



## MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2015

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*Carolina Center for Civic Education*

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

### **REGIONAL CHAMPIONS ADVANCE TO STATE FINALS!**

*By Sue H. Johnson*

*CCCE Mock Trial Program Coordinator*



On Saturday, February 7, 2015, nearly 600 high school students argued the case of *Justin Burke v. ForensiTech, Inc.* in our 23<sup>rd</sup> annual NCAJ High School Mock Trial competition. Students from the mountains to the coast converged upon our eight regional sites, ready to display their best trial advocacy skills and most winsome witness portrayals. After three intense rounds, the following regional champions earned the right to compete at State Finals, hosted at Campbell Law School in Raleigh on March 6-7:

<b>Asheville Regional Champion:</b>	Gaston Christian School Red
<b>Charlotte Regional Champion:</b>	Westchester Country Day School White
<b>Durham Regional Champion:</b>	East Chapel Hill High School Black
<b>Fayetteville Regional Champion:</b>	Triton High School
<b>Greenville Regional Champion:</b>	Raleigh Charter School Green
<b>High Point Regional Champion:</b>	Blackstone
<b>Raleigh Regional Champion:</b>	Central Carolina Homeschoolers
<b>Wilmington Regional Champion:</b>	J. H. Rose High School Green

**THANK YOU** to the many legal professionals who volunteered their time as presiding judges, scoring jurors, and site volunteers at the Regional competitions. Altogether, **26 judges, 275 attorneys, 85 paralegals, and 20 law or pre-law students** volunteered their time to make the Regional competitions a success. We could not have done it without you!



## **AND THE RESULTS ARE IN: ANOTHER BALANCED CASE!**

*By Sue H. Johnson*

*CCCE Mock Trial Program Coordinator*

Congratulations to the 77 teams that argued their cases with passion and excellence at our regional sites on February 7th. We know that the students and coaches invested months of time and untold hours in preparation, and their diligent efforts resulted in exciting performances. Many judges and scoring jurors expressed how impressed they were by the students' knowledge of the law, effective direct and cross examinations, and compelling witness portrayals. Well done! We were also pleased to hear that students and coaches found the case to be enjoyable and instructive – a worthy investment of their time.

For the past three years, the CCCE has created original competition cases for use in our state competitions. In addition to making them challenging and educational, we strive to provide cases that are balanced – so that the outcome of every trial depends upon the students' own skills rather than upon the side they are portraying. We are pleased to report that once again, we succeeded; in fact, our 2014-2015 case *Justin Burke v. ForensiTech, Inc.* was the best-balanced case yet!

How balanced, you ask? Out of 62\* preliminary rounds of trials, the Plaintiff won 31 rounds (50%) and the Defense won 31 rounds (50%). And of 186 ballots from our scoring jurors, 93 were won by the plaintiff (50%) and 93 were won by the defense (50%) – in other words, the case was balanced **perfectly!**

All of us at the CCCE want to provide our students with the very best possible educational and competition experience. We are pleased that we have once again delivered a case that was both enjoyable and fair to both sides.

**Many thanks** to the volunteers, teachers, and students who make this program possible. We look forward to seeing you at our summer camps or in competition next year!

\* Removing Outliers (*Point Differential > 45 points across the three ballots in the trial*) as per standard statistical practice. In those trials, due to the random nature of Round 1 pairings, very experienced teams met less-experienced or less-prepared teams, and these skewed rounds were not equally distributed on both sides. Thus, data was examined for all trials in which the outcome was truly “in play.”

## **VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FOR THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IS OPEN!** **REGISTER NOW TO JOIN US!**

By Sue H. Johnson

CCCE Mock Trial Program Coordinator



Did you have a blast helping at one of our eight regional competitions? Or were you sad that sickness or a busy schedule kept you from the fun? Either way, rejoice! You have another opportunity to make a difference in just three short months!

In mid-May, 46 state and territorial champion high school mock trial teams will descend upon Raleigh, North Carolina, eager to compete for the title of National Champion! But to make it happen, **we need YOU** – to serve as a presiding judge, scoring juror, or “site” volunteer.

Judges and jurors should be attorneys or judges with litigation or previous mock trial experience. Other legal professionals, teachers, college or dependable high school students, and “friends of mock trial” are just as crucial to making it all come together by helping behind the scenes.

For all the details, visit <https://www.ncmocktrial.org/nationals2015>. And sign up now to volunteer at <https://www.ncmocktrial.org/nationals2015/judges-and-volunteers>.

Questions? Contact Host Director Gordon Widenhouse ([mgwidenhouse@yahoo.com](mailto:mgwidenhouse@yahoo.com)), CCCE Vice President Rebecca Britton ([Rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com](mailto:Rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com)), or CCCE Program Coordinator Sue Johnson ([nationals@ncmocktrial.org](mailto:nationals@ncmocktrial.org)).

***SEE YOU THERE!***

## **THANK YOU TO OUR 2014 – 2015 OUTREACH PROGRAM SPONSOR!**

**Lawyers Mutual Liability Insurance Company of North Carolina**

### **CALENDAR 2014 – 2015 MOCK TRIAL SEASON**

Widenhouse Award Nomination Materials Due

Friday., Feb. 27, 2015

State Finals Competition

Fri. – Sat., March 6-7, 2015

National Championship, Raleigh, NC

May 14-16, 2015

CCCE Summer Mock Trial Camp, Chapel Hill

Weds. – Sat., July 29 – Aug. 1, 2015

### **THANK YOU TO OUR 2014 – 2015 COMPETITION SPONSORS and SUPPORTERS!**

**For information on becoming a Regional sponsor, please contact CCCE Vice President Rebecca Britton at [Rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com](mailto:Rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com).**

#### **State Finals: Rudolf Widenhouse & Fialko**

Asheville: ---

Supporters: 28<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Bar Association, Asheville Area Paralegal Association

Charlotte: The Sumwalt Law Firm

Durham: ---

Supporter: Durham County Bar Association

Fayetteville: Britton Law, P.A.

Supporter: Cumberland County Bar Association

Greenville: Hardee & Hardee, LLP

High Point: ---

Raleigh: Twiggs Strickland & Rabenau, P.A.

Wilmington: Shipman & Wright, LLP

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

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

***Special thanks to Regional Coordinators for the 2014-2015 season: Marion Parsons Groat (Asheville Regional Coordinator), Frances Knox and Paul Goodson (Charlotte Regional Coordinators), Russell Johnson and Robert Jessup (Durham Regional Coordinators), Philip Entzinger (Greenville Regional Coordinator), Rich Manger (High Point Regional Coordinator), Christine Scheef and Lindsey Granados (Raleigh Regional Coordinators), John H. Anderson, Jr., (Wilmington Regional Coordinator).***

#### ***Special thanks also to our Site Coordinators for the 2014-2015 season!***

***Asheville: Susan Gaddis, Charlotte: Beverly K. Moore, Durham: Patti Clapper and Lakisha Chichester, Fayetteville: Elizabeth Owens, Greenville: Jill Gustman and Kristin Miller; High Point: Karen Parrish, Raleigh: Fran LaFrankie and Michelle Keely, Wilmington: Brandy Jo Lea.***

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