

TEXAS MOCK TRIAL'S 2026

TRYOUT PACKET



INFO SESSIONS:

AUG 31 @ 6PM
SEP 3 @ 6PM

LOCATION:

WCP - 1.402
WCP - 1.402

TRYOUTS:

SEPTEMBER
11-13, 2026

SCHEDULED INDIVIDUALLY AT
YOUR INFO SESSION

MORE INFORMATION
TEXASMOCKTRIAL.COM

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Thank you for your interest in Texas Mock Trial! We look forward to watching your tryout and getting to know you better. Don't worry if you've never done mock trial before—many of our team members had no mock trial experience before joining the team!

This packet contains all the information you'll need to prepare for your tryout. **Remember that you MUST attend an information session to tryout.** Inside, you'll find step-by-step instructions, information to help you prepare, and the material from which you'll need to work.

If you have questions, don't hesitate to reach out to us via email at texasmocktrial@gmail.com or on Instagram @texasmocktrial.

TRYOUT CHECKLIST:

- ☐ Attend an info session and sign up for a tryout slot.
- ☐ Complete the commitment form BEFORE your tryout.
- ☐ Prepare for your 4-minute closing argument.
- ☐ Prepare your witness portrayal.
- ☐ Tryout!

STEP 1: ATTEND AN INFO SESSION AND SIGN UP FOR A TRYOUT

Our info session dates are listed below.

You must attend an info session to sign up for a tryout slot.

Info Session #1
WCP 1.402
August 31st at 6pm

Info Session #2
WCP 1.402
September 3rd at 6pm

Join us for our **optional Boba Chats at Tapioca House** following each info session to ask questions and get to know the team better!

STEP 2: COMPLETE THE COMMITMENT GOOGLE FORM

The commitment form will be released and explained at your info session. You must complete and submit the form before you can tryout.

STEP 3: PREPARE FOR YOUR 4-MINUTE CLOSING ARGUMENT

For this portion of the tryout, we want you to deliver a four-minute "closing argument" ***prosecuting or defending a fictional character or historical/current figure of your choice***. In the past, we've had members prosecute Doc McStuffins for Medical Malpractice, defend Aang from prosecution by the Fire Nation, or prosecute Scooter Braun for stealing Taylor Swift's masters.

Pick a story and a defendant of your interest and convince us why they did (or did not) commit the crime. You can make up the testimony and evidence as you see fit.

We are NOT looking at how much you already know about the law. **We ask that you memorize the speech and do not use notes!**

STEP 4: PREPARE YOUR WITNESS PORTRAYAL

This packet includes three witness affidavits. Before your tryout, choose **ONE** of the three witnesses to play. Prepare answers based on the accompanying topics under each affidavit. You will be asked questions **based on** the given topics during your tryout.

We are looking for creativity and commitment. Once again, we ask that you do not use notes!

STEP 5: TRYOUT!

We can't wait to see you at tryouts! Please try and arrive **about 15 minutes before** your tryout time and wait outside the door. We'll let you know when to come in!

Tryouts
September 11-13

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

If you are chosen for a callback, you will get a call from us and will be assigned a callback time on Sunday, September 13th.

Make sure to keep that evening free!

TIPS FOR YOUR TRYOUT

GENERAL TIPS

Dress the part- In your tryout, you should dress how you would in court. Our dress code recommendation is business professional.



Presentation matters- Even if you forget what you want to say, show us that you can recover from a mistake. We want to see your ability to convey arguments in a believable way.

Be creative- We want to see what you can come up with, so when it comes to preparing your case, **feel free to think outside of the facts** to come up with new arguments or interesting characters.

CLOSING ARGUMENT TIPS

- **Be confident:** We are looking for someone who can command attention.
- **Be authentic:** We want to hear what you are passionate about, not what you *think* we want to hear.

WITNESS TIPS

Be Believable- Witnesses should seem like they are real people. **These are characters, not caricatures.**

Be Likable- You want the jury to like you! If you're playing a character witness (i.e. Nel Doos) you have the freedom to show off an accent or throw in jokes as you answer questions. If you're playing an expert witness (i.e. Dr. Atlas Hartley) you can still be engaging while being knowledgeable.

