

# Presiding JUDGE Directions:

## Bailiff and Timer

1. Please introduce yourself to the Bailiff and Timer before the trial (note: *they may be the same person*)
2. *Always let the Bailiff swear the witnesses in* – you may have them do them all at once to save time or individually.
3. The Plaintiff/Prosecution side is supposed to supply the Bailiff and both sides can keep time, but the Plaintiff/Prosecution is the one that may hold up warning signs.

## Notes and Papers:

Witnesses are not allowed to carry papers to the stand.

Attorneys may have notes to do opening and closing as well as questioning of witnesses.

## Timing of Case: You must monitor this closely: (but you are NOT keeping the time)

Opening Statements	4 minutes (per side)
Direct Examinations (optional re-directs, time permitting)	20 for all direct examinations, an average of 7 minutes per witness (per side)
Cross Examinations (optional re-cross, time permitting)	15 minutes for all cross examinations, an average of 5 minutes per witness (per side)
<b>Closing Arguments</b>	<b>6 minutes total (per side)*</b>
<b>Total Trial Time</b>	<b>90 minutes</b>

**\*The closing Plaintiff/Prosecuting attorney must ask for any time left after their initial closing to be used for rebuttal before they sit down. Once the Plaintiff/Prosecuting attorney is seated they will not be able to ask for their additional time left to rebut the Defense's closing.**

## The Tournament

### **Introduction:**

- Welcome everyone to the Middle School Mock Trial Competition
- Be respectful (both participants and audience) – as in a real courtroom, judges expect quiet, with no eating, or chewing gum in the courtroom. Mention that there is business being conducted in other parts of the courthouse, so everyone needs to be quiet in hallways, going to the bathroom, etc.

### **During Trial:**

We leave as much as possible up to the judges, our rules are not thorough and you can use your discretion on rulings.

At the end of each trial – and after the scoring judges have left the room you will hand each team a pair of Peer Certificates. A Best Witness and Best Attorney – each team will fill out who they felt were the best from the opposing team. You can ask them to bring them to you and you may present them to the students.

**If you need to score: Chances are this will not happen at the State Finals. Just be aware how the scoring works.**

### **Closing:**

- Let the teams know that the certificates for Most Effective Witness/Attorney chosen by Scoring Judges will be sent to them and announced on the website.
- Congratulate all teams. Thank everyone for their time, effort and participation.