Hello!

Haverford Mock Trial is excited to announce that we are holding our Third Annual Black Squirrel Invitational on **November 10-11**. This year we are hosting the tournament at the **Juanita Kidd Stout Center for Criminal Justice in Center-City Philadelphia**, the same venue as the national championship tournament in the spring of 2019.

**About Mock Trial**

Mock Trial is a debate competition where students prepare both sides of a case and present them against other schools in the American Mock Trial Association. We are hosting an invitational this year, which is a weekend where schools can compete against each other before the officially sanctioned competition starts. It is a great opportunity for schools to try out new case theories, new teams to learn the ropes, and students to meet each other!

Each trial consists of two teams and two judges, where each portion of the trial is scored by each judge. The team with the more points at the end of the trial will win. Judges can be anyone with a familiarity of either Mock Trial or the legal field in general - you do not need any prior mock trial or courtroom experience to qualify. Before the tournament, we will send out information on how to judge. Additionally, we will have a training session the morning before the first round.

**About The Teams**

Haverford Mock Trial has just finished a historic year for our program. Despite being one of the smallest and youngest teams in the American Mock Trial Association, just last year we went to the National Tournament and placed 11th! After such a strong showing, our tournament has attracted a much higher level of competition and we are proud to be hosting one of the most competitive invitationals of the fall season.

Teams will be ranging from the west coast to the southeast, and everywhere in between. Many teams will be flying in for this tournament, and our tournament will even feature the National Final Round Contenders, Miami University and Yale University - the two top teams in the country. With this high level of competition, we aim to also get a high level of judging to provide feedback for our competitors!

**About Judging**

There are two rounds each day of the tournament, making four in total. Any round you are willing to come will be enormously helpful. Rounds can last up to three hours, though the vast majority do not. We ask that you arrive approximately 30 minutes before your first round so that we can help explain the process of judging and only 20 minutes before each additional round. We will provide coffee and bagels throughout the day and lunch for judges who wish to judge two rounds on the same day. Additionally, if you are looking for volunteer hours, we will write a certificate stating the number you volunteered upon request.

If you are interested in judging, please complete [this form](mailto:blacksquirrelinvitational@gmail.com). We will send more information as the tournament date approaches. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about judging, please email blacksquirrelinvitational@gmail.com.

We appreciate all your support and look forward to seeing you in November!

Sincerely,

Mariana Ramirez
Co-Tournament Director of Black Squirrel Invitational