Make Eye Contact- Maintain eye contact with the jury! It shows confidence and builds your trust with them.

Keep it Simple, Stupid- Remember, the "jury" is hearing the facts of your case for the first time, so explain complicated thoughts simply and slowly. Try to keep your answers two to three lines long!



CASE SUMMARY

This case is a criminal case. It can be summarized in one sentence: **Did Charlie Martin kill Rob Armstrong?**

Here are the facts:

- **Rob Armstrong** was a competitor on a gameshow called *The Saboteurs*.
- On their first season together, **Rob** was an ally with **Charlie**, but betrayed **Charlie** and got **Charlie** eliminated from the show, keeping a \$1 million prize for himself.
- On the next season they competed on together, **Rob** ends up dead, poisoned by somebody right at the end of the season.
- **Charlie** is the one accused of pouring poisonous acid in a diving mask belonging to **Rob**, killing him.

INDEX OF PEOPLE

ROB ARMSTRONG - The victim who was allegedly poisoned

CHARLIE MARTIN - The defendant who is accused of poisoning Rob Armstrong

NEL DOOS - A contestant on the show and an eyewitness during season 10

ATLAS HARTLEY - A forensic pathologist who performed an autopsy on Rob Armstrong after his death

ROWAN PATEL - The challenge designer for the gameshow

SELECT A WITNESS TO BE QUESTIONED AS:

Nel Doos was an EYE WITNESS to the events during the filming of *The Saboteurs*. They were also a contestant on a reality show. Doos is a CHARACTER WITNESS. These witnesses usually explain what they saw to the jury. They are entertaining and engaging to listen to. We are looking for CREATIVITY with character witnesses.

Rowan Patel was Challenge Designer for *The Saboteurs*. They had a close relationship with Rob Armstrong. Patel is a SYMPATHY WITNESS. They are personally affected by his death. These witnesses can be emotional and realistic. We are looking for BELIEVABILITY with sympathy witnesses.

Dr. Atlas Hartley is a forensic pathologist. They conducted Rob Armstrong's autopsy. Dr. Hartley is an EXPERT WITNESS. These are witnesses with expert knowledge hired to talk about the case and their investigation into what happened. We are looking for CREDIBILITY in expert witnesses, while showing their knowledge.

Note: All witnesses can be played as a person of any gender, ethnicity, or background!



WITNESS AFFIDAVITS AND QUESTIONS

Option 1: Character Witness

Name: Nel Doos, Contestant on *The Saboteurs*

I am over 18 and competent to make this affidavit.

My name is Nel Doos. I am Midlands's number one celebrity...or I will be. And I'm not going to do it the phony way of being a social media influencer. I'm going to do it the old-fashioned way and become famous by being a reality TV star! I had my first (and second) reality TV appearance on *The Saboteurs*.

The Saboteurs is sort of like the game of Clue, but where Miss Scarlett, Mrs. Peacock, and Colonel Mustard are allowed to team up to "murder" everyone else. Every couple of days, there's an elimination challenge, and for the poor soul who comes in last—goodbye. All of the competitors are referred to as "Patrons." To make matters worse, there are a number of "Saboteurs" who are embedded with the Patrons. It's their job to cause friction in the hotel and even make things much harder for the other non-Saboteur guests (called "Nobles") to complete their challenges. When there are only a few Patrons left, the game ends, and the remaining Nobles split one million dollars. That is, unless there are any Saboteurs among them. If any of the Saboteurs remain, the Saboteurs who are left get all the prize money.

Ever since I saw Episode 10 of Season 2 of *The Saboteurs*, I knew I had to be on the show. As every fan knows, that was the famous episode where Rob Armstrong betrayed Charlie Martin at the very end. At the very last moment, just when Charlie thought Charlie was going to get half of the prize money (half a million dollars), Rob sold Charlie out and took all of the prize money, leaving Charlie a crying mess on the floor. This was a real unexpected twist, but not totally out line with what the audience could have expected from the show.

