



MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2019

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Carolina Center for Civic Education*
"Investing in our future, creating tomorrow's leaders"

BUILD HOPE FOR THE FUTURE -- VOLUNTEER WITH MOCK TRIAL!

By Susan H. Johnson, CCCE State Coordinator



Holiday decorations are put away, days are cloudy and cold, and spring flowers are nowhere on the horizon. Rainy days and icy roads can put a damper on anyone's spirits. How can you overcome the mid-winter doldrums? A sure solution: investing in energetic, passionate young people – like the hundreds of high school students preparing to present their mock trial cases at our regional competitions!

On Saturday Feb. 2, more than 750 students – 96 teams! – will display their advocacy skills at nine locations across the state: **Durham, Fayetteville, Gastonia, Greenville, Hendersonville, High Point, Raleigh, Salisbury, and Wilmington**. For months, these dedicated students and their advisors have been analyzing case documents, learning the rules of evidence, creating compelling case theories and themes, and preparing

statements and examinations for a wrongful death lawsuit. Unlike real attorneys, they have to argue *both* sides of the case! But every time, they will strive to present a winning case through their witnesses and attorneys.

In mock trial, students learn to reason cogently, communicate persuasively, and collaborate effectively. They develop self-confidence and leadership skills that will enable them to make a difference in the world. But you don't have to take my word for it!

Last year, April Espinosa from Forsyth county proclaimed, "I entered an entirely new world through Mock Trial. The competition taught me the foundation of real-world law in America, away from court portrayed in cinema and TV...it was clear that Mock Trial changed me for the better." She was not alone. The coach of a homeschool team in Wake county noted that because of mock trial, "in just over a year, Austin [Massey] went from being a quiet and reserved team member to a confident and assured team leader."



Robert Fensom of Fayetteville would agree. "I have gained the confidence to be myself in every situation and to lead others to do the same. I attribute this transformation to the opportunities mock trial has given me. I can honestly say that this program has changed my life and given me skills I will continue to use in the future."

Perhaps Jessica Gross, our 2018 Widenhouse Leadership Award winner, summed it up best: "...mock trial has left a much bigger impact on me than I on it. It has given me confidence in my academic abilities, and my public speaking. I have found a love for law...that has shaped the way I want to contribute to the world in the future."

How can you be a part of this life-changing activity? You can invest in these leaders of tomorrow by **volunteering** on **Feb. 2!**

Wherever you live, we could use your help: at every location, judges and attorneys are needed as presiders and scoring jurors, while paralegals, law students, admins, and others are needed as site volunteers behind the scenes. Those who join us are sure to leave encouraged by the passion, knowledge, and skills these young people exhibit. Don't miss out!

Find out the details about each regional location, and register to serve, by visiting our website. Go to <https://ncmocktrial.org/competitions/regionals/> for links to each regional page, as well as a link to our online volunteer registration and a downloadable registration form. If you need additional information, please contact State Coordinator Sue Johnson at SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com.

Please join us on February 2, 2019! We can't do it without YOU!



CALENDAR 2018 – 2019 MOCK TRIAL SEASON

Regional Competition
Widenhouse Award Nomination Materials Due
State Finals Competition
National Championship, Athens, GA

Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019
Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2019
Fri. – Sat., March 8-9, 2019
May 16-18, 2019

THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 – 2019 COMPETITION SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS!

State Finals: Ward Black Law
Durham: Glenn Mills Fisher & Mahoney, P.A. *and STILL NEEDED*, Co-Sponsors
 Supporters: Durham County Bar Association *and* Olive & Olive
Fayetteville: Britton Law, P.A.
 Supporter: Cumberland County Bar Association
Gastonia: The Sumwalt Law Firm
Greenville: Hardee & Hardee, LLP
Hendersonville: The Van Winkle Law Firm
High Point: Manger Law Firm
Raleigh: *STILL NEEDED!*
Salisbury: Rowan County Bar Association
Wilmington: Shipman & Wright, LLP
 Supporter: New Hanover County Bar Association

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

THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 – 2019 OUTREACH PROGRAM SPONSOR!

Lawyers Mutual Liability Insurance Company of North Carolina

IT TAKES A VILLAGE . . .

Special thanks to our 2018-19 Regional Coordinators and CCCE Board Members: Durham Regional Coordinators Robert Jessup and Drew Haywood, Fayetteville Regional Coordinator Rebecca Britton, Gastonia Regional Coordinators Holden Clark and Daniel O'Shea, Greenville Regional Coordinator Nancy Ray, Hendersonville Regional Coordinator Mary Ann Hollocker, High Point Regional Coordinator Rich Manger, Raleigh Regional Coordinators Christine Scheef and Lindsey Granados, Salisbury Regional Coordinator Darrin Jordan, Wilmington Regional Coordinator John H. Anderson, Jr.; and CCCE Board Members Rebecca Britton (President/Treasurer), Rich Manger (Vice President), Adrienne Blocker (Secretary), Bradley Bannon, Christine Scheef, Brooke Schmidly, Mark Sumwalt; Mary Pollard (*ex officio*), Sonya Pfeiffer (*ex officio*).

Special thanks also to our 2018-19 Site Coordinators:

Durham: Patti Clapper, ***Fayetteville:*** Tanja Shurling and Karen Kueny, ***Gastonia:*** Stephanie Elliott, ***Greenville:*** Sandi Baughman-Egan, ***Hendersonville:*** Leigh Ann Allen, ***High Point:*** *STILL NEEDED*, ***Raleigh:*** Michelle Keely, ***Salisbury:*** Emily Applewhite, and ***Wilmington:*** Courtenay E. Byrd.