



MARCH 2020 MOCK TRIAL NEWS

LOOKING AHEAD AFTER AN UNHAPPY END

Two hours before North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper limited gatherings to less than 100 people in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and one hour after the National High School Mock Trial Competition cancelled their national-level competition, the NC Mock Trial Program Board had to make the [tough decision](#) to also cancel the NCAJ High School Mock Trial State Finals competition to keep all mock trial students/coaches/volunteers and their families as safe as possible during an unprecedented time of uncertainty and risk.

We are very appreciative of how hard all mock trial students, including all State Finals competitors highlighted in the [2020 State Finals program](#), worked to prepare for competition and we recognize them all for their dedication and talent. We wish we could have ended their season differently and are already looking forward to next year. We will be unveiling a new mock trial scoring app, a new timely civil competition case, and new online team form submission processes to enhance the team experience. Plenty of ‘mocking’ to be done in the future.

SETH FINCH: RECIPIENT OF THE M. GORDON WIDENHOUSE AWARD FOR INSPIRATIONAL TEAM LEADERSHIP

All twelve applicants of the M. Gordon Widenhouse, Jr. Award for Inspirational Team Leadership this year have incredible promise, wherever their careers and lives next take them. We thank them for all they have done to support their fellow mock trial teammates over the years.

We wish we could have gathered to honor this year’s award recipient: **Mr. Seth Finch** of Central Carolina Homeschoolers. Seth is highly respected for his teaching ability, his calm under pressure, his grace, and his ability to lead by example. Initially a reserved student, he has taken on many leadership roles, including serving as student-coach at a mock trial tournament at Yale University. After the tournament he spoke to each teammate individually after the closing ceremony, assuring them that they did an amazing job all season. Here’s what his teammates think: “having him on my team... truly inspired me and changed me as a person” and “he is a patient and humble teacher and leader.”

We used video technology to help honor Seth's accomplishments as part of his team's end-of-year livestream celebrations. See NCMTTP Vice President Rich Manger's [video presentation here](#). Seth sums up his views about mock trial this way: *Mock Trial is a place where competitors learn to be teammates, and teammates learn to be leaders.* Thank you for your leadership, Seth, and best of luck with all your future goals!

NCMTP SUMMER CAMP | JULY 22-25, 2020 | VIRTUAL LEARNING

The NC Mock Trial Program is looking into the possibility of holding a virtual summer camp using interactive video conferencing if we are not able to move forward with the 4-day camp from July 22 through July 25 at the UNC School of Law building as originally planned. Please watch this space for details soon: <https://ncmocktrial.org/camps/ncmtp-summer-camps/>

NCMTP REGIONAL & SITE COORDINATORS IN 2019-2020

The below group of attorneys and paralegals generously shared their time to recruit volunteers and to expertly host students, parents, teachers and attorney coaches at their competition site on Feb 1. Learn more about our terrific volunteer leaders at 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>Lindsey Granados and Christine Scheef</i>
<i>Salisbury</i>	<i>John Basinger</i>
<i>Wilmington</i>	<i>John H. Anderson, Jr.</i>

Site Coordinators:

<i>Fayetteville</i>	<i>Tanja Shurling</i>
<i>Gastonia</i>	<i>Jacqueline Thurman and Beverly Moore</i>
<i>Greenville</i>	<i>Sandi Baughman-Egan</i>
<i>Hendersonville</i>	<i>Melanie Miller</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>Nathaniel Drum</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



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: **The Sumwalt Law Firm**
State Finals Host: **Campbell University School of Law**

Regional Sponsors

Fayetteville: **Britton Law, P.A.**
Supporter: **Cumberland County Bar Association**
Gastonia: **Mullen Holland & Cooper, P.A. & Roberts Law Firm, P.A.**
Greenville: **Hardee & Hardee, LLP**
Hendersonville: **The Van Winkle Law Firm**
Supporter: **Asheville Area Paralegal Association**
Hickory: **The Law Office of Jason E. Taylor, P.C.**
High Point: **Manger Law Firm**
Hillsborough: **Patterson Harkavy LLP**
Raleigh: **The Law Offices of John M. McCabe, P.A.
& Settlement Planning Services, LLC**
Salisbury: **Rowan County Bar Association**
Wilmington: **Shipman & Wright, LLP**