It probably would have gone mostly under the radar, but social media picked up on it and scenes of Charlie crying became memes all across the internet. Over the next couple of years, when Rob got daytime TV interviews and some small endorsement deals, everyone kept showing or spoofing the clips of the betrayal. I ended up meeting Charlie years later—right after my first time on *The Saboteurs*—and Charlie told me how brutal the experience was. “They even attacked my mom,” Charlie told me.

Season 10 was the All-Star season, so there were a lot of familiar faces. We arrived in the main dining hall, and I immediately recognized many of the other guests from previous seasons. We were assigned seats at the long dinner table, and, wouldn’t you know it, Rob Armstrong and Charlie Martin were seated right across from each other. When Rob wasn’t looking, I saw Charlie glaring at Rob pretty intensely. And, at the very end of the meal, Charlie banged Charlie’s hands on the table, smirked, and said, “this time I’m going to murder you.” Charlie looked pretty intense when Charlie said this. The whole room stopped and looked at Charlie and Rob. And I couldn’t hear it exactly, because I was at the other end of the table, but I’m pretty sure that, as Charlie was walking away, Charlie said, “I’ll get you...for real, this time.”

Charlie and I were chosen to be this season’s “Saboteurs,” so each episode we chose a sabotage for the challenge and a target for the sabotage. One episode, Charlie got to choose the sabotage, and, sure enough, wanted to target Rob Armstrong. I had some ideas for some sabotages Charlie could do, but Charlie wasn’t hearing any of them. Charlie started to get weird, suggesting things that were really out-of-bounds like drugging Rob’s water bottle with sleeping pills or adding some rodenticide to Rob’s breakfast. Our assigned producer told Charlie that things like that weren’t allowed, and maybe even would be considered assault. No one was supposed to get hurt, and targeted Nobles still needed to be able to have a chance to win each challenge, even with the obstacles thrown their way. Charlie told me, “I don’t want Rob just to go home. I want Rob to get hurt,” and then started talking about doing things to Rob that the producer would definitely not have allowed.

After I was eliminated from the show, I heard about what happened to Rob. It’s terrible what happened. I’m not sure when we’ll be able to restart the series or even if I’ll be asked to rejoin in a future season. In the meantime, I’m hoping to turn this tragedy into something beneficial for everyone. Once the trial begins and the trial verdict comes in, I’ll be able to finish the final chapters of *Doos in the Machine*, my non-fictional account of these events. The advance for this book has sustained me for the time being.

We will ask you about your background, how the show works, the relationship between Rob and Charlie, and what you saw of Charlie on the show.

You’re allowed, and encouraged, to think beyond the words on the page!

Option 2: Sympathy Witness

Name: Rowan Patel, Eyewitness and Former Challenge designer for *The Saboteurs*

I am over 18 and competent to make this affidavit.

I'm Rowan Patel, and I have or should I say had the greatest job in the world. After graduating from USC, I worked as the Challenge Designer for the reality TV show *The Saboteurs*. Think of *The Saboteurs* like a *Survivor*-type show: it was my job to come up with and build the various challenges, twists, and turns the competitors would have to overcome to survive and advance. The show basically hinged on whether or not I could find something intriguing for the contestants to do every week. Behind the scenes, they called me the Mastermind. I held down that gig for *The Saboteurs* for ten seasons until the show was cancelled after Rob Armstrong, a competitor, unfortunately drowned in the last episode (April 6th) of the final season.

In the show, there are two types of competitors: the "Saboteurs" and the "Nobles". Basically, the "Saboteurs" were tasked with sabotaging the regular competitors to make them lose a challenge and get eliminated. The "Nobles" referred to the rest of the competitors who had to complete challenges and rat out the "Saboteurs."

I had known Rob Armstrong for years. Our families knew each other, and he was such a great father. Not to mention, Rob was an all time favorite contestant because of his big "betrayal". So, when Rob was first on the show, he was a "Saboteur" along with Charlie Martin. They both worked together to eliminate other players up until the final episode. In the finale, Rob completely switched up on Charlie Martin, betraying Charlie to win the entire game and leaving Charlie utterly humiliated and crying on national television. While Rob moved on to earning brand deals and being a famous icon, Charlie never got over that public embarrassment. People online ridiculed him, calling him names like "Charlie the Chump".

