



MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2017

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5TH ANNUAL SUMMER MOCK TRIAL CAMP INSPIRES PARTICIPANTS!

*By Sue H. Johnson
CCCE State Coordinator*



"I'm lost – can you talk me in?" "Sure; tell me what street you're on and I'll get you here," I reassured yet another caller trying to navigate their way through the construction and barricades on the UNC campus. Good thing I'm an alumna, I thought, as I once again helped someone find Connor Dorm. Why were they calling me, and what was I doing at UNC? Directing our CCCE mock trial camp, of course!

On July 26-29, the CCCE hosted our fifth annual summer mock trial camp on the UNC campus, bringing together more than 70 students and coaches for 4 fun-filled days, culminating in trial scrimmages on Saturday morning. While many campers lived nearby or traversed North Carolina to join us, others traveled from as far away as Indiana, South Carolina, and Virginia!

These enthusiastic students and teachers were excited about the chance to learn about our legal system through informative lectures and hands-on trial preparations. While some were looking to refine their skills in the Advanced sessions, Basic level campers had never before taken part in mock trial. This year, to ensure that all participants arrived with some knowledge of the activity, campers were encouraged to review and discuss videos showcasing a one-on-one high school mock trial championship prior to the camp. Whatever their background, students and coaches all eagerly awaited the chance to increase their knowledge and demonstrate their skills on Saturday.



Experienced attorneys from across the state shared their knowledge with students in targeted sessions on trial preparation. Session topics included “Mock 101” (overview and case analysis), Direct Examination, Objections and Rules of Evidence, Witnesses, Cross Examination, Opening Statements and Closing Arguments, and Presentation and Demeanor. All camp instructors have coached teams or been involved in our statewide program for a number of years, and all of them have taught at our camp before. Instructors kept the students engaged by tailoring their presentations to the students’ level and employing the Socratic method. “Jeopardy” and other games provided a fun way to test the students’ knowledge of each day’s material, with prizes (candy) providing additional motivation to excel.



Teaching sessions were interspersed with hands-on breakout groups, in which the eight teams put their knowledge into practice by preparing to argue one side of a negligent homicide case showcasing the dangers of texting while driving. Law school and college-aged “mockers” with experience at the highest levels of high school and collegiate competition mentored each team, guiding students in their preparations and giving them confidence in their new skills.

On Saturday, the students “showed their stuff” by arguing for the prosecution or the defense in the case of *State of New Justice v. Terry Jackson*. While notes were allowed due to the compressed time frame, many students confidently proceeded from memory alone. Objection battles were adroitly argued, and witnesses gave convincing portrayals even under withering cross examinations. After exchanging peer recognition awards, the students enjoyed a well-deserved round of applause from family and friends.

But prior to heading home, everyone gathered together for our concluding awards ceremony. Attorney Toussaint Romain exhorted the students and other audience members to use their energy and talents to make a difference in the world – to realize that their actions can impact others around them for good or ill, depending upon their choices. Toussaint’s inspirational message was a fitting conclusion to a wonderful week of learning and new challenges.



Teams then came forward to pose for photos with their mentors prior to the awarding of Outstanding Witness and Outstanding Attorney awards for each camp team, as determined by the presiding judges in the scrimmages.



Preparing to leave Chapel Hill, the campers and teacher-coaches raved about the camp. As one participant proclaimed on the evaluation surveys, “The camp was 10 out of 10 amazing!! My mentor taught me a ton and I had fun!” Another student agreed: “My mentor was incredible and very knowledgeable. [My favorite instructors] had outgoing personalities and great stage presence. They held our attention throughout the presentation, and they gave helpful and useful info.” One teacher-coach summed up her team’s experience: “Communication was excellent, the pre-camp assignment was thorough, the case was simplified enough to be manageable, and the staff was knowledgeable and encouraging. Overall, it was an excellent experience.”

Because of camp, several new schools plan to join the mock trial program this fall – a wonderful benefit to students statewide who will gain important skills and a deeper appreciation for our legal system.

