



MIG JOURNAL
Journalist Handbook 2010

Welcome Journalists!

It is great to have you on the journalist team during the MIG experience. I am looking forward to working with each of you during this year's simulation. I have the utmost confidence in our team. Together, we can make the journal the best it has ever been. In order to achieve this, I firmly believe in an open line of communication is best; meaning I would like to hear of any comments you that may help make your MIG experience most fulfilling and the MIG Journal a paramount aspect of the simulation.

My staff and I are eager to work hand-in-hand with you to make the most out of this experience. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you for bringing your creative energy to this year's simulation.

Sincerely,

Joshua Morgan
Attorney General

attorneygeneral@modelillinoisgovernment.org

Roles and Duties

Journalists

All journalists are primarily responsible for completing their assignments. This means being punctual and being where you need to be in accordance with the MIG schedule. My staff and I cannot stress the importance of remaining constantly aware of the time requirements, as the newspaper runs on a very strict deadline due to editing purposes. Through it all, your position as a Journalist is the most important position within the Office of the MIG Attorney General. Pieces must be turned in to the Assistant Editor or Editor at a time to be announced at the simulation, so that the editing/publication process can begin. If you have not been assigned to cover a certain event, we ask that you observe the various aspects of the simulation when you are not on assignment. This will ensure that we, as a journal, are always on the lookout for a possible story. Stay involved, don't be shy, and don't be afraid to go out and get the story. Remember to be courteous and creative with your coverage! Lastly, all journalists must attend any and all press conferences, which will be organized through my staff, unless otherwise instructed.

Attorney General

The jobs of the Attorney General (AG) are outlined in the Model Illinois Government Constitution. The AG ensures the MIG Journal operates properly and smoothly while making sure it is distributed in a timely manner. Furthermore, the AG is also in charge of the original legislation. This entails that all OLs are numbered correctly and distributed to their proper committee the days of the simulation. He is also called in to interpret the Constitution if there is ever a need for it.

Chief of Staff

The Chief of Staff (COS) will generally oversee production of the newspaper, assisting where needed. The job of the COS will also include ensuring that pieces of original legislation (OL) are placed in the proper committees. In the absence of the Attorney General, the Chief of Staff will be the next person in the chain of command if any issues arise.

Deputy Chief of Staff – Editor-in-Chief

The Editor will be responsible to distributing assignments to journalists and, to the greatest extent possible, will ensure that each person has an assignment. The editor also will edit the paper to final print, having last call on articles and layout. Also, the DCOS – EIC will be the main contact for the printing process, charged with fluid production processes. Basically, this person will assess the progress of production and oversee journalists' assignments.

Deputy Chief of Staff – Original Legislation

The DCOS-OL will be the primary facilitator of OLs, charged with their proper distribution throughout committees. Included in this duty is communication with the Lt. Governor and lobbyists. Also, the DCOS-OL will track the progress of OLs throughout the simulation (committee meetings, floor action, veto session, etc) so that the editor knows where to assign journalists to cover OLs.

Assistant Editor-in-Chief

The Assistant Editor will edit all articles before they go to the editor-in-chief, and will handle advertisements from candidates. If necessary, the assistant editor will also fulfill article assignments.