



# PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

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## **BPL Mock Trial Program case presentation: March 22 at Jefferson County Courthouse**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.-Since Jan. 25, nearly 20 teens who love to argue or geek out on justice have gathered at the Central Library downtown, receiving tips from professional lawyers on how to present a legal case.

The students, participants in the Birmingham Public Library's 2018 Mock Trial Program, have learned how to conduct interviews on the witness stand, both their own and opposing witnesses. They have practiced closing arguments pivotal for winning a case. From 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 15, the teens will put the skills learned since the program began in late January to the test as they do a practice run.

The students, including some who plan to pursue legal careers after graduating, will conduct their mock trial in a courtroom inside the Jefferson County Courthouse across the street from the Central Library from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 22, 2018. At the conclusion of the mock trial, a jury will deliberate and return with a verdict.

Read more about the Mock Trial Program at this link:

<http://bplolinews.blogspot.com/2018/02/bpls-2018-mock-trial-program-underway.html>

The Mock Trial Program is a partnership between the Birmingham Public Library, the Northern District of Alabama's U.S. Public Defender's Office and the Birmingham Bar Foundation.

Coordinated by BPL's Lance Simpson, the program is designed to introduce students from grades 6 to 12 in metro Birmingham to the critical thinking and advocacy skills utilized in courtroom trials. During preparation each week, students learned to play the roles of a judge, defense lawyers, prosecutors, and witnesses.

For more information about the BPL Mock Trial Program, contact Simpson at 205-226-3671 or email him at [lmsimpson@bham.lib.al.us](mailto:lmsimpson@bham.lib.al.us).

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BPL

For additional information about the programs and services of the Birmingham Public Library, visit our website at [www.bplonline.org](http://www.bplonline.org) and be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter @BPL. The mission of Birmingham Public Library is to provide the highest quality library experience to our community for life-long learning, cultural enrichment, and enjoyment. This system—with 19 locations and serving the community for 130 years—is one of the largest library systems in the southeast.