

# Young Advocates Mock Trial 2026



Justice Centre is passionate about empowering young people and guiding future legal professionals. We believe that with the right skills and opportunities, young people can make a positive impact and help to build a fairer and more inclusive situation for refugees and asylum seekers in Hong Kong.

The Young Advocates Mock Trial is an exciting and challenging three-day learning experience, providing high school students with the legal knowledge and expertise to compete in a courtroom setting. Learn essential skills, collaborate and compete with peers, and find out if you have what it takes to win your client's asylum case!

## Learn:

- Explore the fascinating world of asylum law with **comprehensive, professional training** in international and local legal principles and practices.
- Understand **international refugee law** and strengthen your **research and critical thinking** skills by engaging with activities based on real life cases.
- **Step into the shoes of legal professionals** and engage in a realistic courtroom simulation.

## Collaborate:

- Build effective **communication skills, strong bonds and leadership qualities** during the competition.
- Take on a role and **work with your teammates** to construct a solid legal strategy and prepare for the asylum case simulation.
- Connect with peers with similar interests from other schools and form **lasting friendships and professional connections**.

## Debate:

- **Boost your confidence** and **present** your team's legal arguments to a professional panel of judges.
- Learn the art of argumentation, witness examination, and more. Develop **strong debate and public speaking skills**.
- Receive **valuable feedback** from seasoned legal professionals. Use their insights to refine your skills and approach for **future success**.

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## **Justice Centre Hong Kong**

is a local non-political, non-profit organisation that has been providing legal and psychosocial support to refugees, asylum seekers and other forced migrants in the Hong Kong SAR for 15 years.

Our vision is an inclusive Hong Kong where all displaced people live with legal rights and dignity.

We are proud to collaborate with some of the most respected legal minds in Hong Kong, including top-tier law firms. Together we provide vital assistance to a diverse range of forced migrants including:

Refugees

Asylum  
Seekers

Survivors  
of Torture

*For more details of our work,  
please see [our website](https://www.justicecentre.org.hk):*

[www.justicecentre.org.hk](https://www.justicecentre.org.hk)

# Programme Details

Dates | April 8-10

## Training Workshop:

Our in-house legal team lead dynamic and interactive training workshops, designed to provide students with the essential knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the mock trial.

The training covers key topics, including:

- The international asylum law framework
- The legal basis of claiming asylum in HK
- Legal and country of origin research skills
- Credibility and use of expert evidence
- Trauma informed lawyering skills
- Advocacy skills
- Appeal court procedures

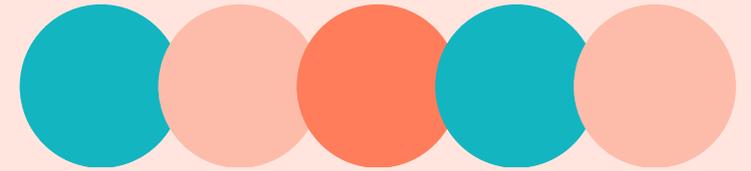


## Mock Trial:

Students will step into the shoes of legal professionals by presenting and debating in an asylum case simulation that replicates a hearing at the Torture Claims Appeal Board. The case is carefully designed and prepared by our in-house experts, and is based on real legal proceedings. Participants will work in teams to engage in trial-style advocacy. Support is provided by experienced professionals, who provide feedback and guidance to students as they present their cases. The trial is heard by an expert panel of judges.

The trial will include:

- Opening submissions by lawyers for the claimant and lawyers for the respondent
- Examination of factual witnesses
- Examination of expert witnesses
- Closing submissions by lawyers for the claimant and lawyers for the respondent
- Deliberation by judges
- Delivering of the decision



*Justice Centre produced a very fun, first-hand, and insightful experience as to what a trial can actually be like through the high level of professionalism and engagement.*

- Cedric

*Mock trial has helped me immensely in laying the building blocks for a potential future in law, asylum law and fighting for the rights of refugees.*

- Evelyn

*Overall, the experience was really fun and enjoyable! I learnt so much about law and related skills as well as gaining relevant skills for future endeavors. The organizers and tutors were very professional and gave a lot of valuable insight into the process as a whole. Thank you Justice Centre!*

- Lynette

*The mock trial experience went far beyond my expectations. In one day, we were given a comprehensive rundown of refugee court procedures, and the organisers of Justice Centre were so supportive and willing to answer our every question. The actual day of the trial was nerve-wracking initially, but the support given by the organisers and the comments provided were very constructive and helpful. These two days passed by in a blur. And I enjoyed every second of this. I've learnt so much and it was extremely useful to gain constructive criticism from the professionals. Thank you so much to the Justice Centre for organising this wonderful opportunity!*

- Valerie



## Roles

Students will be assigned a role for the mock trial:

### Lawyers

- Students will act as lawyers, representing either the Immigration Department or an asylum seeker. They will prepare questions for the asylum seeker and expert witnesses. They will participate in advocacy - eliciting evidence in-chief, undertaking cross examination/re-examination, and delivering closing arguments.

### Experts

- Students will act as medical or country experts. They will undertake research to better understand their roles and areas of expertise. They will give evidence and be subject to questioning by lawyers and the adjudicators.

Roles will be assigned upon the acceptance of students' applications.

## Why Asylum Law

Asylum law is at the heart of global justice. It protects the most vulnerable individuals from persecution, violence, and danger. Decisions made in asylum cases have a direct impact on the lives of individuals and families. These consequences of these decisions can be life-altering, making this field of law one where legal professionals play a crucial role in shaping the future of refugees.

The complexities of asylum law offer a unique challenge for legal professionals and mock trial participants alike, and provide a valuable opportunity for students to learn and grow skills to become empathetic, socially aware critical thinkers.

## Who Should Apply

The Mock Trial is open to secondary students based in Hong Kong, currently in Form 4/Grade 10/ Year 11 or above. It is aimed at those interested in a career in law, politics, social work, or public policy. Students are not required to have prior public speaking, mooting or advocacy experience. However, as places are limited there is a selection process that will review the motivation and eligibility of each applicant.

## Cost

**Mock Trial 2026: \$10,000 HKD**

**Early bird deal:** pay your full fees by our early bird deadline and receive a 5% discount.

Payment details will be provided once students' places have been confirmed.

Your contribution will allow us to dedicate staff time and resources to run the programme. Any further proceeds from the Mock Trial will directly contribute towards our vital services for refugees seeking legal and psychosocial assistance.

## How to Apply

You can apply to the Mock Trial by completing this [application form](#):

<https://justicecentre.fillout.com/mocktrial>

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis; we strongly recommend submitting applications early, due to the high level of interest and limited spaces available.

## Key Dates

<b>19 January</b>	Early Bird Deadline
<b>16 March</b>	Final Application Deadline
<b>8 April</b>	Mock Trial Day 1
<b>9 April</b>	Mock Trial Day 2
<b>10 April</b>	Mock Trial Day 3



**For further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us via email:**  
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