



April 2023 Mock Trial News

[THE ROAD TO NATIONALS, AN UPDATE FROM LIZA KNIGHT, CO-COACH OF J.H. ROSE HIGH SCHOOL](#)

The **J.H. Rose High School** mock trial team is working hard to prepare for the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 17-20, 2023. The case for nationals was released on April 1st, and it is about a murder that took place at a school board meeting. The case mixes in interesting facts about Arkansas history, so we are enjoying learning about the history of the host state. It is a challenge to prepare an entire case in about six weeks, but we feel good about our progress so far.



Picture submitted by Liza Knight, taken at State Finals Competition

We are excited to get to represent North Carolina at the first in-person national championship since 2019. The last time

J.H. Rose won the state championship and competed in nationals was in **2006**, so there is a lot that has changed since then. We will be traveling to Little Rock on May 16th so that we have time to scrimmage with other schools on May 17th. We are looking forward to meeting teams from across the country. Below is the logo that we created for use on our shirts and stickers at Nationals.



We are so grateful for the support that we have received since winning the state championship. We were recognized by the Pitt County School Board on April 3rd, and we have had great support from our school system. We were initially concerned about funding for our trip, but our school system, local attorneys, local businesses, and other members of our community have been incredibly generous with donations to support us as we prepare for nationals. We are humbled by the generosity, and we will do our best to represent our community and state well. We are also grateful for the continued support of the North Carolina Mock Trial Program and the North Carolina Advocates for Justice as we prepare for nationals.

Christine Scheef, NCMTTP Board Member will be attending Nationals with J.H. Rose High School. Congratulations on making it to Nationals, J.H. Rose High School! We wish you the best in your final preparations!

For more information, check out the National Mock Trial website at: <https://www.nationalmocktrial.org/>.



Picture submitted by Liza Knight

FAREWELL NOTE FROM JOYCE BRITT

The last eight months have flown by here at the NCMTTP as the Program Coordinator! But it has been such a rewarding journey! This journey started with some fast-paced learning to get me up to speed last fall right when the 2023 Competition Case was soon to be released. Then it was non-stop team registration, working with schools and trying to find attorney advisors for some teams, creating the new time keeping cards, scheduling scrimmages, and then planning

in-person Regionals after having been remote for the past two years! I could barely catch my breath in February as the State Finals Championship loomed in March. But, we made it! First off, I'm so proud of each and every school and team that participated in last year's competition. To the many teachers, coaches, and attorney advisors who have poured countless hours into your student's lives—thank you! The impact that you have on your students cannot be measured. The most wonderful aspect of working with a non-profit is the people, and the NCMTB Board and Executive committee is phenomenal! From the many site volunteers, site coordinators, and regional coordinators as well as the numerous judges, attorneys, and legal professionals who make each competition possible—you are the lifeblood of this organization! To the many sponsors, thank you for giving your money and more often than not your time which also makes each competition a success! My plan is not to disappear completely because I absolutely love the work and mission of the NCAJ's High School Mock Trial Competition; but, I have the opportunity to obtain additional training and pursue some further career objectives. Nevertheless, look for me in the future as I have plans to continue volunteering with this amazing organization!

THE NCMTB EXCITEDLY WELCOMES OUR NEW PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR **EMME MCMANUS**

The NCMTB is excited to introduce, **Emme McManus**, our new Program Administrator (pictured below), who officially joined our NCMTB team this month.



Hello everyone! My name is Emme McManus and I'm thrilled to be joining the NCMTB as the new Program Administrator. While I'm new to Mock Trial, I'm not new to competitive extracurricular activities and hands-on learning. As a former member of Model United Nations and Euro-Challenge, one of the things that excited me most about Mock Trial is the opportunity it provides for local teens. As someone who has gone through similar programs, the experiences gained, friendships made, and skills learned are invaluable. I can now say my time in those programs largely influenced me and led me to my course of study and ultimately my career.

After high school, I headed to the Blue Ridge Mountains where I attended Warren Wilson College and received a degree in Sociology and Anthropology and a minor in Political Science. During those years, I committed myself to policy research through the Bonner Foundation and local civic engagement efforts by organizing voter registration drives and facilitating community discussions on social justice issues (utilizing all those public speaking and analytical reasoning skills from Model U.N. and Euro-Challenge along the way).

