



HILLSDALE COLLEGE

PURSUING TRUTH • DEFENDING LIBERTY SINCE 1844

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 16, 2026

CONTACT:

Emily Stack Davis

517-803-3745

PR@hillsdale.edu

Follow [@HillsdalePR](https://twitter.com/HillsdalePR)

Hillsdale College Mock Trial Student Takes Home Two Awards at University of Virginia's Great American Mock Trial Invitational

Hillsdale's team placed sixth out of 24 teams competing.

HILLSDALE, Mich. — Hillsdale College mock trial student Patrick McDonald '26 won two awards at the Great American Mock Trial Invitational at the University of Virginia Dec. 5-6. Hillsdale's team came in sixth place out of 24 teams competing.

"Our students' success in the courtroom is a sign that Hillsdale's focus on composition, logic, and rhetoric in the core curriculum prepares students well for legal work," said Jonathan Church, director of mock trial at Hillsdale College. "This is one of the toughest invitational tournaments on the circuit, usually resembling the difficulty one would expect at the National Championship Tournament. To win a team trophy at this invitational is rewarding."

McDonald won an outstanding attorney award with a perfect 30/30 ranks, meaning he was ranked as the top advocate on all six ballots over the weekend. He also won an outstanding witness award with 24 ranks.

Teams from Hillsdale will be competing at AMTA Regionals in February, which is the first stage of the American Mock Trial Association tournaments that determine qualification for the National Championship Tournament.

For a headshot of McDonald, click [here](#). For photos of Hillsdale College, click [here](#). For a high-resolution copy of the Hillsdale College clocktower logo, click [here](#).

About Hillsdale College

Hillsdale College is an independent, nonsectarian, Christian liberal arts college located in southern Michigan. Founded in 1844, the College has built a national reputation through its classical liberal arts core curriculum and its principled refusal to accept federal or state taxpayer subsidies, even indirectly in the form of student grants or loans. It also conducts an outreach effort promoting civil and religious liberty, including a free monthly speech digest, *Imprimis*, with a circulation of more than 7.3 million. For more information, visit hillsdale.edu.

###