Because of the famous rivalry, both Charlie and Rob were invited to compete again on season 10. Coming into the *All-Star* season, Charlie was consumed by a bitter obsession, constantly bringing up Rob and talking about getting revenge during completely unrelated conversations. This time, Charlie was a Saboteur while Rob was a normal competitor. I remember Charlie spent the entire season only targeting and sabotaging Rob over and over again, but Rob kept beating the odds and surviving. Every failed attempt only made Charlie more desperate and enraged. I knew Charlie held a deep grudge, but I never imagined he would go so far as to commit murder.

Around 5:00 AM on the morning of April 6th, I conducted safety checks, verified that every air tank had 30 minutes of oxygen for the 5 minute task, and locked the equipment locker. Shortly after, I caught Charlie standing completely alone by the locker, holding Rob's blue air tank over Rob's blue backpack. Charlie looked startled, made a weak excuse about checking air time and angrily blurted out "how am I supposed to beat Rob?" Later that morning, I saw Charlie inspecting and messing with the dive team's emergency radios on the table. I shouted at Charlie to cut it out, but Charlie just ignored me.

During that final challenge, watching the live feed from the production truck turned into a horrific nightmare as Rob began struggling 30 feet underwater and drowning right before our eyes. When production tried calling the dive team on Channel 2 for an immediate rescue, there was only static because Charlie had disabled the safety radio by stripping out its batteries. Everyone was yelling, no one could help, and we all just ended up standing there while someone we'd known for years died in front of our eyes.

My post-challenge inspection revealed how calculated Charlie's attack was. Rob's backpack had been crammed with 30 pounds of weight while Charlie's weights were missing entirely. Rob's air tank was completely empty while other contestants had over 20 minutes left. What made it worse was that a deadly oxalic acid had been placed directly inside Rob's blue diving mask. I never dreamed Charlie would be putting something like oxalic acid in Rob's diving mask. We keep oxalic acid on set for bleaching, removing rust, and other industrial cleaning. It is highly toxic, and it definitely does not belong in anyone's only breathing area 30 feet underwater. I don't know why anyone would do such a thing.

To this day, I regret not confronting Charlie when they were messing with Rob's diving equipment. I watched a friend I had known for years die a horrific and painful death, and I haven't been able to sleep or even approach a body of water since. I remember watching as Rob's limp body was being dragged out of the water as everyone screamed in panic. But not Charlie. Instead, I saw them jumping up and down celebrating their win. Rob did not deserve that. He was only 32 years old. I cannot imagine the pain his family is going through. Charlie's selfish revenge scheme stole Rob's life, destroyed our show, and ruined my future. I lost my dream job, I am living off savings, and I am a month away from eviction. Charlie put so many good people out of work just to settle a bitter grudge, and they deserve to be held fully accountable for Rob's murder.

We will ask you about your background, your observations on the show, how you knew Rob Armstrong, and how you felt when he died.

You're allowed, and encouraged, to think beyond the words on the page!

Option 3: Expert Witness

Name: Dr. Atlas Hartley, Chief Medical Examiner

My name is Atlas Hartley. I have been the Charlotte County Chief Medical Examiner for the past 5 years. I was asked to conduct the autopsy of Rob Armstrong, a contestant on a reality show called *The Saboteurs*.

Education

I earned my bachelor's degree in Forensic Sciences from the University of Central Florida and then my medical degree from the University of South Florida. Following medical school, I completed a Residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology and a Fellowship in Forensic Pathology at the University of Michigan School of Medicine. After completing my residency and fellowship, I was board certified by the American Board of Pathology and became certified in toxicology. I have worked my entire career as a Forensic Pathologist and worked my way up to Chief Medical Examiner of this county.

