

Coppell Education Development Corporation
Grant Application

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| Project Title: | Law Education through Mock Trial |
| Principal Applicant | Mr. Todd Kettler |
| Title of Principal Applicant | Director of Advanced Academics |
| ISD Representative in Application | Coppell |
| Project Period (Start & Finish of Entire Project) | August 2006-May 2007 |
| Total Amount Requested | \$17,675 |

Printed Names & Title of Grant Approvers; Signatures; & Dates:

Todd Kettler
 Director of Advanced Academics

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| <i>Principal Applicant</i> Title (Required) | Signature | Date |
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| <i>Team Member</i> Title (Optional) | Signature | Date |
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|---|-----------|------|
| <i>Team Member</i> Title (Optional) | Signature | Date |
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| <i>Principal of School Involved</i> Title (Optional) | Signature | Date |
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Jeff N. Turner, Ed.D.
 Superintendent

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| <i>District Superintendent</i> Title (Required) | Signature | Date |
|---|-----------|------|

Kathie Gauthie
 President, Board of Trustees

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| ** <i>School Board President</i> President (Required) | Signature | Date |
|---|-----------|------|

****Signifies approval by the School Board of Trustees**

Section I: Abstract of Project/Activity

Coppell ISD will begin a program of career education in law. One of the first steps in the development of the law education program will be the implementation of a mock trial program and a Coppell High School Mock Trial team to compete in the Texas High School Mock Trial Competition (THSMTC) sponsored by the Dallas Bar Association¹.

A mock trial club will be formed during the 2006-07 school year to attract students interested in participating on the mock trial team. The actual competition limits each team to ten students, but our goal is to develop the program through the club which would include an unlimited number of students. All members of the mock trial club will learn about the practice of law and specifically the details of trials and litigation.

Each year the THSMTC releases the annual case for competition on October 1st. High schools register for participation and begin research and practice for the competition. The district/regional competition is held each year in February. Coppell High will participate in Region 10. The state competition is held in the federal courthouse in downtown Dallas each year in March and the state winners can advanced to the national mock trial competition in May.

Section II: Description of Proposal and Nature of Request:

Goals for the Law Education/Mock Trial Program:

- The development of a Mock Trial Club and a competitive mock trial team will provide law related education for students in CISD.

¹ See attached "History of the Texas High School Mock Trial Competition."

- The Coppell High School mock trial team will compete in the Texas High School Mock Trial Competition annually.
- CISD students will develop career interests to pursue an education and career in law beyond high school.
- CISD students may compete for scholarships offered through the Texas High School Mock Trial Competition.

To effectively meet these goals CISD and CHS will:

- Identify a teacher/coach for the program (as soon as possible)
- Post information and recruit students (upon identifying teacher/coach)
- Begin teaching students about trial law and the competition (September)
- Register CHS for the regional competition (September)
- Practice weekly after school (September – February)
- Receive the case for the 2007 competition (October 1st)
- Attend the Region 10 Competition (February 3rd and 10th)
- Attend the State Competition (if qualified, March 2nd and 3rd)
- Attend the National Competition (if qualified, May 10th -12th)

Specific Plan to Begin a Successful Program at CHS

1. Attempt to hire Margo Jacobs as the CHS Mock Trial Teacher/Coach.

Mrs. Jacobs has been the teacher/coach for North Hills School as well as a teacher/coach for high schools in Tennessee and Kansas. She was named the Texas Mock Trial Coach of the Year in 2004, 2005, and 2006. Her teams finished

in the top ten in the state in each of those years, including 2nd in 2005. We have spoken to her by phone and personally interviewed her. She also worked as a long term sub at CHS a few years ago and was recommended by Laura Springer as an outstanding candidate for the CHS mock trial coach. Mrs. Jacobs is currently a Coppell resident. She has already indicated an interest in working with Coppell High School students to develop a mock trial program. She is widely respected in the state mock trial competition and a sought after coach.

2. Most high schools that have successful programs have a mock trial class taught as an elective (similar to the way we currently offer an Academic Decathlon class). Obviously given the timeline, that is difficult if not impossible for this year. However, we can establish a mock trial class for the 2007-08 school year as we expand the program.
3. Additionally, to further develop a strong program, we can offer mock trial camps as part of CISD summer programs to teach students skills and build interest in the Mock Trial Club.
4. We will work with our middle schools to find a teacher that is willing to sponsor a mock trial club at the middle school level. The sponsor would work with the CHS coach to teach students the fundamentals skills, and we could have a CISD annual middle school mock trial competition.
5. The Texas Mock Trial Competition is supported by the Dallas Bar Association and the State Bar of Texas. Most high school teams have local attorneys work with the coach to teach students what they need to know about practicing trial law. This would be a great way to involve parents and/or community members

who work as trial lawyers. We may actually have some Coppell lawyers who work with mock trial teams at other schools.

Section III: Budget

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| Books ² for students | \$1500 |
| Instructional Materials | 2000 |
| Competition Registration | 175 |
| Transportation for Team | 1500 |
| Salary for Teacher/Coach | 13,500 |
| Total | \$17,675 |

Section IV: Project Measurement and Evaluation

The program will be evaluated by the number of students participating in the law related education program and the success of the Coppell High School Mock Trial Team in the Texas High School Mock Trial Competition.

