

ICC Mock Trial: Requirements & Expectations WestMUN XVIII

Welcome to WestMUN XVII, and congratulations on being accepted into the ICC Mock Trial teams. Due to the overwhelming number of applicants, we have decided to run the mock trial simultaneously in two courtrooms. You have been assigned to a team in either Court A, or Court B.

In order to facilitate your research and fact-finding, there will be an assignment posted to the WestMUN website each week on Thursday before the conference. This assignment must be completed within 7 days, and turned in to your instructor/advisor AND submitted via email to: ICCMocktrial@gmail.com. The assignments will be different, depending on your role in the trial. For those of you who are striving to achieve Best Delegate Award for your work at this conference, timely submission of assignments is required.

Dress code will be strictly enforced; western business attire is required at the conference. If you are of a nationality that assumes a different mode of dress for legal proceedings, that mode of dress that would be appropriate in a home court of law may be worn. Hint: Dress as if you were going to a job interview, for a position you really hope to land.

JUDGES: Your job in the mock trial is to maintain objectivity at all times, and remain free from bias. The focus of your work will NOT be researching case facts or witnesses. It would be inappropriate for the judiciary to independently research the facts of any case to be heard before them. Instead, you will be required to attain solid familiarity with the Rules of Procedure and Evidence. Additionally, you will need to become familiar with the elements of the crimes alleged by the Prosecution shortly before trial. You should download the Rules of Procedure and Evidence NOW, and begin reading through it. Although the International Criminal Court is closely modeled after the American mode of jurisprudence, there are several differences.

PROSECUTORS: You have been assigned to a team comprised of other students from your academic institution who indicated a preference for this role. You are therefore encouraged to work together as a team to maximize fact finding and collectively determine case strategy. Please be advised that you have the burden of proving, beyond a reasonable doubt, the crimes alleged at trial. As you research case facts and witnesses online, please print your findings. You will need to bring these with you to the conference, and argue that documentation into evidence.

DEFENSE COUNSEL & DEFENDANTS: In real life, criminal defendants are actively involved in their own defense. It is therefore required of all defendants in this mock trial to work closely with defense counsel in building their case. I recommend defense counsel focus on researching the law, which is largely contained in the Rules of Procedure and Evidence. Defendants should take an active role in fact finding, and researching the cultural and historical background of Cambodia that give rise to the charges.