To view more camp photos, visit our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/nmocktrial).

A HUGE "THANK YOU" TO OUR VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTORS AND STAFF!!

Instructors: Darren Allen, Hailey Bunce, Philip Entzminger, Susan H. Johnson, Mark Kleinschmidt, Brooke Schmidly, Lisa Williams, and Nicole Winget.

Presiding Judges: Justice Robin Hudson, Judge Paul Ridgeway, Toussaint Romain, David Yasinovsky.

Mentors and Volunteers: Jopsy Bayog, Matt Burke, Ben Felder, Tyla Gomez, Sue Gray, Frankford Johnson, Madux Price, Kaitlyn Pugh, Logan Spaller, Joshua Way, Elise Wilson, and David Yasinovsky.

Editor’s note: Want to be involved in helping students gain crucial skills while learning about our legal system? Contact CCCE State Coordinator Sue Johnson at SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com.



CALENDAR 2017 – 2018 MOCK TRIAL SEASON

Competition Case Released!	Friday, Sept. 1, 2017
Early Registration Deadline	Friday, Sept. 22, 2017
Final Registration Deadline and \$175 Team Fee Due	Friday, Dec. 15, 2017
Team Member List, Code of Ethics, Release Forms Due	Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2018
Last Day to Withdraw Without Penalty	Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2018
Regional Competition	Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018
Widenhouse Award Nomination Materials Due	Weds., Feb. 21, 2018
State Finals Competition	Fri. – Sat., March 9-10, 2018
National Championship, Reno, NV	May 10-12, 2018

THANK YOU TO OUR 2017 – 2018 COMPETITION SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS!

State Finals:	Rudolf Widenhouse
Asheville:	Melrose Law, PLLC
<i>Supporters:</i>	28 th Judicial District Bar Association & Asheville Area Paralegal Assn.
Fayetteville:	Britton Law, P.A.
<i>Supporter:</i>	Cumberland County Bar Association
Gastonia:	The Sumwalt Law Firm
Greenville:	Hardee & Hardee, LLP
High Point:	Manger Law Firm
Pittsboro:	Glenn Mills Fisher & Mahoney, P.A.
<i>Supporter:</i>	Durham County Bar Association
Raleigh:	Twiggs Strickland & Rabenau, and Maurer Law, Co-Sponsors
Salisbury:	Rowan County Bar Association
Wilmington:	Shipman & Wright

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

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR – also hosting rounds at State Finals!

THANK YOU TO OUR 2017 – 2018 OUTREACH PROGRAM SPONSOR!

Lawyers Mutual Liability Insurance Company of North Carolina

IT TAKES A VILLAGE . . .

Special thanks to our 2017-18 Regional Coordinators and CCCE Board Members: Asheville Regional Coordinator Mark Melrose, Fayetteville Regional Coordinator Rebecca Britton, Gastonia Regional Coordinators Holden Clark and Daniel O'Shea, Greenville Regional Coordinators Jeffrey Cannon and Phil Entzminger, High Point Regional Coordinator Rich Manger, Pittsboro Regional Coordinators Liz Barber and Robert Jessup, Raleigh Regional Coordinators Christine Scheef and Lindsey Granados, Salisbury Regional Coordinator Darrin Jordan, Wilmington Regional Coordinator John H. Anderson, Jr., and CCCE Board Members Gordon Widenhouse, Rebecca Britton, Rich Manger, Bradley Bannon, Adrienne Blocker, Christine Scheef, Brooke Schmidly, Mark Sumwalt; Valerie Johnson (ex officio).

Special thanks also to our 2017-18 Site Coordinators:

Asheville: Brett Pinkston, Fayetteville: Tanja Shurling and Karen Kueny, Gastonia: Beverly K. Moore, Greenville: Jessi Cannon, High Point: Rose Pratt, Pittsboro: Patti Clapper and Lakisha Chichester, Raleigh: Michelle Keely, Salisbury: Emily Applewhite, and Wilmington: Brandy Jo Lea.