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The American Mock Trial Association

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The American Mock Trial Association mourns the loss of Thom Scher, who passed away last week.

In addition to his work as CEO and President of Beyond Type 1, a leading diabetes nonprofit organization, Thom was the head coach of Stanford University's mock trial team and a crucial AMTA volunteer. Thom had served as a volunteer on AMTA's Board of Directors, including its Executive Committee as Development Chair, along with roles supporting AMTA's social media, public relations, and Tournament Administration Committee.



Thom was an extremely accomplished coach at the high school and collegiate levels. The longtime head coach of Menlo School's high school mock trial program, Thom led his team to one California state championship, eight San Mateo County championships, five NorCal Invitational championships, and six Providence Cup Invitational championships. He is the only coach to win Gladiator, the one-on-one high school mock trial championship, twice. A graduate of Stanford University -- and alumnus of its mock trial team -- Thom became the school's head mock trial coach in 2016. Since then, Stanford reached the National Championship Tournament every season and frequently placed among the top ten nationally. In those five years, Thom's students won 83 individual and team awards—the most of any coach in Stanford's history.

Thom was beloved by his students and peers. As a coach, he cared not only about his students' performance, but also their careers and lives. His legacy lives on in hundreds of students, coaches, and attorneys whose lives were transformed by his mentorship, devotion, and grace. As an AMTA director, he fought hard to improve the student experience and for matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

"I first came to know Thom as a phenomenal coach. But I was fortunate to get to know him outside the courtroom. He was one of my closest friends," said Justin Bernstein, a member of AMTA's board. "Thom was brilliant, hilarious, and kind. I will miss him deeply."

"Over the years, Thom had become an instrumental member of the AMTA community, where he advocated for changes to improve AMTA as a whole, along with his passion for inclusion and transparency in the organization," said Will Warihay, a member of AMTA's board. "Thom was one of my best friends. He was truly caring and inspirational. The world lost an amazing person."

Thom was 33. He is survived by his sisters Carrie Adkins and Laura Romero, their spouses Matt Adkins and Nino Romero, his nephews Jackson and Samuel Adkins, and his beloved dog, Kermit.

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