



# EMPIRE WELCOMES FIRST EVER SCHOOL FROM HONG KONG

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**Nonprofit Announces Partnership with Hong Kong based ARCH Education**

HONG KONG, China – For the first time, high school students in Hong Kong are learning the Federal Rules of Evidence, practicing their arguments, and preparing to travel to the United States to compete at Empire Mock Trial.

St. Paul's Convent School ("SPCS"), a highly selective Catholic girls' school in Hong Kong, will travel to San Francisco and be the first mock trial team ever to represent Hong Kong in an American mock trial competition.

"SPCS is braving the world outside of its comfort zone and entering into a world-class competition in a new event," said coach Mido Aly.

**GROWING MOCK TRIAL IN CHINA**

Aly said mock trial is a relatively new, but growing activity in Hong Kong.

An Instructor and U.S. Admissions Counselor for ARCH Education ([click here](#) to visit its site), Aly is the head mock trial coach at ARCH Education. ARCH Education has provided competitive mock trial training to high school students in Hong Kong for the past four years.

ARCH Education is an organization based in Hong Kong that helps prepare students for admission to universities in the United States, United Kingdom, and Hong Kong.

Last year, ARCH organized the first major Inter-school Mock Trial Competition for secondary students in Hong Kong. Two hundred students competed in the event, making it the largest competition the region has ever had.

"Mock Trial in Hong Kong has gone from an absolute unknown quantity – very few competitors and even fewer competitions – to a large, firm-sponsored event looked forward to by hundreds of students," said Aly.

"We're seeing growth in terms of students' abilities – not just to write scripts and answer questions, but also their impromptu speaking, their text analysis, and their argumentation," he said.

**ARCH EDUCATION AND EMPIRE PARTNERSHIP**

Educators in Hong Kong are hoping a partnership with Empire Mock Trial will take the activity to new heights in Hong Kong.

"Here we felt a sincere connection with Empire," said Aly. "We saw that students that participate in their events throw themselves wholeheartedly into their work, and we wanted instantly to be a part of the family."

"We're ecstatic to announce this partnership with ARCH Education," said Empire President Justin Matarrese. "Their founders (Jennifer Ma and Jennifer Yu) are so passionate about helping young people build the skills necessary to excel at both university and beyond—a goal that we share. We felt an immediate synergy with the organization."

Aly said participation in the Empire aligns perfectly with the goals of ARCH Education, providing "global exposure, skills training, and passion in our students."

"The idea of developing global citizens is something that we talk about often at Empire," said V.P. of Operations, Mitch Piper. "The infusion of yet another country and culture into our family is something that we are very proud of."

That partnership begins this month, by sending the SPCS Mock Trial team to compete San Francisco. ARCH Education hopes to send Hong Kong's 2015 Inter-school Mock Trial Competition to next year's Empire, as well.

"It is our hope to form a long-term strategic partnership with Empire to help grow interest in mock trial in the Greater China and South East Asia region and allow winning teams an opportunity to travel to the US to compete in Empire tournaments," said Aly.

**SPCS PREPARES FOR EMPIRE SF**

The team from St. Paul's Convent School is practicing twice a week, getting a crash course in everything from hearsay exceptions to the structure of direct examination.

While they are relatively new to the activity, the students are all-in – writing their own directs, crosses, and speeches, performing them for the team so that everyone can help edit and perfect their presentations.

The students are working fast, receiving the case only a month and a half before the competition starts.

"We want them to learn what mock is by doing it," said Aly, "mocking against some of the best competitors in the world – a 'trial by fire' if ever there was one."

ARCH Education hopes the SPCS students will return to Hong Kong with new skills and experiences that will help elevate the level of competition in the entire region.

"The students have yet to glimpse the best of the best," said Aly. "We want our kids to see just how far there is yet to go." It is our hope that Empire can show them just how creative and inventive and theatrical and cunning and beautiful mock can get – and that the experience will push them to strive for similar excellence."



ARCH Education Mock Trial Program Coordinator Mido Aly (top, third from right) with ARCH Education's Hong Kong faculty. (2014)



A judge panel at last year's Hong Kong Inter-School Mock Trial Competition.



Students getting ready to present their case in Hong Kong's first ever mock trial program.



ARCH Education co-founder Jennifer Yu is the Head of Operations and Administrator as well as the Head of U.S. School Admissions Consultation.



ARCH Education co-founder Jennifer Ma is the Head of Curriculum Develop and Instructions as well as the Head of UK & Hong Kong School Admissions Consultation.