



WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL

of Philadelphia

Mock International Court of Justice Simulation Program

Role Descriptions and Student Allotment

Note: Each simulation program offered by the Council includes a “leadership” role-play position. Although every position in the simulation is essential to the overall success of the program, it is ***the leadership role that carries the greatest academic and skill-related responsibilities***. These leadership roles require an interview with a Council staff member. In the Mock ICJ program, the role of the attorney is the leadership role.

Teachers are to present this role-play option to their students with the performance criteria stated above. Not only must the student be interviewed by Council staff members at the Council’s offices on January 16 or 17, but he/she must make a commitment to work with the legal team that they are assigned to. Additionally, attorneys must be available to attend the three preparatory sessions (see first page for date/time).

1) Attorneys: There are a total of eight attorneys; four attorneys to a team

Students interested in this leadership role must be interviewed by a Council staff member on January 16 or 17 between the hours of 3:30 and 5 p.m. Note: Teachers are to notify the Council’s Education and Public Programs Department with the name, date and expected arrival time of any student coming in for an interview.

The interview will focus on assessing the student’s general presence and poise, public speaking experience and general knowledge of international law and affairs. Interviews are open to students in grades 10-12.

Attorneys (legal teams) will develop a strategy, work with witnesses in preparing the final draft of their testimony and present their country’s case before the Mock ICJ.

Comprehensive and developmental preparation will be offered at each of the preparatory sessions.

2) Judges: There are a total of 15 Judges and a Registrar.

Note: The President (presiding) Judge and Registrar roles are reserved for members of the Student Steering and Advisory Committee. Selection of students for these roles will be conducted at the January SSAC meeting.

Each judge may have an aide to assist in the research and development of questions.

Note: Most, but not all, participating schools will get a judge position. Assignments will be made on a first-come, first-served basis.

Judges will hear the testimony of all witnesses and may ask questions. At the end of testimony, judges will convene a private meeting to discuss testimony and draw up a judgment outlining the Court's decision on the case.

Judges will be issued a robe and a jabot to be worn during the simulation.

3) Witnesses: There are a total of 18 witnesses: nine supporting each of the two participating countries.

Each school will be assigned one witness role (possibly two depending on number of schools participating). Note: Two students can share the role of one witness.

Students assigned a witness role will research and develop appropriate testimony. During the last preparatory session (attorneys and witnesses), each witness' testimony will be reviewed by the attorney team and suggestions made to the witness to strengthen the testimony.

Witnesses must be prepared to answer questions from the judges on the information they give in their testimony. Having background and statistical information is an important part of playing a witness role, especially for answering impromptu questions from the judges.

4) Journalist: Participating schools may have one journalist.

The student may write for his/her school newspaper or as a class/club activity writing assignment.

Note: Teachers are to have a copy of the "publication" sent to aschlosberg@wacphila.org or faxed to 215-562-5660 within a week after the simulation.