



MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019

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CENTRAL CAROLINA HOMESCHOOLERS WIN 6TH STATE CHAMPIONSHIP!

By Susan H. Johnson, CCCE Mock Trial State Coordinator



On Saturday, March 9th, the Central Carolina Homeschoolers – and 2017 National Champions – earned the right to represent North Carolina at the 2019 National Championship. This year, CCH qualified two teams to state finals, and it was their younger team, Lux, that prevailed at the end of the day, defeating the strong Gray Stone Day School KFC team in a split decision. The Hon. Lucy N. Inman once again presided over our final round, joined by the distinguished juror panel of S. Quon Bridges, Burton Craige, Robert Edmunds, Adrienne Blocker, and John Britton.

Spectators were on the edge of their seats as Central Carolina Homeschoolers Lux argued for the plaintiff, urging jurors to find Dr. Arya Davis liable for medical malpractice in the opioid overdose death of student Sloane Thomas. The Gray Stone Day School KFC team put on an able comparative negligence defense, arguing that Thomas's death was the result of his own bad decisions. When the final results were announced, the Central Carolina Homeschoolers were thrilled to learn they would represent NC for the 6th time in seven years, advancing to the national championship in Athens, Georgia on May 16-18!

This year's state finals again hosted twelve outstanding teams from across North Carolina. The two-day state championship began on Friday, March 8 with a tour of the North Carolina Supreme Court led by Justice Paul Newby. The students enjoyed learning about appellate advocacy, the history of the Court, and the making of legal precedent in North Carolina. Teams also relished the chance to take photos in the beautiful courtroom prior to returning to Campbell Law to be inspired by the words of Justice Anita Earls. She shared the story of how she became interested in the law and the opportunities it has afforded her to work for justice for all citizens of our state.



After partaking of food and fellowship at the evening reception, the students waited with bated breath to learn the recipient of this year's "M. Gordon Widenhouse Jr. Award for Visionary Leadership." Broughton High School senior Kyvaughn Lyons was thrilled to be unanimously chosen by the awards committee (*see* next article).

On Saturday morning, the students got down to business as they advocated both sides of our civil case *Rory Thomas v. Arya Davis, M.D.* This fictional case, authored by State Coordinator Sue Johnson with assistance from UNC "mockers," addressed a timely societal issue and was well-received by teams and judges alike. Dozens of distinguished judges and attorneys volunteered their time by serving as presiding judges and scoring jurors. In addition, more than a dozen paralegals, students, teachers, and supporters worked behind the scenes to make the day a success (*see* full list of volunteers below).



At the conclusion of the two preliminary rounds, twelve students earned "Best Attorney" and "Best Witness" awards to the resounding applause of family and friends. Everyone waited on pins and needles for the announcement of the two finalists: Central Carolina Homeschoolers Lux and Gray Stone Day School KFC. Winning the coin toss, Gray Stone Day School elected to represent the defendant, and all proceeded to room 312 for a final round highlighted by compelling witness portrayals, nuanced objection

arguments, and impassioned closing arguments worthy of the occasion.

Reflecting on their experiences this year, CCH student Leonard Pace remarks "Participating in Mock Trial has been one of the most important experiences of my year. The friendship from each and every one of my teammates, the never-ending encouragement from all of my coaches, and my own personal journey through this academic season, has furthered my skills and knowledge of Mock Trial.



"Something that really impacted me on Saturday was a statement that one of our jurors made during his feedback in the final round. What he shared with us was that the team that will win this competition is the team that looks like one team. A team with individual people, but functioning as one. A team where no one tries to be better than another. When they announced our team as the winner, I was blown away. I thank the Lord for the love that He has given us for our team. I am honored to be on the team that will represent North Carolina in Athens, Georgia at the National Mock Trial Competition."

Teammate Rachel Rogers is also thankful for the experience. "It's hard to put into words how amazing of an experience States was. It was so cool to compete against such top-notch teams, meet some great people, and learn helpful tools and tips from real attorneys.

"Along with actually competing, I feel like the experience brought our team closer together....Overall, it was absolutely one of the best experiences of my life."

Thomas Bennett agrees. “Honestly I don’t know where to begin. It was an incredible experience all the way around. I want to say thank you to all the people who made it possible. It was amazing to compete with such talented and skilled teams! Though our team had some struggles at times, they never gave up, and showed what true teamwork is. They are all an inspiration to me. It is an honor to be part of this team! Whether we win or lose going forward, I will always have something way more important than a trophy at the end of the day. I will always have memories of laughter, tears and joy with the people that I love so much. The people that I’m blessed to called my teammates and friends. That is the part I will cherish the most.”

Congratulations to our State Champs and to all twelve state finals teams for their accomplishments this year! (*For complete results, visit ncmocktrial.org and look under “latest news” in the right-hand column*).

