

# Morningside College

## MOCK TRIAL TALENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

### **What is Mock Trial?**

The undergraduate mock trial program originated in 1985 at Drake University Law School in Des Moines, Iowa. Its purpose is to give undergraduate students an opportunity to learn first hand about the work of trial attorneys, understand the judicial system, develop critical thinking skills, and enhance communication skills.

### **How does it work?**

One attorney from the Sioux City community serves as Morningside's Mock Trial Team coach. The attorney/coach has extensive experience in trial law as well as experience with the mock trial system.

The Mock Trial Team meets weekly to prepare a case and scrimmage for competition. For competitions, the Mock Trial Team educator-coach selects three members from the team to serve as attorneys and three to serve as witnesses. During competition, teams argue both sides of the case, with each team trying the case four times.

### **What are the benefits of participation?**

- Have opportunities to compete against students from colleges and universities from across the country in local and regional tournaments
- Develop critical thinking, leadership, and public speaking skills
- Learn to work with and support others while improving your self confidence
- Experience practical application of concepts learned in the classroom

### **Who can belong?**

The Mock Trial Team needs participants who have varied interests and experiences, regardless of their majors. Students can participate in the Mock Trial Team by enrolling in a two credit-hour class or by participating as club members, without the benefit of credit.

### **Facts about Mock Trial at Morningside**

- Our Mock Trial team took first place in the Great Midwest Regional Mock Trial Tournament in January 2007, advancing to National Championships in St. Petersburg, Florida.
- Mock Trial is open to students from any major. Half of the students that participate nationally in mock trial programs do not pursue a career in law.
- One team participates in one major national tournament per year. In the past we attended Yale University and UCLA invitational tournaments.