Based upon the initial success of the program, CISD hopes to build a career pathway for law education through Career and Technology Education (CTE) program at Coppell High School. Thus, long term success of this program will be evidenced by students participating in the law related career pathway studies available at Coppell High School.

References

For more information on THSMTC visit www.dallasbar.org/thsmtc

Attached: History of the THSMTC.

² The textbook: Thomas Mauet's *Fundamentals of Trial Techniques* (\$65 each) was recommended. It is possible that we would consider other texts as well, but my research indicates that most successful school programs use some text as a foundation for teaching students about trial law.

HISTORY of the TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

In response to a nation-wide concern for a growing attitude of disrespect among the nation's youth for the law and its role in society, various programs around the United States were initiated in the 1970's to involve young people in law-focused education. One such program was a mock trial conducted in the classroom. In Dallas, the activity was so successful that in 1979, a city-wide mock trial competition was initiated by the Dallas Bar Association's Law in a Changing Society Committee (now called the Mock Trial Committee), the Dallas Bar Foundation, and the Dallas Independent School District. The positive response of students and educators to the mock trial experience prompted the Dallas Bar Association to organize a competition on the state level. Invitations were extended to bar associations and school districts around the state. In June, 1980, four teams came to Dallas for the initial statewide competition. Scholarship awards presented to the winning teams of both the local and state competitions were provided by various local foundations. An expanded plan for the statewide program was adopted.

The offices for a statewide mock trial competition were opened at the Dallas Legal Education Center (the Belo Mansion), and in May of 1981 the second statewide competition was held. Seventeen school districts attended the event. This was more than double the original number set as a goal for participation. Eight-one students were directly involved in the State Finals; however, thousands of others were affected by this learning experience by way of local competition and preparation of the case as a classroom activity. The 1981 Competition was recognized by the State Bar of Texas as one of the two most outstanding law-related projects in the State of Texas, resulting in the Dallas Bar Association receiving an Award of Merit from the State Bar of Texas.

Because of the growth in interest and participation that the competition experienced in 1981, it was necessary to establish a regional level of the competition prior to the 1982 State Finals tournament. Plans for regional competitions were finalized, using the twenty Texas Regional Education Service Centers as the network for the local trials. In 1982, over one hundred school districts participated. Fifteen teams emerged from the regional competitions to compete at the State Finals. More the 4,500 high school students were affected in a positive way by the educational experience offered by participating in the mock trial activity.

In its fourth year (1983), the project continued its geometric pattern of growth. Over 130 school districts indicated an intent to participate. Seventeen regional winners participated in the State Finals. For the first time, all twenty educational regions hosted a regional level of the competition.

In 1984, Oklahoma and Texas conducted a bi-state competition. Several other states held a similar competition later in the same year, and in May of 1985, the two events combined to form the first "All-States High School Mock Trial Tournament" (now known as the "National High School Mock Trial Championship"). Texas sent its state championship team, from Corpus Christi's Richard King High School, to compete in this first national championship tournament held in Lincoln, Nebraska. Texas won the

national title and was recognized for this achievement at the state House of Representatives in Austin. With generous grants provided by the Texas Bar Foundation and the Dallas Bar Foundation, the Dallas Bar Association hosted the National Championship Tournament in May of 1988. Texas has participated each year since and in 1988, 1991 and 1992, Texas won second place in the national tournament. In 1999 the Texas team, Kerrville's Tivy High School was undefeated in the tournament; however due to a tie-breaker rule, Texas was ranked 3rd in the nation.

In 1988 organizational changes restructured the regional level of competition in several ways: (1) the number of teams advancing to the State Finals was increased to at least 24 teams and not more than 32; (2) the number of teams advancing from regionals would be apportioned each year according to the actual number of participating schools, (3) regional competitions had the option of not requiring a district competition prior to regionals; and (4) because the program in Dallas involved as many as eighteen teams, the Dallas Independent School District would qualify as a region of its own and would be subject to the same organizational requirements.

In 1989 the State Coordinator was elected to the Board of Directors of the national program and became an officer of the first Executive Committee, which was established to incorporate the national competition and to refine the rules and procedures of the competition. Stephen H. Miller, who has served as a team attorney-advisor and is a long-time member of the Mock Trial Committee, was elected as an officer of the national board in 1997.

In 1996, the Dallas Bar Association Mock Trial Committee instituted several program changes: (1) the team size was increased to the three attorney-three witness format used by the National tournament; (2) team size increased to 6-10 members; and (3) a copyright statement was attached to each competition packet. In 2004, the Texas State Championship team, St. Thomas' Episcopal School in Houston, received the first-ever **Most Professional Team Award** at the National Championship Tournament.

In its 27 year history the Texas High School Mock Trial Competition has had more than (107,500) participants and has awarded more than (\$294,000) in scholarships at the local, regional, and state levels. The Texas Education Agency recognizes this program as an approved academic competition.

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