

[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



May 2023 Mock Trial News

J.H. ROSE HIGH SCHOOL WRAPS UP STELLAR SEASON WITH 8TH PLACE FINISH AT NATIONALS

With legal eagles soaring in from 47 states, this year's National Mock Trial Competition held in Little Rock, Arkansas brought together the brightest young legal minds from across the country. The national showdown marked a significant moment for the organization as it was the first in-person championship since 2019, which only added to the excitement and anticipation. Amidst the intense battles of wit and persuasion, J.H. Rose High School emerged as a formidable force, securing an 8th place finish that even the toughest judge would rule as impressive beyond a reasonable doubt. Christine Scheef, a member of the NCMTP Board who attended Nationals alongside J.H. Rose High School, said, "The team was focused, clearly knew the materials and the rules of evidence, did not get the least bit rattled when they lost an objection, and did an amazing job. Their hard work and that of their coaches was apparent throughout the weekend." Their compelling arguments and impressive performances made them a force to be reckoned with, and their success has left an enduring legacy in the annals of mock trial history. The NCMTP extends its warmest congratulations to everyone on the team.





From left to right: Team coaches Andrew Pierce and Diane Padilla, Cameron Dally, Murray Hughes, Alex Cooper, Kinsley Tate White, Reagan Carson, Mary Elizabeth Hutchinson, Katie Morris, Attorney Coach Hailey Bunce, and Lead Coach Liza Knight

In the following section of this newsletter, we invite you to delve into the firsthand experiences, personal anecdotes, and key takeaways shared by team members who made it to Little Rock this year. Each account acts as a testament to the countless hours of preparation, meticulous planning, and exceptional teamwork demonstrated throughout this journey. Congratulations once again to the team for all their hard work. Without further ado, let's hear directly from the individuals who left an indelible mark on the national stage.

Liza Knight - Lead Coach

The night that we won the State Championship was full of celebration, but two days later we got to work planning, fundraising, and preparing for our trip to nationals in Little Rock, Arkansas. Preparing a brand-new case in just six weeks, which included Spring Break and AP Exams, proved to be a great challenge. We all lost a lot of sleep in our final week of preparation, but it was all worth it once we got to nationals.

Our trip began with a 3-hour delay, where we sat on a plane waiting for the storms to pass the Charlotte airport. Lucky for us, the team representing Massachusetts was on this same flight, so we were able to make new friends before we even left North Carolina. We joked that we should have done a full scrimmage while we sat on the plane. Once we made it to Little Rock, we spent the next two days practicing, scrimmaging other teams, and exploring the city. We learned a lot from our visit to Central High School and the Clinton Presidential Library and enjoyed eating meals and enjoying the park in the riverfront area. One of my favorite memories is watching the students play at the park during a quick break between scrimmages. It was great stress relief, and we all laughed a lot.

Once the competition began, we were focused on doing our best and trying to make improvements before each round. We faced four great teams, and we were pleased that all of the teams we faced were professional and kind. We knew the scores were going to be close, but we felt good about our effort and performance. At the Awards Gala, we were hoping that we placed in the top 10, but we also knew how tough the competition had been. When they called our name for 8th place, we were surprised and overjoyed. We spent the rest of the night smiling

for pictures with our diamond trophy. Our trip to Nationals was one we will never forget, and we are grateful that we got to represent our state.

Kinsley White - Team Member, Senior

Four years ago, when joining the J.H Rose Mock Trial Team as a Freshman, I could have never imagined that my senior year on the team would end with a trip to Nationals- much less a placement as eighth in the nation. Mock Trial has always been one of my favorite extracurriculars, always spurred by the people and advisors involved since I do not necessarily want to go into the field of law. However, I went into preparation for Nationals ignorant of the close bonds that would be formed with people I now recognize as family (emphasized since the team now refers to two of our coaches as "Mom" and "Dad"). From long hours in the Pitt County Courthouse to a frantic scramble to put together case materials days before a flight to Arkansas, our team not only found close connections with each other but also discovered a way to work as a unit— never working against each other, but instead always contributing to each other's efforts with encouragement and constructive criticism.

