

[View this email in your browser.](#) The North Carolina Mock Trial Program administers the NCAJ High School Mock Trial Competition. Please share this newsletter with teammates and parents! For more visit [ncmocktrial.org](http://ncmocktrial.org)



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## March 2023 Mock Trial News

### **[J.H. ROSE HIGH SCHOOL WINS STATE FINALS CHAMPIONSHIP AT THE NORTH CAROLINA ADVOCATES FOR JUSTICE HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION](#)**

This past Friday and Saturday, March 17-18, 2023, ten top teams from across North Carolina -- Village Christian Academy, Covenant Day School, Hendersonville High School, Gaston Christian School, Carrboro High School, Raleigh Charter High School, Central Carolina Homeschoolers, J.H. Rose High School, Wake Young Women's Leadership Academy, and Gray Stone Day School -- battled it out for the Title of "State Champion." After one preliminary round on Friday, and two preliminary rounds on Saturday, it came down to two teams: **Carrboro High School** versus **J.H. Rose High School**.

In the final championship round former N.C. Court of Appeals Judge Lucy Inman presided and jurors Mark Sumwalt, John McCabe, Janet Ward Black, Burton Craige, and Valerie Johnson scored outstanding performances by both teams. At the end of the day, J. H. Rose High School won the State Championship and will represent North Carolina at the National High School Mock Trial Championship in May hosted in Little Rock, Arkansas. For more information, check out the National Mock Trial website at: <https://www.nationalmocktrial.org/>.



*Winning Team: J.H. Rose High School*

Our thanks and congratulations also to J.H. Rose High School's Teacher Coaches Liza Knight, Diane Padilla, and Andrew Pierce as well as Attorney Advisor Hailey Bunce.

The North Carolina Mock Trial Program wishes to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to all the many wonderful volunteers who made this season possible! So many high schoolers all across our state are positively impacted by the competition and we could not do what we do without our AMAZING volunteers! (See our listing of state finals volunteers and judges/jurors below.)

## **COURTROOM ARTIST COMPETITION FINALIST**

Four eager artists competed in the this years Courtroom Artist Competition! The competitors are assigned one team to sketch throughout the competition. At State Finals, competitors worked on their sketches in the first round and submitted their artwork on Saturday at the end of the second round. Drawings are done in colored pencils, pen and ink, pastel or markers. No watercolors or paint are allowed. The sketches are evaluated and scored anonymously by a judge or judging team. This year's State Champion is **Madalyn Bradley** with Covenant Day School. Madalyn has also earned the right to compete as a Courtroom Artist at the National High School Championship to be hosted in Little Rock, Arkansas. See Madalyn's finished artwork below.



### **M. Gordon Widenhouse Jr. Award for Inspirational Team Leadership**

Each year the NCMTTP has the privilege of awarding one senior participating in the NCAJ High School Mock Trial Competition with a scholarship which was established to honor the energy and commitment of the program's first chairperson, Gordon Widenhouse. The award recipient will not necessarily be a star witness or attorney, but he or she will be the person who held the team together throughout practices and competitions. Students are considered based on a written essay and recommendation of their teacher or attorney advisor.



*Photo by: Amber Nimocks. Katherine Hunnicutt with NCMTP VP Richard Manger.*

We are pleased to announce Katherine "Kat" Hunnicutt with Central Carolina Homeschoolers (Veritas) as the winner of the Widenhouse Award. For Kat, "the best life skill you can develop is getting comfortable with being uncomfortable" (often quoted by her coach, Darren Allen). Kat recalls how mock trial took her out of her shell and how she had to work against feelings of self-doubt to become the thriving and confident member of her mock trial team. She indicates that everyone on their team wants to see each other succeed and that she and her teammates "encourage each other to do what is right, not what is comfortable." Congratulations, Kat! You are an inspiration and we are proud that you have been part of the NCAJ High School Mock Trial Competition over the years. We wish you the best and cannot wait to see what you accomplish!

### **THE STEVE SCHMIDLY COACHING AWARD** **SECOND PRESENTATION**

Last year was the first time that the NCMTP recognized an amazing and committed team coach and honored that person with the Steve Schmidly Coaching Award. Steve Schmidly served as the attorney advisor for Asheboro High School for over 14 years and not only saw a record number of wins but also inspired his students to excel in so many aspects of their lives. Steve would still mentor his "mock trial kids" even when he could no longer coach

and did that right up until his death in 2014. He truly believed in "investing in our future and creating tomorrow's leaders."

At the State Finals reception on Friday, March 17th, Brooke Schmidly, the daughter of Steve Schmidly bestowed the second annual Steve Schmidly Coaching Award on a very deserving recipient who has made lasting, tremendous, and positive impacts in the lives of her students: Dr. Amy Marschall.



