

MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER
Brought to you by the NCAJ Mock Trial Committee
SEPTEMBER 2009
"Investing in our future, creating tomorrow's leaders"

CAMPBELL PROVIDES NEW HOME FOR MOCK TRIAL STATE FINALS

It's never too early to start getting excited about the 2010 NCAJ High School Mock Trial state finals being held on March 19 & 20 at the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law at Campbell University's new location at 225 Hillsborough Street in Raleigh.

"We are so pleased to be hosting this wonderful event," said Dean Melissa Essary. "Not only is it a great experience for the participants, it's also a chance to share our new facility with students from across the state. Being so close to local, state and federal judiciary gives our students, and those coming for the competition, an opportunity to see the learning laboratory that is the working courts and legislature operating in front of them."

We anticipate several events throughout our two days in Raleigh. While the agenda is not yet finalized, we envision tours of the NC Supreme Court and Legislature on Friday, March 19 along with tours of the new Campbell Law School followed by a reception. Saturday will feature two rounds of competition in Campbell Law's state-of-the-art facilities, awards ceremony in Campbell's spacious auditorium and concluding with the championship round in the late afternoon.

This setting for the State Championship competition will give our eight top teams a tremendous learning opportunity, as well as experience and exposure beyond what we have ever been able to offer before in the Mock Trial program.

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS!



Karen Parrish - Site Coordinator, High Point

I am the immediate past Chair of the Legal Assistant's Division of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice. I have served as a mock trial volunteer for many years, including

serving as the site coordinator at the High Point regional competition since 2003. In fact, I have made it a family affair. My 19 year old daughter, Haley, has served as a volunteer for the past two years. We both look forward to serving each year. The high school students are excited about their participation. It is inspiring to see their level of commitment. The competition day is a long day but at the end I feel rewarded for having participated.

My mock trial experience has been enhanced by my working relationship with Richard Manger and Adrienne Blocker, the Regional Coordinators for High Point. The High Point regional competition is expertly organized. Adrienne and Rich run the competition as one expects that they run their law offices, professionally and appreciative of all involved.

And even when things do not go as planned Rich Manger's humor helps keep the situation light. A last minute withdrawal by a team on the day of competition required a lunch round and some last minute adjustments by Rich and Adrienne. The following e-mail sent by Rich following the competition demonstrates why he and Adrienne are so much fun to work with:

Dear Liz:

I had a case of the vapors upon learning of the no-show and had to be revived with smelling salts by Evet while Karen encouraged me to soldier on. Then I was traumatized when Adrienne B (last name withheld to protect the guilty), upon my unsteadily getting back on my feet, told me to "get over it." Shocking lack of sensitivity.

The whole experience has left me with what my doctor said is an incurable post-traumatic stress disorder, unless I immediately go on a 2 week recuperation, all expenses paid, to Hawaii.

My wife is already ordering the hospital bed, sauna and massage therapist at the oceanfront solarium to which I plan to be committed. She must accompany me because the doctor says I must have someone I can trust with me at all times, especially when dining out at expensive restaurants on the island.

Please send me the credit card info for NCAJ so these expenses can be covered soon, before I go into a deeper crisis of the psyche. Please also let me know my windsurfing and helicopter sightseeing budget. I am sure Kim, Dick and Peggy will understand.

Yours in Mockstership,

Richard A. Manger

Once a Regional Coordinator, now a pathetic shell of his former self

I am proud to be a part of the Mock Trial Competition. I look forward to the upcoming competition in February 2010.

Karen Parrish
North Carolina Certified Paralegal
John S. Iorio Attorney, P.A.
Greensboro, North Carolina

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

When regional competitions and state finals are held in February and March 2010, we need you to serve as scoring jurors, presiding judges and site volunteers!

If you would like to coach a team, let us know and we'll connect you with a high school in your area!

Sponsor a Regional Competition! For \$3,500 your firm can sponsor a regional competition near you! **(The following regions are available for sponsors: Durham, Wilmington and Asheville)**

For more information on the NCAJ High School Mock Trial Program, visit the NCAJ website at <http://ncatl.org/page/15288/> or call or e-mail Rebecca Britton at (910) 864-6888, Rebecca.britton@hsbfirm.com.

Special thanks to Mock Trial Committee Members and Regional Coordinators: Paul Goodson and Jackie Smith (Charlotte Regional Coordinators), Rich Manger, Adrienne Blocker and Celeste Harris (High Point Regional Coordinators), Ken Campbell and Andy McVey (Wilmington Regional Coordinators), Russell Johnson, Carlos Mahoney and Katy Parker (Durham Regional Coordinators), Mark Melrose (Asheville Regional Coordinator), Michelle Robertson, John O'Neal, Chris Nichols, Mark Sumwalt, Elizabeth Kuniholm and Steve Schmidley. (Committee Co-Chairs: Gordon Widenhouse, Rebecca Britton)

Special thanks also to members of the Legal Assistant's Division who have agreed to serve as site coordinators!

Asheville: Debbie Dante and Cindy Bryson, **Charlotte:** Beverly King, **Durham:** Patti Clapper, **Fayetteville:** Diane Long and Beth Owens, **High Point:** Karen Parrish, **Wilmington:** Esther Sanchez

TEACHER'S CORNER



Raleigh Charter High School, 2008/09 nationals team

As an English teacher, I was interested in starting a debate team, when a colleague in History slipped a flyer for the Wade Edwards Mock Trial Program into my box and mentioned that she'd heard this program was excellent for building skills of argumentation. That was in the fall of 2007. Two years into the program now, I can't imagine my life or my students' lives without Mock Trial.

