



## MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2013

*Brought to you by the  
Carolina Center for Civic Education and the NCAJ Mock Trial Committee  
"Investing in our future, creating tomorrow's leaders"*

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR EIGHT REGIONAL WINNERS!**

*By Sue H. Johnson*

*CCCE Program Coordinator*

On Saturday, February 9, 2013, nearly 600 students from across North Carolina demonstrated their best trial advocacy skills in the case of *Mia Donovan v. Shannon Dempsey, Jordan Reddick, and Rubicon Soccer Club*. Impressive displays of legal knowledge and witness characterizations took place throughout the day; in the end, the following eight teams earned the right to compete at the State Finals in Raleigh:

<b>Asheville Regional winner:</b>	T. C. Roberson High School
<b>Charlotte Regional winner:</b>	Hendersonville High School Cats
<b>Fayetteville Regional winner:</b>	Village Christian Academy Purple
<b>Greenville Regional winner:</b>	J.H. Rose High School Blue
<b>High Point Regional winner:</b>	Gaston Christian School Red
<b>Hillsborough Regional winner:</b>	Central Carolina Homeschoolers
<b>Raleigh Regional winner:</b>	Raleigh Charter Lapis
<b>Wilmington Regional winner:</b>	Isaac Bear Early College High School

***THANK YOU to the MANY legal professionals who volunteered their time as presiding judges, scoring jurors, and site volunteers at the Regional competitions; we could not have held these events without you!!*** **Altogether, 13 judges, 265 attorneys, 90 paralegals, and 25 law or pre-law students volunteered their time to make the Regional competitions a success.**

### **MOCK TRIAL STUDENT EARNS TRIP TO SEE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION!**

*By Sue H. Johnson*

*CCCE Mock Trial Program Coordinator*

On January 2, 2013, National High School Mock Trial Chair Dewain Fox forwarded information to all of the state mock trial programs about a contest for students to earn a free trip to President Obama's inauguration. Interested students had to create and submit an essay, drawing, or video describing their hopes, dreams, and concerns for their generation – and their submission was due on January 10, barely a week away. A daunting proposition? Not for **Michelle Li** of Raleigh Charter High School, a seasoned mock trial competitor. Michelle's moving video testimonial won first place in the 13-17 year old division of the nationwide Rocket21 contest, earning her a free trip to



Washington, D.C.! You can view Michelle's winning entry at [http://intro.rocket21.com/President2013/upload/michelle96\\_130023533547247649.m4v](http://intro.rocket21.com/President2013/upload/michelle96_130023533547247649.m4v)

Michelle describes her experiences at the inauguration: "The 57<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Ceremony installed a black man into the highest office for the second time on Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday. On that day many people, including the President, reflected upon how far our country had come. Being a part of that was a unique experience that not only allowed me to intimately experience a part of history and an historical ceremony, but also allowed me to learn a great deal about our nation's capital and lawmaking body.

"Reportedly an estimated 45% fewer people attended President Obama's second inauguration. It did not feel that way. Everywhere one turned, there were more people and even more people. It was interesting to see and feel and be a part of the flow of energy within the crowd, an experience that was unique to actually being there. All of the speakers were wonderful, and the many performances by big name stars gave the whole Inauguration a more "rockstar" feel to it.



"During my time in DC I also had the privilege of meeting several Congressmen. I was able to ask them their opinions of certain aspects of government and get firsthand accounts of what I'd been learning in school. I also had the chance to talk to members of a bi-partisan interest group that focused on many issues such as telecommunications and the environment. The organization seemed to embody the positive side of lobbying, bringing the issues directly to Congress. Finally, I was able to go on a private tour of the Capitol building. The interior of the Capitol was gorgeous. It was interesting how every aspect reflected little nuances of the government.

"Overall, it was amazing and totally surreal that I was afforded the incredible opportunity to attend the Inauguration. To walk in the capital, walk on the steps that President Obama travelled down to his inauguration, just put a special perspective on everything. It was an exceptional experience that I can truly say I will remember forever."

Michelle clearly displays the communication skills, critical thinking abilities, and self-confidence which mock trial helps to instill in participants. We heartily congratulate Michelle on her accomplishment!

### **SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: BRITTON LAW, P.A.**

**Rebecca Britton** wears many hats in organizing the Fayetteville Regional competition. Not only is she the CCCE Vice-President and Treasurer and co-chair of the NCAJ High School Mock Trial Committee, but also she serves as the Fayetteville Regional Coordinator. Her firm, Britton Law, sponsors the Fayetteville regional competition and her entire office staff and family participated in the Fayetteville event.