*Photo by: Amber Nimocks. Brooke Schmidly pictured with Dr. Amy Marschall.*

## **BEST ATTORNEY AND BEST WITNESS AWARDS AT THE STATE FINALS CHAMPIONSHIP**

During the competition rounds at the State Finals Championship, Presiding Judges select Best Attorneys and Best Witnesses and these individuals are recognized at the Awards Ceremony on Saturday. Here are there selections:

### **ROUND 1**

#### Best Attorney

Reagan Carson (**Team B** – J. H. Rose High School (Green))

Ritika Ravikumar (**Team D** – Gray Stone Day School (Garnet))  
Jessica Atwell (**Team E** – Central Carolina Homeschoolers (Veritas))  
Charlotte Pare (**Team G** – Raleigh Charter High School (Lemon))  
Hilton Swing (**Team J** – Hendersonville High School (HHS Cats))

#### Best Witness

Cameron Dally (**Team B** – J. H. Rose High School (Green))  
Mixon Lee (**Team C** – Covenant Day School)  
Madalynn O'Brien (**Team E** – Central Carolina Homeschoolers (Veritas))  
Lasya Nerayanuri (**Team G** – Raleigh Charter High School (Lemon))  
J. T. Smith (**Team J** – Hendersonville High School (HHS Cats))

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## ROUND 2

#### Best Attorney

Katherine Hunnicutt (**Team E** – Central Carolina Homeschoolers (Veritas))  
Matthew Lye (**Team C** – Covenant Day School)  
Blair Miller (**Team I** – Wake Young Women's Leadership Academy (Revolution))  
Lasya Nerayanuri (**Team G** – Raleigh Charter High School (Lemon))  
Chloe Malone (**Team A** – Village Christian Academy (Purple))

#### Best Witness

Gabe Lance (**Team E** – Central Carolina Homeschoolers (Veritas))  
Rose Henderson (**Team C** – Covenant Day School)  
Genesis Vasquez (**Team I** – Wake Young Women's Leadership Academy (Revolution))  
Zoe Bergschneider (**Team G** – Raleigh Charter High School (Lemon))  
Emmanula Adeyemi (**Team A** – Village Christian Academy (Purple))

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## ROUND 3

#### Best Witness

Mary Elizabeth Hutchinson (**Team B** – J. H. Rose High School (Green))  
Hilton Swing (**Team J** – Hendersonville High School (HHS Cats))  
Lucy Carlson (**Team H** – Carrboro High School (Purple))  
Katherine Hunnicutt (**Team E** – Central Carolina Homeschoolers (Veritas))  
Lasya Nerayanuri (**Team G** – Raleigh Charter High School (Lemon))

#### Best Attorney

Alex Cooper (**Team B** – J. H. Rose High School (Green))  
 Rose Henderson (**Team J** – Hendersonville High School (HHS Cats))  
 Ritika Ravikumar (**Team D** – Gray Stone Day School (Garnet))  
 Jessica Karikuki (**Team I** – Wake Young Women’s Leadership Academy (Revolution))  
 Zoe Bergschneider (**Team G** – Raleigh Charter High School (Lemon))

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## FINAL

### Best Witness

Reagan Carson (**Team B** – J. H. Rose High School (Green))

### Best Attorney

Murray Hughes (**Team B** – J. H. Rose High School (Green))

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## **STATE FINALS VOLUNTEERS**

HUGE THANK YOU to all the volunteers who made the State Finals Championship possible!! We could not have done it without your help! Below is a list of the Judges and Jurors as well as the Site Volunteers for our 2023 State Finals Championship.

### **Preliminary Rounds**

#### Presiders

Hon. Mary Ann Tally	Jacob Morse
Hon. John Tyson	Hon. Mark Sternlicht
Samantha Sliney	Hon. Quon Bridges
Michael Patrick	Andrew O'Hara
Patrick Shuette	Abigail Holloway
Hon. Anna Worley	Steve Gugenheim

#### Jurors

Carlos Mahoney	Tacker LeCarpentier
Anna Kalarites	Dale Stephenson
Deanna Thorne	Jarod Koenig
Brooke Schmidly	Spencer Parris
Chris Beacham	Lori Meyerhoffer
Will Owens	Timothy Dunn
Brenee Orozco	Tolu Adewale
Holly Stiles	Ryan Ault
Drew Haywood	David Sherlin

Sue Gray  
Adrienne Blocker  
Christine Scheef  
Kathryn Martin  
Justine Mikaloff  
Helen Baddour  
Chris Nichols

Aimee Nwabuike  
Philip Mullins  
LaDonna Williams  
Kelly Wilburn  
Andrew O'Hara  
Michael Bennett

**Final Round**

Presider

Hon. Lucy Inman

Jurors

Mark Sumwalt  
John McCabe  
Janet Ward Black  
Burton Craige  
Valerie Johnson

Courtroom Liaisons, Info Desk, and

Student Check-in:

Tanja Shurling  
Amanda Miller  
Nancy Powning  
Tani Caudle  
Chloe Young  
Holly Hedrick

Evelyn Goheen  
Jack Scheef  
Tracy Bowling  
Patti Clapper  
DeLois Cue  
Yazmeen Gadalla

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

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





**State Finals Sponsor:**

- Sumwalt Anderson Law Firm

**State Finals Host:**

- Campbell University Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law

**State Finals Judge and Juror Orientations:**

- Milner Settlements

**State Finals Signage:**

- LargeVerdicts Consulting, LLC

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

**Outreach Project Sponsor:**

- Lawyers Mutual Liability Insurance Company of North Carolina

## 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.



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