



## MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2014

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

### **CAMPERS STRANDED OVERNIGHT; ONE STUDENT SERIOUSLY INJURED!**

*By Robin Thomas, Investigative Reporter for Utopia Eyewitness News, WUNN*

*(AKA Sue H. Johnson, CCCE Mock Trial Program Coordinator)*

#### **June 25, 2014: Breaking News! 11 pm newscast transcript**

Reporter Anna Folkrod here, with Utopia Eyewitness news in Eden, Utopia. We've just learned that twelve students at ForensiTech Camp right here in Eden appear to be missing tonight after going on a hike this evening. ForensiTech Camp is a forensics science camp holding its 5<sup>th</sup> annual summer session at Eden University. I spoke with ForensiTech Camp Director Hayden Woodward about the situation moments ago. Woodward refused to say anything other than that local sheriffs have been alerted and expect to find the students soon. A sudden, unpredicted rainstorm has apparently complicated their search efforts. Stay tuned for further updates.

#### **June 26, 2014: 6 pm newscast transcript**

Hello, this is reporter Robin Thomas with Utopia Eyewitness News. I'm here in Eden at the Garden County Medical Center, where I just spoke with ER physician Dr. Nicky Chintal. Dr. Chintal tells me that one of the stranded ForensiTech students, Justin Burke, was badly injured in a fall last night. Sheriffs did not locate the students until early this morning; the students spent the night on a nearby mountain, unable to find their way back to their van after hiking from a scenic overlook. Dr. Chintal would not provide any other details because Justin's parent, Sydney Burke, is flying back from a trip overseas and has not yet seen Justin. We hope to have more news on this disturbing event by tomorrow night.

#### **June 27, 2014: 6 pm newscast transcript**

Reporter Robin Thomas here, with another update on injured student Justin Burke, who reportedly fell while students were stranded overnight on a mountain near Eden. We've learned that Justin broke his neck and sustained a serious concussion during the fall; he remains in the ICU. Apparently Justin may have been suffering from low blood sugar on the hike due to Type I diabetes that was not disclosed to the camp staff. Both Camp Director Hayden Woodward and Justin's parent, Sydney Burke, are understandably distraught by Justin's injuries and pray for his full recovery. Neither wanted to talk with us on-camera; it appears this unfortunate accident may end up in our courts before it's all over.

Reporter "Robin Thomas" is correct; the case of *Justin Burke v. ForensiTech Camp, Inc.* will proceed to trial on **February 7, 2015**. Teams are already hard at work preparing the case, which was written by CCCE Program Coordinator Sue Johnson (author or co-author of our cases since 2012-13). In the process, students develop an appreciation for our trial-by-jury system; this year, they are also learning about Type I diabetes, spinal cord injuries, and wilderness first aid. Many thanks to those who assisted with the case, including Dr. Harvey Hamrick at UNC and orthopedic trauma surgeon Dr. Adam Kaufman in Asheville; and case reviewers Matt Burke, Samuel Johnson, Paul Kaufman, Justin Matarrese, Katy Parker, William Warihay, and CCCE Case Committee Chair M. Gordon Widenhouse, Jr.

## **WHERE ARE THEY NOW? FORMER NC “MOCKER” EXCELS AS ACTRESS!**

*By Darren Allen, Esq.; Attorney-Advisor for Central Carolina Homeschoolers*

As those involved in the mock trial program know, most of our students do not go on to study law. Yet they all find the skills that they develop to be useful in whatever career path they choose, whether they become doctors, entrepreneurs...or actors! Keep reading for an exciting update on a former “mock” at Asheboro High School. – Sue Johnson



A little over five years ago, Elizabeth Lail played the role of nuclear protester Pat Rodgers while competing in the North Carolina High School Mock Trial Competition. Later this week, she

takes her acting career to a new level when she stars in the ABC drama “Once Upon a Time.”

Elizabeth started her high school career at Asheboro High School. For two years, Elizabeth was a member of the mock trial team coached by Steve Schmidly and Brooke Schmidly. During the 2008-2009 year, the case dealt with a nuclear war protestor suing a security guard for excessive use of force. On the plaintiff’s side, Elizabeth used her acting talent to play the role of the plaintiff. On the defense side, Elizabeth was an attorney with an opening statement. Elizabeth’s team won the Winston-Salem Regional, and then competed at the State Championship Tournament in Charlotte.

While in high school, Elizabeth displayed her acting skills not just in mock trial, but also in several school dramas. In 2009, Elizabeth was accepted into the highly selective acting program at the North Carolina School of the Arts. There, she graduated high school. She later received her Bachelor in Fine Arts from the School of the Arts in 2014.

Within months of her graduation, Elizabeth secured a role on the highly acclaimed ABC drama, “Once Upon a Time.” The drama transports familiar Disney characters into the fictional town of Storybrooke, Maine, stripped of their memories. Elizabeth has been cast as “Frozen” character Anna.

The season premiere of “Once Upon a Time” will air on ABC on **Sunday, September 28** at 8:00 PM.

Congratulations to Elizabeth and all of our other former mock trial students who have gone on to achieve success! We are proud of you!

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

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

**SPONSORS ARE NEEDED FOR OUR 2014-15 OUTREACH!** By supporting the Outreach Project, you can help students in under-served parts of North Carolina learn about trial-by-jury while developing crucial academic skills. Contact Sue Johnson at [SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com](mailto:SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com) or Rebecca Britton at [rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com](mailto:rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com) to learn how you can get involved.

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

Early Registration Deadline	Friday, Sept. 26, 2014
Final Registration Deadline and \$175 Team Fee Due	Friday, Dec. 12, 2014
Team Member List, Code of Ethics, Release Forms Due	Friday, Jan. 9, 2015
**Last Day to Withdraw Without Penalty**	Friday, Jan. 9, 2015
Regional Competition	Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015
Widenhouse Award Nomination Materials Due	Weds., Feb. 25, 2015
State Finals Competition	Fri. – Sat., March 6-7, 2015
National Championship, Raleigh, NC	May 14-16, 2015

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

**We need new sponsors for three of our regional sites! For more information, please contact CCCE Vice President Rebecca Britton at [Rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com](mailto:Rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com).**

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

Asheville: **\*\*Sponsor Needed\*\***  
Charlotte: The Sumwalt Law Firm  
Durham: **\*\*Sponsor Needed\*\***  
Supporter: Durham County Bar Association  
Fayetteville: Britton Law, P.A.  
Greenville: Hardee & Hardee, LLP  
High Point: **\*\*Sponsor Needed\*\***  
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 who will serve for the 2014-2015 season: \*\*Coordinator Needed\*\**** (Asheville Regional Coordinator), Frances Knox and Paul Goodson (Charlotte Regional Coordinators), Russell Johnson and Robert Jessup (Durham Regional Coordinators), Philip Entzminger (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 who will serve at Regionals in the 2014-2015 season!***  
***Asheville:*** Susan Gaddis, ***Charlotte:*** Beverly K. Moore, ***Durham:*** Patti Clapper and Lakisha Chichester, ***Fayetteville:*** Elizabeth Owens, ***Greenville:*** Jill Gustman; ***High Point:*** Karen Parrish, ***Raleigh:*** Fran LaFrankie and Michelle Keely, ***Wilmington:*** Brandy Jo Lea.

***\*\*If you are interested in 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).***