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## January 2023 Mock Trial News

# COMPETITION DAY IS ALMOST HERE!

Rebecca Britton, NCMTTP President

We are excited to return to our in-person format this year for the NCAJ High School Mock Trial Competition. I expect, however, that our excitement pales in comparison to that of our students! While we adapted and made the best of it remotely for the past two seasons, there is no learning experience for our students that comes close to standing up in a real court room before a judge and jury and giving an opening statement... or calling your first witness and seeing them walk up and take the stand and testify, telling their story as they look jurors in the eye. All of the preparation for this big day means so much more when it culminates at the courthouse in a real courtroom with a judge on the bench, jurors in the jury box and observers in the gallery of the courtroom!

While I have served as President of the North Carolina Mock Trial Program over these past 5 years, I have also served as the Regional Coordinator for Fayetteville for the last 22. I love being a Regional Coordinator because I am inspired every year-- of course by our students, but also by our many volunteer judges, attorneys, paralegals and other legal professionals that support this program. Saturday, February 4th, is going to be a crazy, busy, exciting, exhausting and wonderful day.

**TO OUR STUDENTS:** We are proud of you and the work you have put in to get ready for this competition and we cannot wait to see you amaze and impress our judges and jurors!

**TO OUR TEACHER AND ATTORNEY COACHES:** Thank you for your dedication and time spent mentoring and preparing your students. It is almost time to see them fly!

**TO OUR ATTORNEY AND JUDGE VOLUNTEERS:** Our most sincere thanks for your generous commitment of time and support. This amazing and inspirational learning experience just simply cannot come to fruition without you!

**TO OUR SITE COORDINATORS AND SITE VOLUNTEERS:** Thank you for your commitment and your dedication in preparing for this day - you make the logistics of the entire day work - we appreciate you and know we could not do this without you!

**TO OUR REGIONAL COORDINATORS:** Thank you for your dedication and for all of your work leading up to this event from tirelessly recruiting our judges and attorneys to overseeing the events of the day. I look forward to our group texts on competition day sharing questions, answers, and updates from our sites around the state.

Here's to a great day of competition and a great day of *“investing in our future and creating tomorrow's leaders!”*

### **[NC Attorneys and Judges Needed as Scoring Jurors and Presiding Judges during Regionals - Feb. 4th](#)**

There are still several open spots for Presiding Judges and Scoring Jurors, especially in **Hendersonville, Gastonia, and Hillsborough**. **PLEASE** help us get these spots filled -- our students are counting on you! [Here's the link to sign up as a Presiding Judge or Scoring Juror](#).

Volunteer time slots (which include time for orientation) are as follows:

- 9:00 am - 11:30 am
- 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm
- 3:45 pm - 6:15 pm

Also, if you know any **paralegals** or **legal assistants** who would be interested in volunteering at each site, they can [sign up here](#). We especially need site volunteers at **Salisbury, Hillsborough, High Point, and Hendersonville**.

Please access our [Volunteer Form here](#). Questions? Feel free to reach out to the Program Coordinator at [joyce@ncmocktrial.org](mailto:joyce@ncmocktrial.org).

## **2022-2023 MOCK TRIAL SEASON CALENDAR**

Team Rosters | Thursday, **February 2, 2023**

Regional Competition | Saturday, **February 4, 2023**

Widenhouse Award Nomination Materials Due at 5 pm | Wed., **Feb. 15, 2023**

State Finals Competition, Raleigh, NC | Fri-Sat, **March 17-18, 2023**

National Championship, Little Rock, Arkansas | Thurs-Sat, **May 18-20, 2023**

Please note, all forms may be submitted online by accessing: <https://ncmocktrial.org/compete/important-forms/>. Please email [joyce@ncmocktrial.org](mailto:joyce@ncmocktrial.org) with any questions.

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## **THANK YOU TO OUR 2022-2023 COMPETITION SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS**

**NCAJ High School Mock Trial Competition Program Sponsor:**



**Program Outreach Sponsors:**

- Lawyers Mutual

**Regional Sponsors:**

- Fayetteville: Britton Law
- Gastonia: Orndoff Law Firm; and The Law Offices of Jason E. Taylor
- Hendersonville: Henderson County
- High Point: High Point Bar Association

- Hillsborough: Patterson Harkavy LLP; Mills & Mahoney, PA
- Raleigh: Settlement Planning Services, LLC; and Maginnis Howard
- Salisbury: Rowan County Bar Association
- Wilmington: Shipman & Wright, LLP

## 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: Holden Clark
- Hendersonville: Mary Ann Hollocker
- High Point: Rich Manger, Eric Richardson
- Hillsborough: Drew Haywood and Rebecca Ugolick
- Raleigh: Kathryn Martin
- Salisbury: John Basinger
- Wilmington: John H. Anderson, Jr.

### Site Coordinators:

- Fayetteville: Tanja Shurling
- Gastonia: Jacqueline Thurman
- Hendersonville: Melanie Miller
- 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., Brenée W. Orozco, and Sue Gray.



**Contact us at [rebecca@ncmocktrial.org](mailto:rebecca@ncmocktrial.org)**

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