Background

The remains of Rob Armstrong were delivered to the Coroner's Office in Santa Ivo on the morning of April 8, 2025. I recorded all relevant conditions of the body in autopsy. The autopsy was conducted using the standard techniques set forth by the National Association of Medical Examiners, which is extensively peer-reviewed and the gold standard. I also performed all of the toxicological analyses discussed below using standard, peer reviewed, and gold standard techniques. I have used all of the techniques listed below during the entirety of my career and applied all of them in the same standard manner as I always have.

Before examining the body myself, I was informed that during the dive portion of the challenge, something went wrong a short while after the dive began and the subject appeared to struggle under water. Then the subject pulled the respirator off of his face while underwater and started swimming frantically. He was eventually pulled out of the water by the on-scene rescue divers. The time he was pulled out of the water was 12:12 pm. When he was pulled out of the water, he was unconscious, and they attempted CPR for 27 minutes without success. On-scene medical staff called the time of death at 12:39 pm. Mr. Armstrong's body was then transported, securely, to the Charlotte County Forensic Facility for further examination.

External Examination

Close inspection of the victim's face revealed what appeared to be small skin abrasions near the subject's mouth and nose. Those could be a result of the subject pulling off the respirator mask violently but, based on my experience, they were more similar to chemical burns on the skin rather than tears in the skin. Each abrasion was no larger than 1cm in diameter. There were approximately 8 total in the area of the nose and mouth. The lividity and rigor were consistent with the time window of death told to me.

Internal Examination

I opened the chest cavity using a Y incision. All organs were present, except for the appendix, and all appeared to be intact. When I examined the lungs, I found that they were waterlogged with frothy fluid that also extended into the airways. The lungs also had petechial hemorrhages in conjunctiva and pleura, which are secondary to asphyxiation. All of these signs were consistent with drowning. There were also signs of irritation and inflammation that you would not see in a simple drowning case. The trachea and bronchi were irritated consistent with the inhalation of a chemical irritant- they appeared mildly red and as if they were raw.

The kidneys appeared grossly normal upon preliminary inspection. However, I noticed a slight pallor of the cortical tissue. This type of change can result from acute metabolic disturbance. Because of the appearance of metabolic disturbances in the kidneys and the other signs of chemical exposure, I took additional tissue samples from the kidneys for examination in the pathology lab. I also took the standard tissue samples from all other organs.

Toxicological Analysis

I reviewed tissue samples I took from the kidneys using Polarized Light Microscopy, where I found signs of calcium oxalate crystal formation in the tissue samples. The proliferation of the crystal formation was consistent with the introduction of a substance that would cause such crystalline formations, like oxalic acid. An advanced blood panel confirmed my findings, revealing elevated levels of oxalic acid in the subject's blood, well outside of the acceptable range.

Conclusion

I can conclude to a reasonable degree of scientific and medical certainty that the subject inhaled a clinically significant amount of oxalic acid shortly before entering the water for the dive that he undertook. Most likely, inhalation occurred when the subject first put on the diving mask, based on the coughing fit he experienced immediately before diving. Further, the subject's cause of death is drowning induced by this oxalic acid. The physical fitness of the subject and their lack of underlying medical conditions renders it severely unlikely that the resulting drowning would have occurred absent exposure to oxalic acid.

Certification

I understand that I am certifying this report under oath. Every fact contained herein is correct to the best of my knowledge and memory, and all conclusions stated here have been reached to a reasonable degree of scientific certainty unless noted otherwise. This report contains all conclusions I have drawn in this case, all facts I personally remember from my expert analysis, and all exhibits with which I am familiar that I used to come to my conclusions. I understand that if I make any new conclusions, remember any new facts, or otherwise alter my opinion in this case, I have an obligation to update this report accordingly.

We will ask you about your education, the background of the drowning, your analysis, and your conclusions.

You're allowed, and encouraged, to think beyond the words on the page!

See you at tryouts and good luck!

Remember, if you have any questions at all, you can email us at texasmocktrial@gmail.com or DM our Instagram @texasmocktrial.

To get your questions answered one-on-one, attend one of our optional Boba Chats at Tapioca House on August 31st and September 3rd after either info session!

