



MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2018
Brought to you by the
Carolina Center for Civic Education
"Investing in our future, creating tomorrow's leaders"

THE WIDENHOUSE LEGACY

By Rebecca Britton, CCCE President



Two years ago, as the NCAJ High School Mock Trial Program celebrated its Silver Anniversary, Gordon Widenhouse wrote an article for this newsletter entitled "Has It Really Been 25 Years?" Yes, my friend, it has been that and more; and not without your dedication, commitment and leadership.

It is appropriate for this Thanksgiving season newsletter that we sincerely say THANK YOU to Gordon Widenhouse. Gordon has recently retired as President of the Carolina Center for Civic Education, and to say that he will be missed is a profound understatement. Serving as a juror in the early 90s, a coach in the 90s and into 2000, as Education VP for NCAJ overseeing the mock trial program, and then as VP of the CCCE when it took over the operations in 2009, I have never experienced high school mock trial without Gordon Widenhouse leading the program. Personally, I am still adjusting to the odd concept of doing mock trial without him.

We have much to be thankful for in the North Carolina "mock trial universe." Under Gordon's leadership this program was a tiny seed that took root. Under Gordon's leadership it grew from six

schools from around the state competing at the Wake County Courthouse on a Saturday with a dozen boxes of donuts, several jugs of orange juice and a handful of lawyers, to over 90 teams with nine regional competition sites and a State Final competition hosted at Campbell Law School.

Our State Championship team now participates in the National High School Mock Trial Championship competition each May somewhere in the United States. Under Gordon's leadership we have hosted the National Competition here in North Carolina not once, but twice; with the first in 2005 in Charlotte and the second in 2015 in Raleigh. Both events have been hailed by the National Board and participants as among the best National Competitions held in the history of the program. Oh yes, and we also offer summer camp not only for students in North Carolina but also from around the country.



As we say, mock trial takes “a village” of volunteers and committed people to make it happen. We have many wonderful people that work very hard to make this program successful year after year, from our Carolina Center for Civic Education Board, our State Coordinator, our Regional and Site Coordinators, coaches, and teacher advisors, to our many dedicated judges, attorneys, paralegals, legal assistants, and law student and college student volunteers. We also could not make it happen without our many sponsors and supporters, including NCAJ. But a seed will not grow without the gardener who planted it, tended it and inspired it to blossom into what it is today.

Thank you, Gordon. We will continue your legacy and we will always strive, as you have, to make high school mock trial in North Carolina the best it can be in educating our young people while engendering a deep respect and appreciation for our jury system. We will continue, as you always have, to “invest in our future and to create tomorrow's leaders” through this program that touches and changes the lives of so many young people around our state.



For more information on how you can get involved and help the program thrive in its next 25 years, please contact CCCE State Coordinator Sue Johnson at SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com.

CALENDAR 2018 – 2019 MOCK TRIAL SEASON

Final Registration Deadline and \$200 Team Fee Due	Friday, Dec. 14, 2018
Code of Ethics, Release Forms Due	Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019
Last Day to Withdraw Without Penalty	Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019
Regional Competition	Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019
Widenhouse Award Nomination Materials Due	Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2019
State Finals Competition	Fri. – Sat., March 8-9, 2019
National Championship, Athens, GA	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 TBD, Co-Sponsors
<i>Supporter:</i>	Durham County Bar Association
Fayetteville:	Britton Law, P.A.
<i>Supporter:</i>	Cumberland County Bar Association
Gastonia:	The Sumwalt Law Firm
Greenville:	Hardee & Hardee, LLP
Hendersonville:	TBD
High Point:	Manger Law Firm
Raleigh:	TBD
Salisbury:	Rowan County Bar Association
Wilmington:	TBD

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 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:*** TBD, ***Raleigh:*** Michelle Keely, ***Salisbury:*** Emily Applewhite, and ***Wilmington:*** Courtenay E. Byrd.