



## MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2017

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

### **MOCK TRIAL STUDENTS EARN MOREHEAD-CAIN SCHOLARSHIPS**

*By Nathan Pait*

*Village Christian Academy Alumnus and Morehead-Cain Scholar*

**Editor's note:** *The CCCE is proud to note that three of our graduating seniors were awarded Morehead-Cain scholarships this year: Laney Henley (High Point Central High School), Amruth Sriperumbudur (NC School of Science and Math), and Nathan Pait (Village Christian Academy). All are taking part in Outward Bound adventures this summer prior to enrolling at UNC in the fall.*

*We were able to catch up with Nathan before he left town, and he is happy to share how mock trial helped him to develop skills that aided him in his Morehead-Cain application. Congratulations to Nathan, Laney, and Amruth on their amazing accomplishments!*



Morehead-Cain scholars are selected based on their merits in four different areas: scholarship, leadership, character, and physical vigor. Applicants must make themselves stand out by showing leadership in many areas of life while showing a commitment to physical vigor, good character, and outstanding academic achievement.

My experience with mock trial was crucial to my success in high school and, concurrently, to my success on the Morehead-Cain application. The public speaking skills I developed in mock trial helped me deliver speeches and rally school spirit as a member of my high school student government. It also contributed to my success on the stage as I performed in both school and community theater throughout high school.

Of a pool of thousands of Morehead-Cain applicants, only 20 percent are selected to go on to the semi-finalist level. At the semi-finalist and finalist levels in the process, applicants are interviewed



by various members of the Morehead-Cain community. It was at these levels where my mock trial experience really made a difference. In its most basic essence, mock trial is an interview. On the witness stand, you have to know your affidavit and your exhibits just as well as you know the back of your hand. As an attorney, you have to be able to control your listeners and command their attention while engaging them and treating them with respect.

Each year of high school, I played both a witness and an attorney on my mock trial team. This experience was perhaps the best interview training I could have asked for, because mock trial takes public speaking to the next level. It teaches you how to think on your feet, to maneuver conversations in such a way that benefits your case. During my interviews, I had to play both witness and attorney. I had to have the confidence of an attorney and the knowledge of the witness. I had to recall from all of my experiences those situations which best answered the questions of the interviewers and which painted me in the best light possible. I can remember thinking after my interviews that my time in the courtroom was really paying dividends.



My mock trial experience at Village Christian Academy under the leadership of Mrs. Shon McAteer and Mr. Lee Boughman contributed much to my growth during high school. It gave me great self-confidence, allowed me to meet new people and build lasting relationships, and made me a more well-rounded student and person. I am so grateful for my years on the mock trial team, and may the record reflect that I'd like to give my sincere

thanks to everyone who played a part in making mock trial such a significant, purposeful and overall fantastic experience.

### **MOCK TRIAL ALUMNA USES SKILLS TO PROMOTE JUSTICE**

*By Megan Rabuck  
 Mooresville HS Alumna*

I was a member of Mooresville Senior High School's Mock Trial team my junior and senior years (2008-2010) and I played the roles of witness and lawyer. My first year on the team I was an expert witness for the Prosecution. I remember this because I had to act as an epidemiologist and it took me almost the entire season to be able to say my occupation correctly. In my second year, I was a lawyer for the Prosecution in a case involving a teenage fatality in a car accident. I distinctly recall both cases because they were incidents that could have happened in real life, or in some resemblance, and they contained

issues that are prevalent in today's national conversation; for instance, texting while driving and peacefully protesting. My team won the regional competition my senior year and represented the Charlotte region at State finals, which was held at Campbell University.

Up until my senior year of college, I was determined to go to law school and become an Immigration lawyer. Although I decided to take a different direction in life, mock trial taught me several important life skills that are applicable to any field of study or work. The most obvious skill is public speaking; however, mock trial did not just teach me how to speak in front of a jury, or an audience, but how to be confident in my public speaking abilities. We, as a team, worked tirelessly to become better orators by focusing on ways to constantly improve our arguments, our manner of speech, and our overall confidence in ourselves.

One of the great opportunities that mock trial provides is working on a team as well as independently. Everyone has their specific role that needs to be executed individually, but all-in-all the team environment is what teaches you patience, cooperation, and responsibility. You learn how to hold others accountable and how to be accountable to others.

Mock trial inspired me to question more, think critically, and view the world from an analytical perspective. The skills I acquired from my time on mock trial helped me in both my undergraduate and graduate programs in addition to my work now as a Bilingual Advocate for a non-profit. After pursuing my Master's in Islamic Studies, I began working for the YWCA of Utah in their Women in Jeopardy program. By utilizing my language skills in Spanish and Arabic, I advocate for women and children who have experienced domestic violence. With the confidence I gained through mock trial, I can now inspire confidence in others, especially those most in need of help.

I gained lifelong friends, some of whom are becoming lawyers, and a mentor who has always been there to support and encourage me. My coach, Ronnie Crisco, instilled in all of us the importance of high self-esteem and belief in ourselves and our abilities. He is the reason why I continued to be on the team and I thank him for believing in me.

*Editor's note: Want to learn how you can be involved in impacting students in such significant ways? Contact CCCE State Coordinator Sue Johnson at [SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com](mailto:SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com). You'll be glad you did!*

### **CALENDAR 2016 – 2017 MOCK TRIAL SEASON**

Summer Camp, Chapel Hill, NC

July 26 – 29, 2017

### **THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 – 2017 COMPETITION SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS!**

State Finals:	Rudolf Widenhouse
Asheville:	Melrose Law, PLLC
<i>Supporters:</i>	28 <sup>th</sup> 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.  
    *Supporter:* 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 2016 – 2017 OUTREACH PROGRAM SPONSOR!**

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

***IT TAKES A VILLAGE . . .***

***Special thanks to our 2016-17 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; Bill Powers (ex officio) and David Henson (ex officio).

***Special thanks also to our 2016-17 Site Coordinators:***

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

***\*\*If you are interested in supporting or learning more about the NCAJ High School Mock Trial program, please contact Sue Johnson, State 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).***