

Triton Mock Trial Tryout Packet

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Triton Mock Trial 2024-2025 Tryouts

Dear prospective members,

We are so glad that you are interested in trying out for the Triton Mock Trial team's 2024-2025 season. Mock trial gives you the opportunity to hone your public speaking skills and develop your ability to present, argue, and advocate—while traveling to other cities and making lifelong friends along the way. We would like to emphasize that our program is open to everyone and not meant to appeal only to those who have an interest in working in law. We have had numerous aspiring doctors, scientists, engineers, actors, writers, and individuals from vastly different backgrounds and disciplines join and attain incredible success in our program.

Since Triton Mock Trial's conception nearly twenty years ago, we have competed at and won tournaments across the country at the highest levels of competition. We are looking for talented students who are ready and willing to carry on our legacy of success. In this packet, you will find everything you need to prepare for your tryout. Tryouts will be held on **Saturday, October 5, 9:45 am-6 pm** and **Sunday, October 6, 10:45 am-5 pm**, and you can fill out the signup form using the link in this packet. Additionally, we will be holding optional practice tryouts on **Friday, October 4, 9:30am-4pm**. If you have any questions or concerns about the tryout process, don't hesitate to email us at tritonmocktrial@gmail.com or shoot us a message on our Facebook at [Triton Mock Trial](#) or Instagram page [@tritonmocktrial](#). We look forward to seeing you!

Warmly,

Triton Mock Trial

Instructions:

- Fill out the application form at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfLFN9oIUhrr6BjSxmLooxa357Ya6LHv4Onrs-iDY73gocIbA/viewform>
- Sign up for a tryout slot using this [link!](#)
 - Please make sure to sign up for a slot, **only** if you are committed to attending.
 - Tryouts will be in person this year! They will be located in Price Center East in the Sixth College Room. Map of Price Center on UCSD Campus: https://universitycenters.ucsd.edu/images/visit-us-images/PC_Director_ies11X17FA21_FNL1.pdf
 - Practice Tryouts will be in person as well. They will be located in Price Center East in the Sixth College Room. Map of Price Center: https://universitycenters.ucsd.edu/images/visit-us-images/PC_Director_ies11X17FA21_FNL1.pdf
- You may try out as both an Attorney and a Witness. Trying out as a Witness is **mandatory**. Trying out as an Attorney is **optional**.
- There are 4 parts to tryouts! Each will be explained further in this packet.
 - Mock debate
 - Expert witness
 - Character witness
 - Attorney statement

Tips and Links:

- **Finding Character in Mock Trial - UCLA Mock Trial:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAcvWivAezQ>

UCLA consistently brings entertaining character witnesses to competitions. This short video will help you understand how to form a character and his or her quirks based on the given information.

- **Direct Examination (Character Witness)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jD4SgHyM2k>

This video shows you two examples of character witnesses, the first being perky and overly enthusiastic, the second being smug and cocky. These are merely examples of characters; you should not copy them.

- **How to Deliver an Opening Statement - Mock Trial University:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=05uaOrBdtbE>

This video shows you an excellent example of an opening statement and contains tips for writing and delivering opening statements. Pay special attention to the speaker's tone, speed, and pausing.

The Mock Debate is REQUIRED

Mock Debate:

- You will also have to prepare for a mock debate on one of these three topics:
 - Which makes a better pet, a dog or a cat?
 - Is a hotdog a sandwich?
 - What is the best meal of the day?
- During your tryout, 1 of the 3 debate topics will be given to you at random.
 - You will get a chance to make your argument, and then you will be asked a follow-up or rebuttal question.
- This mock debate is meant to showcase your ability to think on your feet and present an organized argument. We have kept these topics fairly light, but you *may* use notes for this portion if you would like!
 - The best mock debates will demonstrate strong argumentation skills, an alacrity of wit, and coherent organization of your thoughts and subsequent argument.

Trying out as a witness is **REQUIRED**

Witness Tryout:

- You must demonstrate your ability to learn an affidavit or expert report, create a character, and create well-articulated answers to questions for a brief direct examination.
- You will be playing **TWO** witnesses from this year's case: one **expert** and one **character**. For both of these types of witnesses, you should aim to memorize the information, respond concisely, thoroughly, and confidently.
 - For the **character witness**, fabricate a character that is authentic and engaging. In the past, successful witnesses have used elaborate backstories, costumes, and a variety of accents.
 - For the **expert**, you need to have a thorough understanding of the facts and be able to demonstrate that you are qualified and credible. However, do not be boring; give your expert some personality! We are looking for witnesses who can be both informative and engaging.
- **BE ENTERTAINING!**
 - The best character witness tryouts create lively, vibrant characters through the appropriate use of (but not limited to) accents, a backstory, appropriate humor, costumes, and mannerisms.
 - The best expert witness tryouts will present themselves in an articulate, convincing, and persuasive manner while at the same time remaining interesting to listen to.

The following pages contain the questions for each of the two witnesses along with the respective report and affidavit upon which you will base your answers and characters.

