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August 2022 News



Register for the 2022-23 regional competition!

Registration opens **September 12th** for the state-wide NCAJ High School Mock Trial Competition on **February 4th, 2023**.

CASE TO BE RELEASED ON SEPTEMBER 6

We hope that everyone had a wonderful and safe summer! We know that you are eager for the mock trial season to begin. We have been *itching* to share with you this year's civil case which will be released on our website on **Tuesday, September 6, 2022!** Team registration will open on our website on **Monday, September 12, 2022**. And last but not least, mark your calendars

for our regional competition which will take place statewide on **Saturday, February 4, 2023**.

If you are new to mock trial and are not sure how to start a team, please click [here](#) to sign up for our mock trial virtual interest meeting on September 8 at 3:30pm, hosted by Jerry Smith of Hendersonville High School.

WELCOMING OUR NEW PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The NCMTP is excited to introduce Joyce Britt, our new Program Coordinator (pictured below), who officially joined our NCMTP team this month. As you will read from Joyce below, she is no stranger to mock trial!



"It was February 1, 2020. Tanja Shurling, Fayetteville Site Coordinator, good friend and paralegal colleague, roped me into volunteering at the Fayetteville Regional Mock Trial Competition. I wasn't sure what to expect when I showed up bright and early that Saturday morning, but I was excited to volunteer! I was assigned to the Information Table, along with a few other volunteers. As students, teachers, coaches, witnesses, attorneys, and judges began making their way to the 3rd floor of the Cumberland County Courthouse, we greeted them and answered any questions, and directed them to the appropriate courtrooms. Later on that day, I quietly made my way into one of the courtrooms. As I sat there in the back of the crowded courtroom, it became apparent how amazing the NC Mock Trial Program truly was. The poise and calmness, as well as the diction, professionalism, and confidence that exuded from those high schoolers was inspiring! I was hooked. And I wanted to be part of the program that continues to invest in our Future Leaders.

My own story has led to a deep respect of our judicial system here in North Carolina. After graduating with my Bachelor's Degree, I began working as a Legal Assistant for a law firm in Bladen County, Hester, Grady & Hester, PLLC. I then furthered my education by attending Fayetteville Technical Community College and obtaining my Paralegal Certification. Afterwards, I became a Deputy Clerk, which led to more of an understanding in Civil procedure and courtroom etiquette. Wanting to see more progress in myself, I moved to Fayetteville and worked as a paralegal for Anderson, Johnson, Lawrence & Butler, LLP, and later, as a paralegal for an attorney who handled Estate matters, Ray Law Firm, PLLC. When the opportunity to become a Cumberland County Magistrate presented itself, I applied and was nominated by the Honorable Clerk of Court Lisa Scales and appointed by the Honorable Superior Court Judge James F. Ammons. With a unique work schedule that afforded some flexibility, I was happy to accept the role of Program Coordinator of the NCMTTP and am excited to be part of this amazing organization with such a rich history! On a personal note, I enjoy reading, baking, listening to Vinyl Records, spending time with family and friends, and attempting to keep my many houseplants alive."

THANKS TO OUR MOCK TRIAL ALUM

We wish to thank former mocker and attorney advisor, Laura Clark, who stepped in two months after having her first baby, to serve in the interim as our Executive Director following Liz Jones' departure. Laura headed our case committee this summer, and worked hard to bring you a fun civil fact pattern that we think you all will love! Laura said, "As a former mock trial participant, intern, scoring juror, and attorney advisor, it was exciting to see the program from yet another vantage point. I am grateful for the opportunity to assist a program that has personally guided me in my career and I plan to remain a dedicated volunteer and supporter of the NCMTTP."

We would also like to extend our gratitude to mock trial alum, Michael Austin, who served as our

NCMTP 2022 summer intern. Michael brought fresh ideas to our program from a student perspective and was instrumental in adapting this year's case. Regarding his summer internship with the NCMTP, Michael said, "It was so fulfilling to learn how it works behind the scenes and contribute to this organization to help make mock trial possible for others." We wish Michael all of the best in his studies starting this fall at Duke University and in his future endeavors.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2022-2023 COMPETITION SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

NCAJ High School Mock Trial Competition Program Sponsor:



Program Outreach Sponsors:

- To be announced

Regional Sponsors:

- To be announced

NCMTP REGIONAL AND 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 <https://ncmocktrial.org/supporters>. We thank both our new coordinators and long-time coordinators very much:

Regional Coordinators

- Fayetteville: Rebecca Britton, Jordan Godwin
- Gastonia: TBD
- Greenville: Meredith Hinton
- Hendersonville: Mary Ann Hollocker
- Hickory: TBD
- High Point: Rich Manger, Eric Richardson
- Hillsborough: Drew Haywood and Rebecca Ugolick

- Raleigh: TBD
- Salisbury: TBD
- Wilmington: John H. Anderson, Jr.

Site Coordinators:

- Fayetteville: Tanja Shurling
- Gastonia: Jacqueline Thurman
- Greenville: Sandra Strickland and Hillary Lassiter
- Hendersonville: Melanie Miller
- Hickory: Bianca Lopez
- High Point: Grace Lay
- Hillsborough: Patti Clapper
- Raleigh: Michelle Keely and Amanda Miller
- Salisbury: Alicia Coggins and Connie Cassatt
- Wilmington: Catherine Holland

NCMTP Board Members: Rebecca Britton (President); Rich Manger (Vice President), Andrew McVey (Treasurer), Adrienne Blocker (Secretary), Bradley Bannon, Drew Haywood, Christine Scheef, Brooke Schmidly, Mark Sumwalt, Valerie A. Johnson (*ex officio*), Jacob Morse, John H. Anderson, Jr., and Brenee Wynett Orozco.



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