Many thanks to State Finals sponsor Ward Black Law, State Final host Campbell Law School, and all those who volunteered as judges, jurors, and site volunteers to make our state finals event possible. We couldn’t have done it without you! (For full list, see below).

BROUGHTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WINS WIDENHOUSE AWARD!

By Susan H. Johnson, CCCE State Coordinator

At the State Finals evening reception on Friday, March 8, **Kyvaughn Lyons** of Needham Broughton High School “Purple” team received the “M. Gordon Widenhouse Jr. Award for Inspirational Team Leadership.” This award was established to honor the visionary leadership of Gordon Widenhouse, who has been instrumental in creating and sustaining the North Carolina Advocates for Justice High School Mock Trial Program, now in its twenty-seventh year. The award is only open to seniors who are recommended by a team advisor. It seeks to recognize an individual who may not be the “star” of the team; rather, the student may be the “glue” who holds the team together through practices and competition.



Broughton attorney advisor Chris Nichols explains why he nominated Kyvaughn for the award: “I have coached high school mock trial on and off for 26 years. I have never nominated a student for the M. Gordon Widenhouse Jr. Award until now.” Chris went on to describe how Kyvaughn indeed became the glue that held the Broughton team together.

Kyvaughn joined the mock trial team in his junior year – a later start than many. As a senior, when Broughton fielded a second team comprised mainly of freshmen, Kyvaughn quietly took it upon himself to mentor those students. He did not make a big deal of it; he simply took the freshmen aside to work with them. As their skills improved, so did his. As Chris describes it, Kyvaughn “became their leader not because he declared himself one, but because he exemplified true leadership skills.”

In his application essay, Kyvaughn describes the impact of mock trial on his growth as a leader. “Mock trial taught me how to lead, but more importantly made me want to lead...being a coach was one of the greatest feelings I’ve had the honor of experiencing.”



Kyvaughn’s future plans include two years at Wake Tech prior to transferring to UNC. When Chris asked if Kyvaughn would have time to help coach more next year, Kyvaughn was thrilled. “Absolutely! I want to be there when Team Gold takes it all. They have a lot of potential and I have more work to do.”

We know that Kyvaughn is one of many students across North Carolina who possesses increased self-confidence, greater critical thinking abilities, and new leadership skills because of participation in

mock trial. We extend a hearty congratulations and best wishes to Kyvaughn and all of the other graduating seniors, and we look forward to hearing about your future accomplishments!

CALENDAR 2018 – 2019 MOCK TRIAL SEASON

National Championship, Athens, GA
 Mock Trial Summer Camp, Chapel Hill

May 16-18, 2019
 July 24-27, 2019

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

- State Finals: Ward Black Law
- Durham: Glenn Mills Fisher & Mahoney, P.A.
- 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
- Supporter:* Asheville Area Paralegal Assn.
- High Point: Manger Law Firm
- Raleigh:
- 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 Coordinators Mary Ann Hollocker and Beth Stang, 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:** Kayla Neil and Rebecca Robinson, **Raleigh:** Michelle Keely, **Salisbury:** Emily Applewhite, **Wilmington:** Courtenay Byrd.

***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.*

THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 STATE FINALS SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS!

Statewide Program Sponsor: North Carolina Advocates for Justice

State Finals Sponsor: Ward Black Law

State Finals Host: Norman Wiggins Campbell University School of Law

Special thanks to Dean J. Rich Leonard, Linda Davenport, JoAnne Phillips, and Brian Church

Judges:

NC Court of Appeals: Richard Dietz, Richard Elmore, Lucy Inman

NC Superior Court: Mary Ann Tally

NC District Court: Curtis Stackhouse, Anna Worley

Attorneys:

Bradley Bannon, Adrienne Blocker, S. Quon Bridges, Jacqueline Clare, Thomas Claire, Burton Craige, Robert Edmunds, Rich Glazier, Keith Gordon, Lindsey Granados, James Grant, Karl Gwaltney, Adren Harris, Kevin Harrison, Drew Haywood, Don Higley, Meredith Hinton, T. Shawn Howard, Darrin D. Jordan, Greg Kash, David Larson, James P. Laurie III, Tim Lehan, Thomas K. Maher, Andy McVey, Philip Miller, Chris Nichols, Ann Ochsner, Jason Orndoff, Brenee Orozco, Will Owens, Spencer Parris, Mary Pollard, Eric Richardson, Christine Scheef, Kendra Stark, John Taylor, and Wendy Vonnegut.

Board Members and Site Volunteers:

Mary Accardi, Adrienne Blocker, Rebecca Britton, Sue Gray, Alice Johnson, Bailey Johnson, Frankford Johnson, Sue Johnson, Michelle Keely, Allison Layton, Richard Manger, Amanda Miller, Alex Pritchard, Christine Scheef, Logan Serino, Diane Wright, and Lorie Wylie.