

## HOW TO CONTACT AREA LAWYERS

(IMPORTANT –REFER to Teacher Instructions for TIMELINE)

**NOTE – The volunteer lawyer who role-plays “Judge” will truly culminate the project. The teachers and students love having them as a guest and they LOVE being a “Judge.”**

Most lawyers are willing to do more than one mock trial, so if two or maybe even three are back to back, you might be able to get one lawyer to cover them. If there is a gap in between, you should not keep lawyers, just get another one. For example: (1<sup>st</sup> class) 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. (2<sup>nd</sup> class) 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. (lunch time) 3<sup>rd</sup> class 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

CALL 2 lawyers – one for 2 hours, the other for the last hour.

Start by looking up attorneys in your area phone book, ask around the school to see if personnel, principals, teachers or students have a relative or friend that is a lawyer. Prosecuting attorneys will also participate. (LAWYERS LOVE TO SEE FAMILIAR FACES).

**IF YOU NEED HELP CONTACT BARB (refer to ROLE DESCRIPTIONS for contact info)**

Once you have coordinated your trials with the other 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, one teacher can make the call(s). (**CALLS are the way to go**) Lawyers will actually change their schedules because they hear the excitement in your voice. They appreciate this educational project that not only teaches the students about the judicial system, but educates them about the dangers of prescription drugs. (THEY ALSO LOVE PLAYING JUDGE)

1. Coordinate trials (Suggestion - skip Jan. and Feb. because of possible weather issues)
2. Make a short list of lawyers to call
3. Have one teacher make the call(s)
4. Send out lawyer packet(s) with dates, times and school name (feel free to copy)
5. **ALWAYS CALL OR E-MAIL LAWYER THE DAY BEFORE HIS SCHEDULED TIME to remind them. (1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF MOCK TRIAL)**
6. 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of Mock Trial -Introduce your lawyer
7. Thank lawyer(s) after mock trial and follow up with thank you note(s)

### **For the call - you might say the following:**

*Hi, Mr./Mrs./Miss \_\_\_\_\_. I am a teacher at \_\_\_\_\_ and our fifth grade students will soon be participating in a two-day educational mock trial. All students play a role except volunteer lawyers who play the role of “Judge.”*

*These scripts are written about the dangers of substance abuse, specifically prescription drug abuse. Since 2004 over 13,000 WV students participated in this program before it expanded in 2013 and is now being offered to ALL 20,000+ 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in the State of WV.*

*Through the mock trial process students actually bring the American Justice system to life as they learn about the dangers of prescription drugs which is currently an epidemic among our youth both in West Virginia and nationally.*

*Would you be available on \_\_\_\_\_ to play the role of “Judge?” Your part is ALSO scripted. We can mail you the script with a confirmation today. Each trial is done in the classroom (moved around to look like a courtroom) during their class time. The first day is a prep day by us. We need you the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the project on \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_ class(es) when we have the official mock trial(s).*

*We will have a “Judge” robe and a gavel for you. After the official mock trial, there will be enough time for a short Q & A with the students.*