



Mock Trial: Mafia Wars

December 16, 1985. Monday. 5:26 pm.

A black Cadillac pulls up to Colfax Grill, a popular upmarket steakhouse on LaSalle Avenue in downtown South Bend. A few blocks away, children line up to meet Santa Claus while holiday shoppers busy themselves finding the perfect gifts. Snow is gently falling. “Big” Casta Lano and his associate, Bill Otti, exit the vehicle and walk toward the restaurant. As they approach the door, three men in beige trench coats and grey fedoras walk toward them at a brisk pace. Nine shots pierce the peaceful holiday air, sending the children and shoppers (and Santa) diving for cover. The men in fedoras disappear into the cold night. When the smoke clears, Casta Lano, the boss, or Godfather, of the Campino Crime Family, South Bend’s most notorious crime syndicate, and Bill Otti, the Family’s Underboss, lie dead in the street. Word quickly filters through South Bend’s underworld that there is a new boss in town. According to the United States Government, this new Godfather is Anthony “Tony Toilets” Goodfella, the mild-mannered owner of a local plumbing supply company.

Fast forward to July 1989. The United States has indicted Mr. Goodfella under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, more commonly known as RICO. Will Mr. Goodfella be found guilty? That is up to you!

Experience the excitement and demands of the courtroom by playing the role of an attorney or witness. Campers will be exposed to public speaking, critical thinking, and more! Learn about all aspects of mock trial, from opening statements to closing arguments and everything in between. Family and friends are invited to be jury members on the final day! Mr. Costantini will be assisted by members of the Adams High School Mock Trial Team. The case will be provided two weeks prior to the start of camp, and campers will be expected to have read the case before the beginning of the camp.