Expert Report of Dr. Hillary Edmund

BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATIONS

My name is Hillary Edmund. I am a board-certified physician in pulmonary medicine. I am a medical doctor with expertise in pulmonology, the branch of medicine that focuses on treating diseases of the respiratory system. I received my bachelor's degree in Biochemistry from Colorado College and then received my medical degree from Stritch School of Medicine. Following medical school, I received my medical license and completed a three-year internship in internal medicine, followed by a two-year residency specializing in pulmonary medicine at the University of Alaska Hospitals. After completing my residency, I was board certified by the American College of Internal Medicine and became a Fellow of the American College of Pulmonary Medicine. I was asked by the plaintiff to provide an expert report in this case, as I treated Avery Bancroft on the day of his death.

In this report, I will recount my treatment and examination of Avery Bancroft as well as any conclusions I reached in this case. All conclusions were reached to a reasonable degree of scientific and medical certainty, and all the methods I employed in this case (all widely accepted and considered the gold standard) were executed reliably and in accordance with standard medical practice.

MATERIALS REVIEWED

As I conducted my review of Mr. Bancroft's case, I examined the following documents and materials: Avery Bancroft's death certificate, the autopsy dated April 29 of 2024, the medical record dated October 9 of 2022, and a label for concentrated banana extract.

ONSET OF BANCROFT'S VERY SEVERE HYPERKALEMIA

The primary purpose of our kidneys is to clean our blood. Typically, as blood moves through the body, it picks up excess substances (e.g., salts and fluids) and waste. Healthy kidneys are able to filter those toxins from the bloodstream in the form of urine, thus maintaining homeostasis in the body. However, diseased kidneys are unable to perform that function reliably. Those patients are not able to maintain homeostasis. As a result, patients can experience hyperkalemia. Hyperkalemia can lead to irregular heartbeats, fatigue, muscle weakness, and in severe cases, cardiac arrest.

Bancroft had Stage III Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), which would make him susceptible to hyperkalemia. Sudden exacerbations in Bancroft's condition certainly could have contributed to his death, especially sudden elevations in Bancroft's potassium levels. As referenced above, hyperkalemia can cause significant

cardiovascular issues. The symptoms I observed on April 25, 2024 were all consistent with hyperkalemia-induced cardiac arrest.

As the physician who declared the time of death on April 25, 2024 at 5: 42 a.m., I was provided a courtesy copy of Bancroft's autopsy, which confirmed my suspicions. According to the autopsy, the coroner performed a post-mortem serum blood draw which measured Mr. Bancroft's potassium levels. The autopsy states that Bancroft's potassium level was 6.8 mmol/L. That level falls within the range of very severe hyperkalemia, and it certainly places Bancroft at risk for experiencing cardiac arrest.

The most likely explanation for Bancroft's sudden rise in potassium levels is that Bancroft ingested something with an extremely high concentration of potassium, thus causing him to become very severely hyperkalemic. As part of my review, I was provided a label for concentrated banana extract (see Exhibit 40). While I cannot conclude that this extract was in fact what caused Bancroft's very severe hyperkalemia (indeed, a number of potassium-rich foods, drinks, and substances may have contributed or caused Bancroft's sudden rise in potassium levels), I can conclude that this extract could have caused it. Interestingly, this extract would only be a problem because of Bancroft's Stage III CKD. If Bancroft didn't have CKD, an extract like this would have had minimal effect on him.

CONCLUSION

I can conclude to a reasonable degree of scientific and medical certainty that Mr. Bancroft suffered cardiac arrest after becoming hyperkalemic. Specifically, I believe: Mr. Bancroft's hyperkalemia was most likely caused by Mr. Bancroft consuming some potassium-rich substance and as a direct result of his hyperkalemia, Mr. Bancroft subsequently experienced cardiac arrest and died. I assumed that Mr. Bancroft's baseline potassium level was moderately hyperkalemic.

Questions for Hillary Edmund

1. What do you do for a living?
2. Why are you in court with us today?
3. What is your educational background?
4. What was Mr. Bancroft's cause of death?
5. What could have brought on this heart attack?
6. What did you conclude in today's case?

Affidavit of Ashley Connel

My name is Ashley Connel. I'm an artist. I primarily work on sculptures, but I've experimented with other mediums as well. I guest lecture in the art department at Midlands State University, and although I never formally graduated from college, I have an honorary degree from the University of California, Irvine. I've dealt with a lot of contracts in my work, but not much litigation. When I was young, I was called as a witness in a hit-and-run case. More recently, I was sued for defamation, but thankfully that case was rightfully dismissed well before trial. And now I find myself somehow getting roped into another lawsuit. I was told to include what I know about the Mid-Riverina Express trip that took place on April 22-25, 2024, so I'll start at the beginning.

In April 2024, I was doing an art show throughout Australia. I think I hit over a dozen cities by the time I was done. Towards the end of the month, my child Bailey was going to join me for a couple weeks. Wanting to do something special for Bailey, I booked passage on the Mid-Riverina Express, a luxury train that would take us from Sydney (where I was meeting Bailey at the airport) to Perth (the next stop on my art show).

