



**Sid Reggie (VI)** "Mock Trial is a lot of work, like two hours after sports three times a week. It's crazy how much time you spend preparing for that one weekend in February when all the trials happen."



**John Paul Spak (V)** "This was my first year in mock trial, but I really felt like I was able to contribute to the program in my role as an attorney. Hopefully next year we can make it to state!"



**Nolan Pitts (VII)** "Mock Trial...It's truly a one-of-a-kind experience. No other club takes the same kind of after school commitment, and few other clubs are able to compete at the same level we are."

**Excuse Me?** Riley Bookout (VIII) shows surprise after receiving an accusatory question from the opposing council. Riley played the role of Adlai Cheney, a paranoid, gun-wielding Texan citizen.

**Court-side Seats** Sid Reggie (VI), Colton Scrudder (VI), and Nolan Pitts (VII) sit before the judge, while Jacob Bartz (VI) answers cross examination questions. The three attorneys made up this year's defense team.



**Young Padawan** Nolan Pitts (VII) gets some tips from coach Michael Molash (VIII) after the conclusion of their first of the day. Nolan served both as an attorney and witness.



All Photos by Peter Dorn



**Study Up**  
Riley Bookout (VIII) reads his case materials before beginning a trial.

Jack O'Toole (VIII) and James Toliver (V) talk about the trial that just finished.

Xavier Polisetty (VI), John Paul Spak (V), and Colton Scrudder (VI) get some pre-trial tips from attorney coach Rwan Hardesty.



**Don't Cross Me** Xavier Polisetty (VI) reads his next question, while Colton Scrudder (VI), and John Paul Spak (V) watch the witness answer his previous question. The three formed a power prosecution team that helped the team reach the semifinals.



# OBJECTION! YOUR HONOR

**MOCK TRIAL**

The sound of a gavel striking wood rings throughout a Dallas county court room. Three Cistercian students stand up to greet the presiding judge and begin their first trial of the day.

Since its inception four years ago, the Cistercian Mock Trial team has been wildly successful. With two invitations to state and four appearances in the regional semifinal round, the team boasts the best performance in the first four years of any Texas high school mock trial team.

This year was no exception, despite being considered a "rebuilding year." The mostly underclassman squad soared to the regional semifinals, with the help of three veteran coaches and captains, Michael Molash (VIII), Peter Dorn (VIII), and Jack O'Toole (VIII). The three seniors were not able to compete because of conflicts with their athletics, but they still helped the young members of the team learn the ins and outs of mock trial.

In addition to these three leaders, attorney coach Rwan Hardesty was instrumental in the team's success.

-Michael Molash