



Letter From the Editor

Greetings, fellow mockers!

Like most former mockers, I am a competitor at heart. I enjoy the thrill of the competition and the flurry of ballots entering the tab room. As a coach, the thrill came from teaching and watching students improve week by week. But after competing and then coaching for nine years, this is my first year without a team. So this year, I faced what many of you are facing now: a life without mock trial. No pouring over a fresh case, no rewriting a cross question to get the phrasing *just* right, no agonizing over mountains of terrible themes to find something workable.

But don't worry, I'm here to tell you that there are ways to stay connected to mock trial. AMTA is a volunteer organization dependent on coaches, educators, the legal community, and most importantly, people like you. We rely on people willing to give back to advance this activity, this organization, and the more than 5,000 students across the country who participate. A majority of the board is now former competitors. So, please, share this newsletter. And to make sure you can stay connect to our alumni community, please register as an alumni [here](#). If you have already completed the alumni registration form but would like to update your information, please let us know at AMTA.Newsletter@collegemocktrial.org.

In this issue, please enjoy the Letter from AMTA President, Justin Bernstein, as well as his examination of how witness selection in AMTA cases has evolved; a contribution calling for you to submit *your* stories; Brandon Harper's article introducing alumni recipients of distinguished scholarships; Devon Holstad's article about AMTA alumnus Ben Kurland's innovative business, [BillFixers](#); Toby Heytens's profile of distinguished AMTA alumna, Shana Knizknik; Mark Smith's article about the Development Committee's efforts to build partnerships, reconnect with alumni, and forge new relationships with other organizations.

Thank you,

Melissa Schuett

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Alumni Registration: <http://www.collegemocktrial.org/registration/alumni/>