



SEPTEMBER 2021 MOCK TRIAL NEWS

NC MOCK TRIAL: ALUMNI AND FRIENDS FACEBOOK GROUP

As we enter into this 30th season of high school mock trial in North Carolina, we're celebrating the impact that the program has had on the lives of our alumni. Over 100 people have joined our new *NC Mock Trial: Friends and Alumni* Facebook group and have started to share their stories and reflections. We welcome you to join the conversation and meet past alumni!

facebook.com/groups/ncmocktrial

TEAM REGISTRATION OPENS FOR IN-PERSON REGIONALS

As mentioned in our July 2021 newsletter, we are planning to hold the 2022 regional mock trial competition (including a courtroom artist competition) in-person throughout the state on **Saturday, February 5, 2022**. The competition rules book, now published [online](#), includes a requirement that all teams bring hand sanitizer for personal use at the courthouse. Other Covid-19 protocols may be put in place, and shared via separate cover, as the situation on the ground warrants. See <https://ncmocktrial.org/compete/important-forms/> to register a team today and get your case materials sent to you in the mail!

Registered teams can also sign up to take part in a winter scrimmage at a time of your choosing. You will not see your scrimmage team pairing at your first February competition round. To sign up visit: <https://ncmocktrial.org/team-scrimmages/>

COMPETITION CASE PUBLISHED: *State of Utopia v. Donna O'Grady*

The 2021-2022 NCAJ High School Mock Trial Competition Case is now available online at <https://ncmocktrial.org/compete/case-materials/>! This year's criminal case on the docket: *State of Utopia v. Donna O'Grady*. Donna O'Grady has been charged with first-degree murder by means of poison after the death of her husband Don O'Grady. Don O'Grady fell ill under mysterious circumstances and autopsy results show traces of ethanol glycol in his blood. Was he poisoned and, if so, by whom? With various motives and means, *State of Utopia v. Donna O'Grady* is not an open-and-shut case. The NC Mock Trial Program thanks the NCMT Case Committee members **Brad Bannon**, **Ashle Page**, and **Michael Whyte** for their review and edits to this original case co-written by NCMT Executive Director **Liz Avery-Jones** and NCMT President **Rebecca Britton**.

ANNOUNCING THE STEVE SCHMIDLY COACHING AWARD

The NC Mock Trial Program is pleased to announce the [Steve Schmidly Coaching Award](#) which

will be bestowed annually to an inspirational mock trial coach who has made a tremendous impact on his or her students. This award is named in honor of the dedicated and inspirational work of Attorney Coach **Steve Schmidly** whose over ten years as attorney advisor for Asheboro High School saw not only record numbers of wins but also inspired his students to excel in so many aspects of their lives. Steve was truly a prime example of ‘investing in our future and creating tomorrow’s leaders.’ Thank you to all [our coaches](#) for expertly bringing the many important lessons of mock trial to their students each year!

WELCOMING NEW BOARD MEMBER JOHN MCCABE

The NC Mock Trial Program is grateful to former NC Advocates for Justice President **David Henson** for his service on the NCMTP Board and is also pleased to welcome NCAJ’s current President John McCabe to the NCMTP Board, who is serving as an *ex officio* member. [Learn more about the NCMTP Board.](#)

ATTORNEY ADVISORS NEEDED – WAKE / MECKLENBURG

NC Attorneys: High school students in your community need your help! Local teachers need attorneys to help their students prepare for the NC Mock Trial Program's high school regional mock trial competition. Attorney advisors typically meet with students approximately 6-8 times between October and February (flexible, depending on what your schedule allows). The NCMTP offers attorney advisors plenty of support including this list of [suggested activities](#) and all of these student [training materials](#). Can you help coach? Your role as mentor will be forever remembered by these students and you will join a network of hundreds of lawyers who support this important program as regional coordinators, presiding judges, and attorney advisors. If available to help, please email liz@ncmocktrial.org.

NEW TO MOCK TRIAL? REQUEST RECORDING OF OUR RECENT INTEREST MEETING

A big thank you to Hendersonville High School Social Studies teacher **Jerry Smith** and attorney **Kathryn Wells** for leading our recent August 13 interest meeting for new teachers. Are you new to mock trial? Learn all you need to know about starting a mock trial team at your high school and giving YOUR students the chance to further develop their critical thinking and public speaking skills through mock trial. Let us know your availability for an interest meeting OR request a recording of our August teacher interest meeting [here](#).

2021 – 2022 MOCK TRIAL SEASON CALENDAR

Early Registration Deadline	Friday, Sept. 24, 2021
Team Registration Closes	Friday, Dec. 10, 2021
Sign Notice of Withdrawal Deadlines Form; \$325 Team Fee Due	Friday, Dec. 10, 2021
Team Member List, Code of Ethics, Student Release Forms Due	Thurs, Jan. 6, 2022
Last Day to Withdraw Without Penalty	Thurs, Jan. 6, 2022
Regional Competition	Sat, Feb. 5, 2022
Widenhouse Award Nomination Materials Due at 5pm	Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022
State Finals Competition	Fri and Sat, March 18-19, 2022
National Championship, Kalamazoo	Thurs-Sat, May 5-7, 2022

NCMTP REGIONAL & SITE COORDINATORS

The below group of attorneys and paralegals generously volunteer their time to make mock trial competition run smoothly each year. Learn more about all coordinators at ncmocktrial.org/supporters. We thank both our new coordinators and long-time coordinators very much:

Regional Coordinators:

<i>Fayetteville</i>	<i>Rebecca Britton and Jordan Godwin</i>
<i>Gastonia</i>	<i>Holden Clark and Ivana Hughes</i>
<i>Greenville</i>	<i>Meredith Hinton</i>
<i>Hendersonville</i>	<i>Mary Ann Hollocker</i>
<i>Hickory</i>	<i>Blia Vang</i>
<i>High Point</i>	<i>Rich Manger</i>
<i>Hillsborough</i>	<i>Drew Haywood and Rebecca Ugolick</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</i>
<i>Greenville</i>	<i>Sandra Strickland and Caitlin Tatum</i>
<i>Hendersonville</i>	<i>Melanie Miller</i>
<i>Hickory</i>	<i>Bianca Lopez</i>
<i>High Point</i>	<i>Grace Lay</i>
<i>Hillsborough</i>	<i>Patti Clapper</i>
<i>Raleigh</i>	<i>Michelle Keely and Amanda Miller</i>
<i>Salisbury</i>	<i>Alicia Coggins, Connie Cassatt, Deandra Hall</i>
<i>Wilmington</i>	<i>Catherine Holland and Rachel Royal</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 John McCabe (ex officio)*

ANNOUNCING OUR 2021-2022 COMPETITION SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS



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

Program Outreach Sponsors:
Lawyers Mutual Liability Insurance Company of North Carolina
ABOTA Foundation

State Finals Sponsor: **Sumwalt Anderson Law Firm**

Regional Sponsors

Fayetteville:	Britton Law
Gastonia:	Holden B. Clark, Atty at Law, PLLC & Roberts Law Firm, P.A.
Greenville	Hardee, Massey, Blodgett, LLP
Hendersonville:	The Van Winkle Law Firm and Melrose Law
Hickory:	The Law Office of Jason E. Taylor, P.C. & Orndoff Law Firm
High Point:	High Point Bar Association
Hillsborough:	Patterson Harkavy LLP and to be announced
Raleigh:	Settlement Planning Services, LLC & Maginnis Howard
Salisbury:	19C (Rowan) Judicial Bar
Wilmington:	Shipman & Wright, LLP