



MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2018

Brought to you by the

Carolina Center for Civic Education

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

TWELVE TEAMS ADVANCE TO STATE FINALS IN RALEIGH!

By Sue H. Johnson, CCCE Mock Trial State Coordinator



On Saturday, February 3, 2018, nearly 700 high school students excitedly entered courthouses across North Carolina to present the case of *State of Utopia v. Alex Buckley* in our 26th annual NCAJ High School Mock Trial competition. From Asheville to Wilmington, students ardently argued whether defendant Alex Buckley should be found guilty of arson and felony murder in the death of classmate Carly Walsh at Arcadia Forest Preparatory Academy. In preparing their cases, students not only learned about criminal law and courtroom procedures; they also gained self-confidence, persuasive speaking experience, and leadership skills.

After three intense rounds, the following teams earned the right to compete at State Finals, hosted by Campbell Law School in Raleigh on March 9 – 10:

Asheville Regional Champion:

Gaston Christian School Red

Fayetteville Regional Champion:

J.H. Rose High School Green

Gastonia Regional Champion:
Greenville Regional Champion:
High Point Regional Champion:
Pittsboro Regional Champion:
Raleigh Regional Champion:
Salisbury Regional Champion:
Wilmington Regional Champion:
At-Large Teams:

Gaston Christian School White
 East Chapel Hill High School White
 Central Carolina Homeschoolers Lux
 Chapel Hill High School Gold
 Middle Creek High School
 Central Carolina Homeschoolers Veritas
 Triton High School Gray
 Blackstone
 HARC Blue
 Village Christian Academy Purple



THANK YOU to the many legal professionals who volunteered their time as presiding judges, scoring jurors, and site volunteers at the Regional competitions. Altogether, **12 judges, 340 attorneys, 102 paralegals, and 26 law or pre-law students** volunteered their time to make the Regional competitions a success. We could not have done it without you!

CASE BALANCE: THE STREAK CONTINUES!

By Sue H. Johnson, CCCE Mock Trial State Coordinator

Eighty-seven teams took part in our nine regional competitions on February 3rd. Because we know that students and teachers invest untold hours in their case preparations, we strive to provide them with cases that are educational, balanced, and thought-provoking. This year’s original criminal case, the brainchild of alumna Elise Wilson, addressed not only the crimes of arson and murder, but also touched on abusive relationships and economic disparities. The students’ months of hard work paid off in in trial presentations that were compelling and believable – many judges were astonished that the students are still in high school!



Since 2012-13 we have tracked the outcomes at Regionals to evaluate case balance. We are pleased that every year, our cases have proved to be well-balanced, making the outcome of each trial dependent upon the students’ own skills rather than upon the “luck of the draw.” We are happy to report that our 2017-18



case was exceptional in that regard: across all preliminary rounds statewide, the prosecution won 50.6% and the defense won 49.4% (44 trials to 43 trials). Kudos to our case authors and reviewers for this outstanding accomplishment!

All of us at the CCCE want to provide our students with the best possible educational and competition experience. We are pleased we have again delivered a case that was enjoyable and fair to both sides.

CALENDAR 2017 – 2018 MOCK TRIAL SEASON

Widenhouse Award Nomination Materials Due
State Finals Competition
National Championship, Reno, NV
Mock Trial Summer Camp, Chapel Hill

Weds., Feb. 21, 2018
Fri. – Sat., March 9-10, 2018
May 10-12, 2018
July 25-28, 2018

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

State Finals: Ward Black Law
Asheville: Melrose Law and TBD
 Supporter: 28th Judicial District Bar Association & Asheville Area Paralegal Assn.
Fayetteville: Britton Law, P.A.
 Supporter: 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.
Raleigh: Twiggs Strickland & Rabenau, P.A. & Maurer Law
Salisbury: Rowan County Bar Association
Wilmington: Shipman & Wright, LLC
 Supporter: New Hanover County Bar Association

CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW - partnering with CCCE to host our 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 Coordinator Phil Entzminger, High Point Regional Coordinator Rich Manger, Pittsboro Regional Coordinator Robert Jessup and Russell Johnson, 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:*** Jeffrey Cannon, ***High Point:*** Rose Pratt, ***Pittsboro:*** Patti Clapper, ***Raleigh:*** Michelle Keely, ***Salisbury:*** Emily Applewhite, and ***Wilmington:*** Brandi 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, or Rebecca Britton or Gordon Widenhouse, Mock Trial Committee Co-Chairs, at rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com or mgwidenhouse@yahoo.com.***