



MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2012

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

START WITH WHY: HOW GREAT LEADERS INSPIRE OTHERS TO ACTION

By Sue H. Johnson

CCCE Mock Trial Program Coordinator

The new mock trial season is getting underway; teacher coaches and attorney advisors are meeting with enthusiastic students, eager to start working on the new case when it is released on Sept. 21. In the excitement of this new beginning, busy with the details of organizing team meetings and filling out paperwork, it is good to step back for a moment and ask why so many students and adults across North Carolina are willing to devote countless hours to this activity. What makes mock trial so compelling that busy judges and attorneys will mentor teams of students and serve at competitions year after year? And why should YOU get involved?

In his best-selling book *Start With Why*, Simon Sinek proposes that successful organizations, movements, and individuals must first “start with why”: “Instead of asking, ‘WHAT should we do . . . the questions must be asked, ‘WHY did we start WHAT we’re doing in the first place, and WHAT can we do to bring our cause to life?’”¹ According to Sinek, your WHY is the underlying beliefs that drive your actions. Asking WHY brings clarity of purpose that inspires others to get involved because they catch the vision of a cause bigger than themselves. Focusing first on WHY helps individuals to develop the values and guiding principles – the HOW – to realize their vision. When your principles remain true to your underlying purpose, your results – WHAT you actually do – will achieve your goals, concretely demonstrating your purpose to the world. Sinek asserts that visionaries such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Steve Wozniak and Steve Jobs, and Bill Gates have had an enormous impact on the world because they never lost sight of their WHY.

Twenty-one years ago, under the visionary leadership of CCCE President M. Gordon Widenhouse, Jr., the Academy of Trial Lawyers (now the North Carolina Advocates for Justice) began operating the statewide mock trial program in order to help North Carolina high school students gain a greater understanding of our justice system. Our WHY and HOW are aptly summed up in the CCCE mission statement, which declares:



“The Carolina Center for Civic Education believes that teaching high school students about our justice system and trial-by-jury is crucial to preserving our rights as citizens. Our mission is to create engaged citizens through the hands-on learning activity of mock trial, thereby enabling students to gain the civic understanding, self-confidence, analytical reasoning, and communications skills that are vital for tomorrow's leaders.”

¹ Simon Sinek, *Start With Why*, New York: Portfolio, 2009, p. 56.

Over the past two decades, thousands of students have reaped the benefits of the mock trial program. Listen to the words written by rising sophomore Mary Felder of Raleigh Charter High School in 2009 as she described her experiences: "Mock trial is the chance to be recognized as an individual in a team setting. It has been a way to grow so close to a group of such different people, working toward a collective goal. I can't even express the rush it gives; I feel as though I am having so much fun, but working toward something important. Of course I understand the USA judicial system in a way I never did before, and now I feel more invested in the choices we make as a country, since I can now think about all the cases we hear about on news and read about in the paper in a logical way, and draw my own conclusions, rather than accepting other's opinions. It feels like I am a part of something big - something real - that is relying on me. I have a place that requires me to think logically, and really stop to look at things objectively, while at the same time, I have an absolute blast. It has definitely brought me out of my shell - I am so excited to share that experience next year with incoming teammates. It has been the biggest and best thing I have ever taken part in."



Mary continued to compete on the Raleigh Charter mock trial team throughout high school, earning many individual awards at both the regional and state level. As a senior last year, Mary said that participating in mock trial had changed the course of her career; you can hear her testimonial in a video on our website at <http://ncmocktrial.org/competitions>; Mary's video is # 6 on the list.

Many of you reading this newsletter chose to enter the legal profession because you saw it as a way to make a difference in the lives of individuals. Thank you for the amazing work that you do! In addition, the thousands of hours devoted by countless legal professionals to the mock trial program over the last two decades has made a tremendous impact on the lives of students in North Carolina. And as Judge Mary Ann Tally and attorneys Darren C. Allen and Fran Muse wrote in last month's newsletter, those who volunteer come away enriched by the experience and eager to serve again. We are glad that so many dedicated, selfless legal professionals truly catch the vision – the WHY – of the mock trial program: investing in our future, creating tomorrow's leaders!

THANK YOU to the attorneys who have already agreed to serve as **attorney advisors** this season. As new schools register, we will be in touch with those new attorneys who have contacted us and expressed a willingness to help. ***In addition, we need attorneys to advise teams in the following locations: CHAPEL HILL, WAKE FOREST (the town), and ASHEVILLE.*** If you can help, please contact Program Coordinator Sue Johnson at SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com.

CALENDAR 2012/2013 MOCK TRIAL SEASON

Final Team Registration Deadline	Friday, November 30, 2012
Team Roster, Registration Fee, Photo Release Due	Friday, January 11, 2013
Last Day to Withdraw Without Penalty	Friday, January 18, 2013
Regional Competition	Saturday, February 9, 2013
State Finals - Campbell Law School, Raleigh	Friday & Saturday, March 1 - 2, 2013
National Championship - Indianapolis, Indiana	Thursday - Sunday, May 9 - 12, 2013

THANK YOU TO OUR 2012-13 OUTREACH PROGRAM SPONSORS!

Lawyers Mutual Liability Insurance Company of North Carolina
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 Sue at SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com or CCCE Vice-President Rebecca Britton at 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:*** Kristen 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, or Rebecca Britton or Gordon Widenhouse, Committee Co-Chairs, at rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com or mgwidenhouse@yahoo.com.*