

From Genocide to Justice A Mock Trial



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Introduction Ellen J. Kennedy, Ph.D. Executive Director, World Without Genocide

World Without Genocide has prepared mock trials for the annual Summer Institutes for High School and College Students since the first Summer Institute which was held in 2011. This three-day experience, occurring every August since then, has received the State of Minnesota Ethical Leadership Award for the program's transformative impact on the young people who participate.

They come to us at the height of Minnesota's summer to study human rights when they could be pursuing many other activities. They come because they already have a commitment to a world of peace and justice and to their own responsibility for making their vision a reality.

The Institute focuses on a genocide or another human rights atrocity from the past and the parallels at local and global levels today. We include a mock trial at the Institute to teach about transitional justice after genocide and about the power of law to create order after a social cataclysm.

Our students begin these mock trials with great spirit for their roles as judges, prosecutors, defenders, the accused, witnesses, etc. They end the trials with insight about the process of the law and about the complexity of defining and finding truth and justice. I hope that you, too, find the included mock trial engaging and thought-provoking.

The staff, law students, and lawyers who prepared the mock trial deserve great thanks for their outstanding work.

