



MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2016

Brought to you by the

Carolina Center for Civic Education

"Investing in our future, creating tomorrow's leaders"

25th ANNIVERSARY SEASON: A SITE COORDINATOR'S PERSPECTIVE

By Beverly King Moore

Gastonia Regional Site Coordinator

I started my journey with Mock Trials back when the competitions were held in November and the North Carolina Advocates for Justice was known as the North Carolina Association of Trial Lawyers (NCATL). As a paralegal, I had joined the NCATL at the encouragement of my attorney.

I answered a call for mock trial site volunteers in Charlotte. When I arrived, the Regional Coordinator was short on jurors, so I got pulled from being a site volunteer to sit on a jury. Honestly, I was very nervous; I was a fairly new paralegal and knew very few people at the competition. However, I sat on that jury, listened, and gave my comments. From that day on, I was hooked on volunteering with the Mock Trials.



November was a very busy month for me, so I had to pass on volunteering for a few years. When the competitions moved to February, it was exactly what I needed to get back in the program.

By then the NCATL was the Advocates for Justice and more competition locations had been added. I had signed up to be a site volunteer in Charlotte, but the Union County Site Coordinator position needed to be filled. I was approached about filling the Site Coordinator position since I was in the area. I had to think long and hard about jumping from a juror/site volunteer to being the Site Coordinator. Union County also meant going to a courthouse I was unfamiliar with and driving 1 ½ hours on the morning of the competition. After much reflection, I said yes!



Fortunately, or unfortunately, the Union County Regional was cancelled due to not enough teams. At the same time, the Charlotte Site Coordinator had to step down. I jumped in and have been Site Coordinator for the Charlotte regional for a number of years.

I have turned competition day into a family event: my sister Pam helps with registration, does the scoring and helps preserve my sanity; mom Shirley makes the coffee, keeps the food stocked and welcomes the judges/jurors; and husband Michael is our resident photographer and my shoulder to lean on when things go crazy. My dad is unable to join us as he has another commitment the first Saturday in February, or else he would volunteer, too. But we need many other volunteers behind the scenes as well – and I am so grateful for the

wonderful people (paralegals, administrators, law students, and other community-minded individuals) who have taken part each year to make the competition run smoothly.

It takes many people to put on a successful regional competition. It is a Saturday well spent. Site volunteers set-up the courthouse, welcome the teams, and assist with the ceremonies. Site volunteers also get to sit in the courtrooms and watch the trials, then gather the ballots and help double check the addition. Judges and attorneys are needed to preside over the trials and do the scoring.



These students have put so much time and effort into preparing, and it is so rewarding to watch them present. Please consider volunteering; you will not regret giving of your time to encourage these students and support this awesome program.

Because of mock trial, I have great volunteers and have met some wonderful people. I love being a part of this program and am excited for the next chapter by moving the Charlotte regional to the Gaston County Courthouse. The Trial Court Administrator at Gaston has already been so helpful, and I think this is going to be a positive change for volunteers, participants and parents.

Editor's note: If you are not already involved in the NC mock trial program, please consider joining us as a site volunteer or judge / juror at our regional competitions. Contact CCCE State Coordinator Sue Johnson at SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com for more information. You'll be glad you did!



CALENDAR 2016 – 2017 MOCK TRIAL SEASON

Team Member List, Code of Ethics, Release Forms Due	Friday, Jan. 6, 2017
Last Day to Withdraw Without Penalty	Friday, Jan. 6, 2017
Regional Competition	Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017
Widenhouse Award Nomination Materials Due	Weds., Feb. 22, 2017
State Finals Competition	Fri. – Sat., March 10-11, 2017
National Championship, Hartford, CT	May 11-13, 2017

THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 – 2017 COMPETITION SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS!

State Finals:	Rudolf Widenhouse
Asheville:	Melrose Law, PLLC
<i>Supporter:</i>	28 th Judicial District Bar Association
Fayetteville:	Britton Law, P.A.
<i>Supporter:</i>	Cumberland County Bar Association
Gastonia:	The Sumwalt Law Firm
Greenville:	Hardee & Hardee, LLP
High Point:	Manger Law Firm
Pittsboro:	Glenn Mills Fisher & Mahoney, P.A.
<i>Supporter:</i>	Durham County Bar Association
Raleigh:	Twiggs Strickland & Rabenau, and Maurer Law, Co-Sponsors
Salisbury:	Rowan County Bar Association
Wilmington:	Shipman & Wright

CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW - partnering with CCCE to host our State Finals!

THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 – 2017 OUTREACH PROGRAM SPONSOR!

Lawyers Mutual Liability Insurance Company of North Carolina

IT TAKES A VILLAGE . . .

Special thanks to our 2016-17 Regional Coordinators and CCCE Board Members: Asheville Regional Coordinators Mark Melrose and Marion Parsons-Groat, Fayetteville Regional Coordinator Rebecca Britton, Gastonia Regional Coordinators Holden Clark and Daniel O’Shea, Greenville Regional Coordinators Jeffrey Cannon and Phil Entzminger, High Point Regional Coordinator Rich Manger, Pittsboro Regional Coordinators Liz Barber and Robert Jessup, Raleigh Regional Coordinators Christine Scheef and Lindsey Granados, Salisbury Regional Coordinator Darrin Jordan, Wilmington Regional Coordinator John H. Anderson, Jr.; and CCCE Board Members Gordon Widenhouse, Rebecca Britton, Rich Manger, Bradley Bannon, Adrienne Blocker, Christine Scheef, Brooke Schmidly, Mark Sumwalt; Bill Powers (*ex officio*) and David Henson (*ex officio*).

Special thanks also to our 2016-17 Site Coordinators:

Asheville: Brett Pinkston, ***Charlotte area:*** Beverly K. Moore, ***Fayetteville:*** Tanja Shurling and Karen Kueny, ***Greenville:*** Jessi Cannon, ***High Point:*** Rose Pratt and Jane Goeke, ***Pittsboro:*** Patti Clapper and Lakisha Chichester, ***Raleigh:*** Michelle Keely and Sandra Strickland, ***Salisbury:*** Emily Applewhite, and ***Wilmington:*** Brandy Jo Lea and Christi Wert.

*****If you are interested in supporting or learning more about the NCAJ High School Mock Trial program, please contact Sue Johnson, State Coordinator, at sueheathjohnson@gmail.com, or Rebecca Britton or Gordon Widenhouse, Mock Trial Committee Co-Chairs, at rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com or mgwidenhouse@yahoo.com.***