There are so many ways in which Mock Trial has helped my students personally--too personal to recount in detail, but I can say that students have learned to speak to strangers, often overcoming terrible nerves to do so. They've learned to keep their commitments to team-mates, to overcome shyness, to accept disappointment, to read and think for the fun of it, to think on their feet, to think for hours and hours at their desks in preparation for trials and enjoy it, to speak clearly and forcefully, to understand the justice system, and to appreciate hard-working, fair-minded lawyers and judges. They've learned that hard work pays off, and they've seen a strong correlation between time spent preparing and success. Mock Trial may seem like a program for those who wish to be lawyers when they grow up. It is an important way for students to explore this career option, and that matters a lot, but it does so much more.

Mock Trial builds confidence while teaching students to consider the consequences of their words. One of my students, Peter Schultz, told me: "I knew that everything I said on the witness stand would be exposed to withering scrutiny, both from the opposing attorneys and from the bench. It was a revelation that horrified me at first, but gradually molded me into a student who had no fears of going in front of others and telling my story. Mock Trial taught me that if I could keep my cool under the body-blows of a cross examination, well, I could keep my cool anywhere. I owe that invaluable lesson to Mock Trial: without it I simply wouldn't be the student I am today. A student who knows how

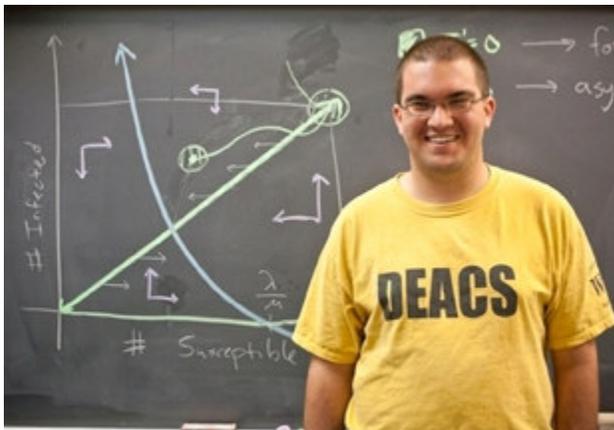
to judge the weight of his words, but isn't afraid to speak the simple truth at the same time."

Mock Trial teaches students responsibility and team work. Unlike a soccer team, each role in a mock trial is unique, and so students quickly see that if they do not do their part, no one else can easily jump in for them. This kind of interdependence builds ties across the high-school system of cliques and teaches students a new and deep appreciation for each other. Rising Sophomore Mary Felder sums it up best, pulling together the team-work, the chance to get to know those she might not have met otherwise, the joy of work, the authenticity of the trial, her knowledge of the judicial system, the thinking skills, the personal confidence, and the fun: "Mock trial is the chance to be recognized as an individual in a team setting. It has been for me 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."

Mock Trial teaches students that hard work pays off. One of the outstanding features of the Mock Trial program is that there is no substitute for working hard and coming prepared.

Amy Marschall
Raleigh Charter High School
Raleigh, NC

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Quinn Morris - The long term lessons of Mock Trial

I participated in Mock Trial during the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 school years. As a freshman at the then newly-formed Gray Stone Day School, I decided, on a bit of a whim, to try out for the Mock Trial team. I honestly cannot remember how well we did either of the years I participated, but what I can remember is how much of a blast it was. We stayed after school several days per week (and every day each week once competition drew closer), and while I did learn a lot about the court system and the law, there are many, far more valuable lessons that Mock Trial taught me.

First and foremost, as a freshman in high school, Mock Trial gave me a sense of confidence and belonging that I think I otherwise would have lacked. It showed me that I was good at some things, while in other areas, others were more talented. I made the most of my abilities, and as long as others did their part, we could work successfully together as a team. Secondly, and I think most importantly, Mock Trial taught me critical reasoning and oral presentation skills that continue to serve me to this day. In whatever field I end up in the long run, these skills will continue to help me to achieve my goals and advance in business and in life.

I, for better or for worse, did not go on to study law. I considered it for a brief time, but my passions admittedly lie elsewhere. I am currently a rising senior at Wake Forest University, studying mathematics with a minor in secondary education. After graduation, I intend to pursue a masters degree in higher education administration, with an eventual goal of becoming a dean at the college or university level.

As I said earlier, I couldn't tell you much about our success those first two years. I think we did okay, certainly nothing spectacular though. But the long term lessons I learned; critical reasoning, oral presentation, confidence, and last, but certainly not least, what it means to be part of a team, have been worth more than any trophy could have ever meant to me.

Thank you to you and the NCAJ for your continued work to make the Mock Trial program the great success it is.

Quinn Morris
Class of 2004
Grey Stone Day School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mock Trial 2009/2010 Calendar:

Teacher training: Raleigh 10/17/09, Triad 10/24/09

Case Release: 10/9/09

Registration deadline: 12/11/09

Payment/Rosters deadline: 1/13/10

REGIONAL COMPETITIONS: 2/20/10

STATE FINAL COMPETITION: 3/20/10

Thank you to the following sponsors/contributors to the Mock Trial Program:

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO CRUMLEY ROBERTS, LLP, FOR SPONSORING THE HIGH POINT REGIONAL COMPETITION!

The Florence L. Rogers Charitable Trust
Regional Sponsors for 09/10 season:
Charlotte: The Sumwalt Law Firm
Fayetteville: Hutchens, Senter & Britton, P.A.
State Finals: Rudolf, Widenhouse & Fialko
High Point: Crumley Roberts, LLP

**Sponsorships are available for Durham, Wilmington, and Asheville. For information, call or e-mail Rebecca Britton at (910) 864-6888, rebecca.britton@hsbfirm.com.

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.

**NEW INDIVIDUAL PLEDGE: TRICIA AND TACKER LECARPENTIER
THANK YOU!**

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 Championship round at State Finals.

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