I also went on to join AmeriCorps, where I worked closely with underserved communities to identify their needs and provide resources and support. I helped coordinate volunteers, organize events, lead educational workshops, raise

funds, and just generally collaborate with local organizations in the Buncombe County area. Through this work, I developed strong project management and leadership skills, as well as a deep appreciation for the work of nonprofits. Nonprofits play such a vital role in our society, and I'm honored to be part of the team of the NCAJ's High School Mock Trial Competition.

In my free time, you can find me making jewelry, watching a good movie, and spending time with friends and family. I am excited to apply my skills and experiences at the NCMTP, where I can help foster the same kind of transformative learning experiences that I had as a high school student. By supporting young people to become more confident, engaged, and informed in their communities, I believe we can create a brighter and more just future for all.

OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS AND SENIORS - GEORGETOWN LAW OUTREACH



Georgetown Law's Early Outreach Initiative introduces juniors and seniors in high schools from underserved communities to the idea of law school, the profession of lawyering and careers in law through various Q&A sessions with law students and attorneys, class simulations, workshops, and mentorship. You can learn more about our program through our [webpage](#). Any interested high school teachers or administrators are invited to complete this short [sign-up form](#). We hope that many of your juniors and seniors will take part of this incredible opportunity!

UCLA MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM - TWO SUMMER SESSIONS AVAILABLE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



Registration is now available to high school students for two summer sessions at the University of California Los Angeles. Below is some additional information about this wonderful opportunity!

2023 UCLA MOCK TRIAL INSTITUTE IS UCLA'S SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR ME?

Are you a high school student interested in learning more about our nation's legal system? Perhaps you are considering a career in law or criminal justice? Are you a member of your high school's mock trial program? Or maybe you just want to build your self-confidence and strengthen your ability to communicate your ideas and opinions to others? If any of these are true, you should consider participating in the 2023 UCLA Mock Trial Summer Institute at UCLA this summer. This week-long program is a great way to broaden your knowledge base, explore college and career options, boost your self-confidence and powers of persuasion - all while making new friends and having fun! Come to Los Angeles to train with the nationally renowned UCLA Mock Trial Team Coach and Team Members!

WHEN IS IT?

This summer, we will be offering two sessions! You can join us virtually via **Zoom (July 9 - July 15, 2023)** OR in-person on **UCLA's campus (July 16 - July 22, 2023)**. More informations about each of the sessions can be found on our Instagram (@uclamocktrialinstitute) or the UCLA Summer Sessions website: <https://summer.ucla.edu/program/mock-trial-summer-institute/>

IS THE UCLA TEAM COMPETITIVE?

UCLA has the most successful Mock Trial program in the country & we have the championships to prove it. We have won the National Championship more times in the last 22 years than any other school in the nation (4 times) and have

placed in the Top 12 teams among 600+ competitors in the last 22 years!

WHAT WILL I GET TO DO?

All Institute students will be officially enrolled in MGMT 88 and earn 2 quarter units of UC credit. During the Mock Trial Institute, students will attend seminars on law and advocacy by UCLA faculty followed by workshops and discussion sessions led by members of the UCLA Mock Trial team; you will prepare for the prosecution or defense side of a criminal murder case as attorneys and/or witnesses; and you'll have a chance to see real criminal trials at the Los Angeles Superior Court. Join us with other members of your high school mock trial team to learn advanced techniques and collegiate level mock trial skills. Mock Trial Institute is appropriate for both beginners and experienced high school mockers.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Students will attend sessions introducing them to the art of Mock Trial competition. Planned sessions topics include: Direct and Cross Examination Techniques; Exhibits and Impeachments; Objections and Rules of Evidence; Opening Statements & Closing Arguments; and Witness Portrayal. Working in small groups led by UCLA Mock Trial team members, students have the chance to apply their knowledge and skills while preparing a criminal homicide case for a mock trial competition that will take place on the final day of the program. Parents, family and friends are invited to come see you in action. You'll also get to meet students from all around the world and make new friends!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN AT: <https://summer.ucla.edu/program/mock-trial-summer-institute/>

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
- 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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Contact us at rebecca@ncmocktrial.org

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