



JULY - AUGUST 2019 MOCK TRIAL NEWS

CHANGE AND GROWTH IN MOCK TRIAL

By Rebecca Britton, Britton Law, P.A., President, NCMTTP

As you can see from the new pretty logo at the top of this newsletter, there have been some changes in mock trial in North Carolina! Last spring, the Board of Directors for the Carolina Center for Civic Education voted to change our name to something that better reflects what we do. We are now the **North Carolina Mock Trial Program**. Our little non-profit is still administering and operating the NCAJ High School Mock Trial Competition and we are still putting on a great summer camp to teach new and experienced students about mock trial (see article below).

More change for mock trial came this summer with our Program Coordinator, **Sue Johnson**. Sue was offered a wonderful opportunity at Patrick Henry College in Virginia to oversee their collegiate mock trial program and she begins that new and exciting journey this month. While we are sad to see Sue leave, we are also very happy for her and wish her the best in this new leadership role. But as one door closes, it is always amazing how another opens. We are very pleased to announce that we have hired **Liz Avery-Jones as our new Program Coordinator for the North Carolina Mock Trial Program**. As some may recall, before the CCCE took over the High School Mock Trial program from NCAJ in 2009, Liz was the NCAJ staff person who administered the program. Liz comes to us with great skills and lots of experience, understanding and personal investment in our mission that will be a tremendous benefit to the NCMTTP going forward.

Finally, with the growth and success of the NCAJ High School Mock Trial Competition, in order to accommodate the nearly 100 teams across the State that have and will participate in our program, we have added a 10th Regional Competition site in Hickory. This 10th regional site will help alleviate congestion at some of our regional competition sites around the state, will better accommodate the teams participating, and will help our many volunteers to run their sites more smoothly. NCAJ member **Jason Orndoff** has graciously agreed to serve as our Regional Coordinator for the Hickory site and **Angie Beach** with Jason's office has agreed to serve as our Site Coordinator. We are all looking forward to working with Jason and Angie and are glad to have them as part of our team of regional leaders and our village of volunteers that make mock trial happen in North Carolina.

Here's to a great mock trial season ahead! Please be sure to check out our website at www.ncmocktrial.org for more information about the North Carolina Mock Trial Program, our Board, our regional sites, our sponsors and our many volunteers and supporters.

2019 NCMTP MOCK TRIAL SUMMER CAMP A GREAT SUCCESS!

By Liz Avery-Jones, Program Coordinator

In late July over 30 middle and high school students took a break from their summer vacation to take part in the North Carolina Mock Trial Program's seventh annual mock trial summer camp at the UNC campus in Chapel Hill, NC. They came from all over the country including South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Washington DC, and throughout North Carolina. The camp offered both Advanced-level sessions, for those students with more than one year of high school mock trial experience, and Basic-level sessions, for those new to mock trial.

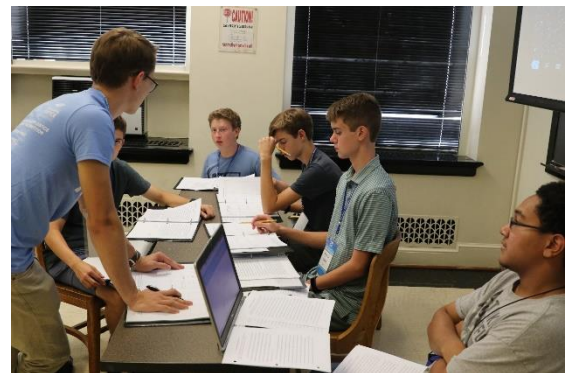


Engaging Lectures by Experienced Mock Trial Coaches

For three days the campers listened to engaging lectures led by practicing attorneys who have additionally long served as mock trial coaches and judges. As they gave their lectures, including seminars on Direct Examinations, Witnesses, Objections and Rules of Evidence, Cross Examinations, Opening Statements and Closing Arguments, the attorneys referenced the camp's case, *State of Utopia v. Alex Palmer*, a murder case involving a defendant with a somnambulism (sleepwalker) diagnosis.

Hands-On Practice Sessions with Assigned Mock Trial Mentors

After each lecture area college students and recent high school graduates with extensive mock trial experience guided the campers as they prepared to argue for the prosecution or the defense in the camp's case. The mentors were assigned one team of between 4 to 6 campers and helped them develop their opening statements and closing arguments and prepare their direct and cross examinations. They also practiced how to tender exhibits into evidence, impeach a witness, make effective objections at trial and more. A camper described these practical sessions this way: "the best part of camp was learning and practicing for trial".



Saturday Scrimmage and Closing Ceremony

The camp ended with a scrimmage on Saturday that let the mock trial students showcase their new skills. North Carolina Supreme Court Associate Justice Robin Hudson, Superior Court Judge Keith O. Gregory and Criminal Defense attorney S. Quon Bridges presided over the students' mock trials. The NC Mock Trial Program is grateful to all attorneys and mentors, listed below, who made this summer camp possible! At the closing ceremony immediately following the scrimmage, best attorney and best witness



awards were handed out to each team. NCMTP President Rebecca Britton also thanked Sue Johnson for her over 10 years of service to this mock trial program and recognized her incredible success growing the program and establishing this enriching camp.