A long month of preparation and memorization (made difficult by the stress of college decisions and AP exams) accumulated into an incredibly fun and enjoyable trip to Little Rock. To be completely transparent, not a single person on our team knew what to expect in this town— some of us had never even heard of this part of Arkansas, and others were jealous of past years' Nationals held in "attractive" destinations such as New York or Atlanta. However, the city took us all by surprise as we *thoroughly* enjoyed the Riverwalk, numerous places to eat, and most of all, the playground (that one is a long, quite funny, story). Amidst all of this joy-filled stress relief, we had the incredible opportunity to meet teams from all around the US (and even outside of the country for a few teams), our favorite interaction which was at the "pin trading ceremony." Several of us made it an internal competition to collect the most pins from other teams... let's just say that I was pretty confident in my networking skills until I caught up with junior boys on our team and realized they had more than doubled my collection.

Despite efforts to remember the details and specifics of our actual trials, everything remains a blur- however, the exhilaration, stress, and nervous excitement are as clear as if our final round was yesterday. Not only did the entire team continue to rally with renewed energy despite the exhaustion we all felt, but the overwhelming accomplishment of even making it as far as our team did was also satisfaction in itself. Our only regret throughout the trials was that we never had the chance to compete against the team from Massachusetts, which we had originally met on the flight from Charlotte to Arkansas and continually ran into over and over again- to the point that we became rather good friends.

Overall, Nationals was an unforgettable, once-in-a-lifetime experience— one that grew friendships and taught me values that I will continue to carry with me into college. I have said it once and will say it again: Mock Trial Nationals was the perfect end to not only my four years on the J.H. Rose Mock Trial team but also to my four years at Rose as a whole because of the

amazing coaches whom I consider second parents and the incredible team that make up my new, extended family.



8th Place Result on Projector Screen, taken at the Award Ceremony

Katie Morris - Team Member, Junior

Preparing for nationals was different than anything we had done before. Usually, we take about 3 months to prepare a case, but we prepared this case in 6 weeks. Not only were we in a time crunch, but all of our team had AP exams during the two weeks prior to the competition. This meant we had to find more time to devote to mock trial as most of our focus was on AP exams. We did a lot of independent and partner work in order to prepare specific witnesses. Our team worked incredibly hard, and we felt prepared for trial when we left for Arkansas.

Reagan Carson - Team Member, Senior

Once it was announced that we won states and would be competing at nationals, it felt like a dream come true. We were all buzzing with excitement and could not wait to work on the next case. However, while there was some excitement there was also a fair share of stress that came with it. Only having a month to prepare a whole new case was a little daunting, especially with AP exams being in the middle of that month. I felt confident in this team because I knew how hard everyone worked to make it to nationals, and I knew that we would work twice as hard to keep going.

I remember the long practices, the late-night phone calls with teammates to make sure things were perfect, and making sure everything was to memory exactly as it should be. We had all worked so hard and everything felt so real once we touched down in Little Rock, Arkansas. Even when we were there we practiced, but we still made sure to have fun along the way. We explored the city and ran our directs, crosses, or statements as we walked. The night before the

first round of competition I remember being nervous, but also excited to work again in a competitive scenario with my team.

Our team worked hard and always supported each other. I contribute our success to being able to communicate and work as one body. We liked to joke that we were a family of sorts. When we heard that we won eighth, it was wild. I jumped up from the table, like everyone else around me, and just started screaming with joy. It felt like everything we did paid off. I could not have been prouder of what we did. Even after it all, I don't immediately think of the work we did. Instead, I think of all the fun we had. I immediately remember all the laughs, the inside jokes, and the bonding as a team. I will always remember this experience and am so grateful for the chance to be a part of it.

We couldn't be prouder of the way this group of students and coaches represented themselves and the program. Thank you to everyone who played a role in making this year's competition a reality, we are grateful for you all making this experience possible. Well done all!



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

**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.



Copyright © 2023 North Carolina Mock Trial Program, All rights reserved.

Contact us at rebecca@ncmocktrial.org

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

Changes here don't impact your receiving official team correspondence as part of your team registration but will impact your receiving future mock trial newsletters.