

NCAJ MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER

*Brought to you by the NCAJ Mock Trial Committee
and the Carolina Center for Civic Education*

MAY 2010

“Investing in our future, creating tomorrow’s leaders”

REFLECTIONS

By M. Gordon Widenhouse, Jr.

At the State Finals of the NCAJ High School Mock Trial Competition, I enjoyed the company of my two college-age daughters, who helped us with the activities on Friday and Saturday. They were both toddlers when we began this program. And the event gave me an occasion to reflect on the impact we can have on our children, both our kin and others who will lead society when we are gone.

Over the past nineteen years that NCAJ has poured much of its heart and soul into the mock trial experience for high school students, we have touched, in a positive way, hundreds and hundreds of people. Hopefully, we have taught them the importance of the justice system, of the right to trial by jury, of the significance of lawyers protecting people’s rights, and of the need for each of us to contribute to society’s progress. In watching the growth of this program, I have been constantly struck by the power of students growing in confidence as public speakers and as critical thinkers. The success of our efforts extends far, far beyond being named a best speaker or witness, winning a regional final, or claiming a state championship. It runs much deeper as it positively influences an individual to be a better and more productive member of our society.

I had countless conversations this spring with justices and judges at every level in the judiciary about the mock trial program, mainly trying to coax them into giving up a weekend to judge the competition. To a person, each remarked about the virtue of the program and praised NCAJ for its tireless efforts, in their words, “to train our future leaders.” What a remarkable compliment! And what an awesome responsibility. Once again, I remembered what Allan Bailey, Howard Twiggs, and others had taught me and made me “proud to be a trial lawyer.”

After my daughters returned to their colleges, they called me and remarked how much they enjoyed seeing and helping with the State Finals and experiencing “what you have always been so passionate about.” I hope we all continue to fan the flame of the passion we, as an organization, have for this program. I believe it has done, and will continue to do great things through its outreach. Its successes will rest at the feet of the countless NCAJ members who serve as judges, jurors, coaches, advisors, volunteers, and supporters. Thank you, each of you, for what you do. Let’s pledge now to make 2010-2011 another banner year for our flagship public education initiative

MOCK TRIAL COACHES – THANK YOU!

The success and learning experiences shared by more than 600 students across North Carolina this season could not have happened without the time commitment and dedication of the many attorneys and legal professionals who volunteered to coach mock trial teams. Some coached more than one team. Some have coached year after year and others have just begun this rewarding public service. We would like to thank and recognize our mock trial coaches:

James Baker, Fayetteville
*Brad Bannon, Raleigh
Shantel Boone, Gastonia
*Lee Boughman, Fayetteville
Sherry Brewer, Hendersonville
*John Bryson, High Point
*Bill Cameron, Salisbury
Elisa Cere, Raleigh
Ronnie Chriscoe, Mooresville
*Philip Clarke, Moorehead City
Phillip Cowan, Raleigh
Pam Craig (paralegal), Wilmington
Colonel Daugherty, Camp Lejeune
John deVille, Franklin
Mark Edwards, Durham
*Tim Edwards, Fayetteville
Cathy Fuller Jones, Beaufort
*Steve Gugenheim, Raleigh
Victoria Hardin, Fayetteville
Perry Henson, Greensboro
*Lucy Inman, Raleigh
Elaine Kelly, Fayetteville
Trey Lee, Hendersonville
*Andrew Leliever, Raleigh
*Kenneth Love, Winston-Salem
Stephanie Lynn, Gastonia
Shaunis Mercer, Angier
*Jeff Miller, Greeneville
*Fran Muse, Durham
*Barry Nakell, Chapel Hill
*Jeff Newton, Beaufort
Heather Nichols, Fayetteville
Blake Norman, Raleigh

Jane Painter, Gastonia
Lee Peindl, Gastonia
Shannon Poore, Raleigh
Mary Jo Potter, Mooresville
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Richard Rawls, Greensboro
Miko Red Arrow, Iredell
*Edd K. Roberts, Raleigh
*Toussaint Romain, Charlotte
*Mike Rothrock, Raleigh
*Brooke Schmidly, Asheboro
*Steve Schmidly, Asheboro
Robin Setzer, Winston-Salem
*Kenneth Shanklin, Wilmington
*Robert Singagliese, Charlotte
Jerry Smith, Henderson
Elizabeth Spruill, Manteo
Jonathan Strange, Fayetteville
*Lockett Talley, Fayetteville
Cathy Thompson, Charlotte
James Thompson, Greensboro
Jeffrey Thompson, Bunn
Thai Vang, Misenheimer
*John Vermitsky, High Point
Kevin Robert Vozzo, Chapel Hill
*Rob Waddell, Greenville
*Stacy Weaver, Angier
*Steve Weeks, Beaufort
Greg Whitley, Fayetteville
*Cathy Williams, Salisbury
*LaDonna Williams, Raleigh
Caitlyn Young, Fayetteville

Thank you for what you have done. The students you impacted this year will never forget you.
(* designates NCAJ members)

GRAY STONE DAY SCHOOL HEADING TO NATIONALS

Students Trinity Welsh, Heather Rapachietta, Sierra Shepherd, Olivia Henry, Eldon Zacek III, William Howland III, Ric Huneycutt, Zach Torrence and David Friedman are the Gray Stone Day School team heading to Nationals on May 6th to represent North Carolina. The students have been working with their teacher advisor, Marcus Duffin and their attorney coach, Thai Vang, to prepare a new case which was released on April 1st. We wish them well in Philadelphia and hope they have a great time. We will report on their success in June!



Thank you to the following sponsors/contributors to the Mock Trial Program for the 2009/2010 season:

The Florence L. Rogers Charitable Trust

Regional Sponsors for 09/10 season:

Asheville: Melrose, Siego & Lay, PA, Grimes & Teich, LLP, and the 28th Judicial District Bar

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Fayetteville: Hutchens, Senter & Britton, P.A.

High Point: Crumley Roberts, LLP

Durham: Glenn, Mills, Fisher & Mahoney, P.A.

Wilmington: Shipman & Wright, LLP

State Finals: Rudolf, Widenhouse & Fialko

Individual Pledges: Doug & Peggy Abrams, Mike Anderson, Brad Bannon, Don Beskind, Janet Ward Black, Steve Bowden, Cliff Britt, Becky Britton, Wade Byrd, Heidi Chapman, Joe Cheshire, John Cox, Burton Craige, Kathleen Glancy, Gary Jackson, Lucy Inman, David Kirby, Albert Kirby, Liz Kuniholm, Carlos Mahoney, Andy McVey, Mark Melrose, Phillip Miller, Chuck Monnett, Chris Nichols, Annemarie Pantazis, Katy Parker, Spencer Parris, Doug Parsons, Karen Rabenau, Lloyd Smith, Adam Stein, Don Strickland, Mark Sumwalt, Hank Teich, Hoyt Tessener, Howard Twiggs, Bob Whitely, Elise Whitley, James Williams, Tricia and Tacker LeCarpentier.

Thomas, Ferguson & Mullins, LLP, Durham, NC: Sponsors of our teacher training workshops held in Raleigh and Greensboro

Mark Valentine - The Visual Advantage, Raleigh, NC: Donating regional competition signs, and signs and exhibits for state finals

Larry Wolfe - Wolfe Audiovisual Productions, Fayetteville, NC : Donating audiovisual services for promotional videos and filming teacher training workshop and Championship round at State Finals.

CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW - partnering with NCAJ to host our state final competition!