

To: Dr. Weikle & The Board of Education
From: Becky Frangella, Associate Principal Normal West
Re: Mock Trial
Date: April 2025

Mock Trial is an extracurricular activity sponsored by the Illinois State Bar Association that both Normal Community and Normal West have been active in since the late 1990s. Each fall, nearly 50 teams from across the state get a case that has been written by the I.S.B.A to which they prepare for competition until the state tournament in March. During this preparation, teams come up with a theme, theory, and write all of the parts including their direct and cross examinations, witness presentations, and opening and closing statements.

During this year's state competition hosted at Lincoln Land Community College in March, Normal West High School placed 3rd in the State. This is a significant achievement in representing Central IL Mock Trial, Unit 5 Mock Trial programs, and the Normal West program. To put this achievement in perspective, only (3) downstate teams have ever made the final round at the state competition and Normal West is one of these teams – having done it twice in the past (3) years. Coach John Bierbaum has been coaching the team for 20 years and actually participated in the program as a high schooler. The team is also supported by Bob White, a retired attorney and the nearly (30) students who participated this year on one of the various competition teams.