We hope more students consider mock trial camp next summer — a fun way to develop leadership, critical thinking and presentation skills in a lively, supportive team environment. As another student put it: mock trial camp is like “getting a year of mock trial [experience] in one week”. To view more camp photos, visit our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ncmocktrial).

A HUGE "THANK YOU" TO OUR VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTORS AND STAFF!!

Instructors: Darren Allen, Matt Burke, Hailey Bunce, Susan H. Johnson, M.P.H., Chris Nichols, Nicole Winget

Presiding Judges: S. Quon Bridges, Judge Keith O. Gregory, Justice Robin Hudson

Mentors and Volunteers: David Bainbridge, Emily Barefoot, Chris Cataldo, Sue Gray, Frankford Johnson Jasmine Orsini, Emily Polson, Madux Price, and Allyn Sims

MAKE A DIFFERENCE AS A MOCK TRIAL TEAM ATTORNEY ADVISOR

Not having a local attorney to help a high school teacher coach prepare a team of eager high school students for the February regional competition is a barrier for growing this important program. Help us reach a goal of 115 teams this year! Please contact Program Coordinator Liz Avery-Jones at liz@ncmocktrial.org if you are willing to be on call in case a team in your community needs an attorney advisor. <https://ncmocktrial.org/resources/training-materials/> offers coaches many resources including guides for high school mock trial case analysis.

EXCITING SILENT AUCTION TO BENEFIT MOCK TRIAL IN OCTOBER

The NC Mock Trial Program will be holding a silent auction – both at ncmocktrial.org and at NCAJ’s upcoming Sustainer Summit in Asheville (Oct 17-19, 2019) – to grow this program beyond current participating schools. Do you have any items you could [contribute](#)? We hope you help us reach underserved schools across the state! NCAJ members, please look out for a letter from NCAJ President Vernon Sumwalt with details about how you can get involved.

Announcing the CALENDAR 2019 – 2020 MOCK TRIAL SEASON

Competition Case Released!	Friday, Sept. 13, 2019
Early Registration Deadline	Friday, Sept. 27, 2019
Final Registration Deadline and \$275 Team Fee Due	Friday, Dec. 13, 2019
Team Member List, Code of Ethics, Release Forms Due	Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020
Last Day to Withdraw Without Penalty	Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020
Regional Competition	Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020
Widenhouse Award Nomination Materials Due	Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020
State Finals Competition	Fri. – Sat., March 13-14, 2020
National Championship, Evansville, IN	May 6-9, 2020

ANNOUNCING THE NCMTP REGIONAL AND SITE COORDINATORS FOR THE 2019-2020 SEASON

Thank you to the terrific group of volunteer Regional Coordinators, Site Coordinators and Board members that make fulfilling the NCMTP mission possible. To read their bios, visit

<https://ncmocktrial.org/supporters/>

Regional Coordinators:

<i>Fayetteville</i>	<i>Rebecca Britton</i>
<i>Gastonia</i>	<i>Holden Clark and Daniel O'Shea</i>
<i>Greenville</i>	<i>Nancy Ray</i>
<i>Hendersonville</i>	<i>Mary Ann Hollocker</i>
<i>Hickory</i>	<i>Jason Orndoff</i>
<i>High Point</i>	<i>Rich Manger</i>
<i>Hillsborough</i>	<i>Drew Haywood and Robert "Robby" Jessup</i>
<i>Raleigh</i>	<i>Christine Scheef and Lindsey Granados</i>
<i>Salisbury</i>	<i>to be announced</i>
<i>Wilmington</i>	<i>John H. Anderson, Jr.</i>

Site Coordinators:

<i>Fayetteville</i>	<i>Tanja Shurling</i>
<i>Gastonia</i>	<i>to be announced</i>
<i>Greenville</i>	<i>Sandi Baughman-Egan</i>
<i>Hendersonville</i>	<i>to be announced</i>
<i>Hickory</i>	<i>Angie Beach</i>
<i>High Point</i>	<i>Grace Lay</i>
<i>Hillsborough</i>	<i>Patti Clapper</i>
<i>Raleigh</i>	<i>Michelle Keely</i>
<i>Salisbury</i>	<i>to be announced</i>
<i>Wilmington</i>	<i>Rachel Royal and Catherine Holland</i>

NCMTP Board Members:

Rebecca Britton (President), Rich Manger (Vice President), Andrew McVey (Treasurer), Adrienne Blocker (Secretary), Helen Baddour, Bradley Bannon, Drew Haywood, Christine Scheef, Brooke Schmidly, Mark Sumwalt, and Vernon Sumwalt (ex officio)

THANK YOU TO OUR COMPETITION SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS FOR THE 2018-2019 SEASON



NCAJ High School Mock Trial Competition Program Sponsor: **NC Advocates for Justice**

Program Outreach Sponsor: **Lawyers Mutual Liability Insurance Company of North Carolina**

State Finals Sponsor:
State Finals host:

Ward Black Law
Campbell University School of Law

Regional Sponsors

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 Association

High Point:

Manger Law Firm

Salisbury:

Rowan County Bar Association

Wilmington:

Shipman & Wright, LLP