**Beth Owens**, paralegal at Britton Law, serves as the Fayetteville Site Coordinator.

Two days after the 2013 Regional tournament, Rebecca writes "On Saturday evening at around 7:30 after the final round in Fayetteville ended and results were announced, my feet hurt. I was dead tired. All the great site volunteers who worked with



me that day felt the same way, I know. We had been running since 7:30 that morning when we lugged all of our boxes and equipment into the courthouse, greeting our deputies who provided security for the day and giving them a box of donuts as a little extra thank you. But my feeling dead tired was a good tired because I knew we had just played a very important role in laying some of the building blocks for the future of about 70 or so teenagers who competed that day at the Cumberland County Courthouse. We had also helped to build a more positive impression of the legal profession with these students' parents and teachers. As they enjoyed being amazed by their students' performances, they saw judges, lawyers, paralegals, legal assistants and students from the legal studies program at Methodist University all volunteering their time to help make it happen.

“My sense of accomplishment was brought home even more as a parent came up to me, took my hand, and thanked me. He got a little misty as he talked about the transformation he had seen in his daughter's confidence, her public speaking ability, and her maturity through her involvement in mock trial. She had received a “Best Attorney” award in the final round. I had watched the final round – she was terrific and most certainly earned that award. A student from the first runner up team commented that he was a junior and he was going to come back and compete next year. I hope I get to see him compete again next year – he also did a great job in the final round. The coach from the first runner up team was grinning from ear to ear and said she was really looking forward to doing this again next year.

“As the hugs and the pictures finished and we packed up to leave the courthouse, the months and weeks of phone calls and e-mails and preparation for the regional competitions across the state were a distant memory, most certainly to be repeated next year. Being part of something so extraordinary with such an impact on its participants – the future leaders of this State and our communities – is incredibly fulfilling because the time you spend so clearly and so tangibly has such a positive impact in so many ways. That is why I have supported and been a part of this program for the last 20 years. To me, it is one of best ways that we as members of NCAJ and members of this honorable profession give back. **Thank you** to everyone who came out to support this great program this year – we could not have done it without you!”

### **CALENDAR 2012/2013 MOCK TRIAL SEASON**

State Finals - Campbell Law School, Raleigh  
National Championship - Indianapolis, Indiana

Friday & Saturday, March 1 - 2, 2013  
Thursday - Sunday, May 9 - 12, 2013

### **THANK YOU TO OUR 2012-13 OUTREACH PROGRAM SPONSORS!**

**Lawyers Mutual Liability Insurance Company of North Carolina**  
**North Carolina Lawyers Weekly**  
**Mary Duke Biddle Foundation**

**We still need more sponsorship support** to fully realize the goals of our outreach program. If you can join us in this important outreach, please contact Program Coordinator Sue Johnson at [SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com](mailto:SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com) or CCCE Vice-President Rebecca Britton at [rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com](mailto:rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com)

### **THANK YOU TO OUR 2012-13 COMPETITION SPONSORS!**

**State Finals: Rudolf Widenhouse & Fialko**  
Asheville: Melrose, Seago & Lay, P.A.  
Charlotte: The Sumwalt Law Firm  
Durham: The Law Offices of James Scott Farrin  
Fayetteville: Britton Law, P.A.  
Greenville: Hardee & Hardee, LLP

High Point: Crumley Roberts, LLP  
Raleigh: Twiggs Strickland & Rabenau, P.A.  
Wilmington: Shipman & Wright, LLP

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

***IT TAKES A VILLAGE . . .***

***Special thanks to Mock Trial Committee Members and Regional Coordinators who have agreed to serve for the 2012/2013 season: Mark Melrose (Asheville Regional Coordinator), Paul Goodson (Charlotte Regional Coordinator), Russell Johnson (Durham Regional Coordinator), Philip Entzminger (Greenville Regional Coordinator), Rich Manger and Adrienne Blocker (High Point Regional Coordinators), Christine Scheef (Raleigh Regional Coordinator), John H. Anderson, Jr., (Wilmington Regional Coordinator), Ken Campbell, Sheila Chavis, Elizabeth Kuniholm, Carlos Mahoney, Chris Nichols, John O'Neal, Katy Parker, Elizabeth Spruill, and Mark Sumwalt.***

***Special thanks also to our Site Coordinators who will serve at Regionals in the 2012/2013 season!***  
***Asheville:*** Cindy Bryson, ***Charlotte:*** Beverly K. Moore, ***Durham:*** Patti Clapper, ***Fayetteville:*** Elizabeth Owens, ***Greenville:*** Kristin Miller; ***High Point:*** Karen Parrish, ***Raleigh:*** Lakisha Chichester and Fran LaFrankie, ***Wilmington:*** Brandy Jo Lea.

***\*\*If you are interested in serving on the NCAJ Mock Trial Committee, please contact either Sue Johnson, Program Coordinator, at [sueheathjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:sueheathjohnson@gmail.com), or Rebecca Britton or Gordon Widenhouse, Committee Co-Chairs, at [rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com](mailto:rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com) or [mgwidenhouse@yahoo.com](mailto:mgwidenhouse@yahoo.com).***