, or diving into a Dungeons & Dragons campaign. His favorite SDMT memory? Hearing his team's name called for a bid to Nationals! He says, it was "easily one of the most unforgettable moments of my life."



Elle Downey

Elle is a junior majoring in Economics. When she's not doing mock trial, she loves going to concerts, watching movies, and taking her dogs on hikes. She's been part of SDMT since her freshman year and is now heading into her third season on the team. Elle joined mock trial to meet people and says the kindness of the members at the info booth is what drew her in. Since then, she's stuck around for the friendships, the growth, and all the fun memories – Her favorite memory is the trip to nationals last year. She says "You could feel the adrenaline and excitement to compete at such a high level. I remember our teamwork and appreciation for each other was through the roof."



Natasha Kiriluk

Natasha is a senior at ASU majoring in Political Science and Economics with a minor in Spanish. She joined SDMT because she was interested in the legal field and wanted to get a glimpse of what it was all about and she's glad she did. Outside of mock trial, Natasha works at ASU's Center for Work and Democracy, where she researches labor-related issues. In her free time, you'll probably find her reading, playing piano, or watching movies. Her favorite part of SDMT? The people. "I've met so many kind, supportive, and talented people over the years," she says. "I'm very grateful to have joined this club."

2025-26 Season Introductions

Meet our new Executive Board and Coaches!

Executive Board

We're excited to introduce this year's SDMT board:

- **Will Barrett** – President
- **Hazel Cates** – Vice President
- **Iris Lai** – Treasurer
- **Aanya Jain** – Secretary
- **Sam Luba** – Tournament Director

A huge thank you to last year's board—**Linus, Matt, Iris, Sierra, and Meghan**—for all their hard work and leadership. This new executive board is incredibly excited and enthusiastic about giving back to the mock trial community and making this season a great one!



Thank you to our Coaches

The reason SDMT continues to grow and succeed each year is because of the incredible support and guidance we receive from our coaches. These coaches are all volunteers who give their time, energy, and expertise simply because they love mock trial.

They put just as much blood, sweat, and tears into this program as the competitors do by working behind the scenes, mentoring students, and helping us become better advocates and teammates. SDMT would not be what it is today without them.

We're beyond grateful for their dedication and can't wait to work with them this season. Here are the amazing coaches who will be joining us next year:

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Chris Doran (Co-Head Coach) | • Chris Shanley | • Charlie Collins |
| • Tyler Schwenke (Co-Head Coach) | • Asha Mahajani | • Sultan Stipho |
| • Dana Brudvig | • Dheeti Deliwala | • Brynn Toliver |
| • Edward Nolan | • Adam Scarborough | • Sam Stumpf |
| • Madison Van Natter | • Lorena Ananieva | • Linus Ros |
| | • Naomi pop | • Lola Love |

How to Stay Involved

Your support keeps us running!

SDMT does lots of travelling, requires lots of professional materials, hosts two tournaments a year at a courthouse and on campus, and provides valuable resources for its competitors. None of these things would be possible without the continued support of our community. Whether that be attending our tournaments, staying updated via our emails and newsletter, or donating to help fund SDMT's season, we appreciate everything you do. If you're looking to help us continue our national success this season, please consider a **donation**. Any and every bit counts, and all of it goes to making our travel, practice, and education possible. Below, you'll find some useful contacts, links, and things to follow to stay up to date on what SDMT is doing, as well as donate to our program if you so choose.

We appreciate you taking the time to read and learn all about what our program has to offer. Wishing you a fantastic rest of your summer, and be on the lookout for our next newsletter in the fall. From all of us at Sun Devil Mock Trial, thank you!

Email: sundevilmocktrial@asu.edu

Website: asumocktrial.com

Instagram: [Click Here!](#)

GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/2d6184d2c>