When Bailey and I boarded the Mid-Riverina Express on Monday, April 22, 2024, we first settled into our cabin (Cabin 2) before joining the other passengers for the Welcome Dinner. I was able to get us tickets for the Platinum Section, which is its own isolated section of the train where there would only be a small number of passengers (turned out to be 12 plus some train employees). At the Welcome Dinner, Bailey and I were assigned to a table with Kirby Doolittle and Avery Bancroft. I recognized Doolittle as a former security guard at Miller Tower in Midlands (I had an art show there once), but Doolittle didn't recognize me. Unfortunately, I also knew Bancroft. Remember that defamation lawsuit against me? It was Bancroft who was suing me. Bancroft had previously commissioned me to do a sculpture but then didn't pay me. I vented my frustrations on a podcast (the Midlands Review with Paras and Frost), and before I knew it, I was being sued for defamation. The lawsuit was still pending while I was in Australia, so it was fresh on my mind as I was sharing a dinner table with Bancroft. But, wanting to set a good example for Bailey, I opted to say nothing. There was a reception after dinner, but Bailey and I retired to our cabin.

The next morning (Tuesday, April 23, 2024), Bailey and I went to the dining car for breakfast. The staff was super friendly. Bailey can sometimes be a bit of a picky eater, but Chef Farnsworth was super accommodating. While Bailey was finishing breakfast, I struck up a brief conversation with another passenger, Hillary Edmund. Edmund seemed almost half-asleep, so I asked if everything was okay. Edmund said they had been having trouble sleeping and asked the train staff if there was any Ambien on board. According to Edmund, there was some in the storage area. Curious, I took a look (there's

nothing stopping a passenger from entering the storage area), and I saw there were a couple bottles of Ambien after digging around for a bit.

I had a great night's sleep, and waking up on the morning of April 25, 2024, I apparently picked the best night not to suffer from insomnia. Bailey and I woke up to screaming coming from Cabin 1 (Bancroft's cabin). Bailey wanted to check it out, but I stood firm that we stay put. Strathmore, one of the train employees, later dropped by to inform us that Bancroft had passed away and that the Australian police were on their way. When I heard the police were coming, I asked if Bancroft was murdered, to which Strathmore said maybe. Strathmore asked me and Bailey to stay put, which we mostly did. Bailey did drop by Cabin 3 to give Hopson their condolences, and I did drop by Cabin 1 to check on Doolittle (especially since Doolittle was sad the night before). We arrived in Perth later than scheduled, but my show wasn't until the next night anyway. Bailey told me that they did enjoy the trip, but if I had known that someone was going to die (in the cabin next door no less), I definitely would have planned something else for me and Bailey.

Exhibit 5 is a transcript of Bailey's deposition. Bailey will be on vacation with Chris and Devin when the trial is scheduled (hopefully somewhere with less death), and Bailey will be unavailable to testify. So, the attorneys asked to depose Bailey. Srikanth, Palmer, Chambers & Kumar LLP represented Bailey during the deposition (the same law firm I hired to represent me in my defamation lawsuit). I was allowed to attend Bailey's deposition, but to avoid me influencing Bailey's testimony in any way (not that I ever would), they had me watch from an observation room through one-way glass. Therefore, I was able to watch Bailey be deposed and can confirm that Exhibit 5 is accurate.

Questions for Ashley Connel:

1. Please introduce yourself.
2. Why were you on the Mid-Riverina Express?
3. How do you know Avery Bancroft?
4. Where was the Ambien medication on board?
5. What happened on the morning of April 25, 2024?
6. How are you familiar with Bailey's deposition?

Trying out as an attorney is OPTIONAL

Attorney Tryout

- To be considered as an attorney, you will have to prepare a 2-3 minute speech.
 - Write an opening statement defending or prosecuting a character, real or fictional, in a case of your choosing. For example, you can prosecute or defend Christopher Columbus, Homer Simpson, or even Severus Snape.
 - Choose a crime and explain to us why they should or should not be found guilty. Create facts and witnesses as needed to build your argument.
 - Your choice of character, crime, or setting is only a backdrop to the presentation and argument of your case. Feel free to get creative and have some fun with it!
 - Your statement **must not exceed 3 minutes.**
- This statement is an opportunity to demonstrate your skills in argumentation, public speaking, and persuasion. The ideal statement is delivered with poise, passion, *and without notes*. That being said, we don't expect a trial-ready, award-winning opening statement or a spectacular knowledge of law and the legal system. This may appear intimidating, but don't worry: we've all been there before!
 - The best statements will demonstrate excellent public speaking skills, the ability to persuade using everyday language, and the ability to tell a compelling story.
- **Disclaimer** - While there is full creative liberty to choose what type of crime is included in your argument, if the chosen topic is one of serious nature, please refrain from overly graphic descriptions. We recognize the nature of serious crimes that occur and that they are something attorneys have to work with. The American Mock Trial Association, AMTA, which provides the yearly case for all collegiate teams, strays away from such cases and also stipulates the prevention of such arguments being made during competition. For these reasons, the use of serious crime is allowed, but overly graphic descriptions are discouraged.