



MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2012

Brought to you by the

NCAJ Mock Trial Committee and the Carolina Center for Civic Education

"Investing in our future, creating tomorrow's leaders"

WHAT IS "PROFESSIONALISM"?

By Sue H. Johnson

NCAJ Mock Trial Program Administrator

As Charles E. McCallum wrote in his thought-provoking article "Professionalism: It's no joke," attorneys are frequently the target of jests which portray them as greedy, self-centered, and deceitful.* Sadly, the media generally does little to dispel this misperception. Mr. McCallum urged attorneys to return to the professional ideals so clearly enunciated in the Professional Rules of Conduct, which emphasize the importance of ethical conduct and the "exercise of 'moral judgment' . . . The true professional is passionately committed to quality, passionately devoted to the interests of the client, and passionately devoted to the public interest and the administration of justice." Honesty and integrity are of vital importance; as Mr. McCallum notes, "[h]onesty and integrity go together with loyalty, reliability, fairness and compassion to make up 'character,' which is sometimes defined simply as moral excellence." Dedication to excellence is also crucial: "[h]owever many times a professional may have done a particular task, he will seek each time to do it better than before. . . . The phrases 'good enough' and 'this will do' are anathema to the professional." *<http://apps.americanbar.org/buslaw/blt/2007-01-02/mccallum.shtml>

As a Mock Trial team coach from 2009-2011, I experienced first-hand the selfless service of innumerable attorneys, judges, and paralegals who devoted their time to helping the students. I am thrilled to be a part of the CCCE and NCAJ Mock Trial program because I know that through the avenue of Mock Trial, students, teachers, and families across the state are able to see the generosity and moral excellence which characterize so many legal professionals in North Carolina. Thank you to all those who have already partnered with us in this venture – and to those who haven't, we would love to have you join us as a judge or juror at our upcoming Regional competitions. Volunteer today (link below); you won't regret it!

REGIONAL COMPETITIONS ONLY A MONTH AWAY – WE NEED YOU!

On **Saturday, February 4th**, nearly 600 students from across North Carolina will be walking into courtrooms in Asheville, Charlotte, Durham, Fayetteville, Greenville, High Point, Raleigh, and Wilmington with a lump in their throats and butterflies in their stomachs. They will come, not because they are in trouble, but because they have been hard at work for months preparing both the prosecution and defense for *State of Arcadia v. Kinsley Williams*. This year will mark the 20th consecutive year that the North Carolina Advocates for Justice have helped to administer and support the only statewide mock trial competition for high school students. The program touches the lives of hundreds of students and family members each year, positively impacting their perception and understanding of our system of justice and the attorneys and judges who are a part of it. It takes *hundreds* of volunteers to make these competitions a success! We count on legal assistants, paralegals, and law students as *site volunteers* to help with the logistics of the competition day, and attorneys and judges to serve as *scoring jurors* and *presiding trial judges* for morning and afternoon trial rounds. Come and join the excitement of the competition and be impressed by the performance of our amazing students! To volunteer at one of our 8 regional competitions, **CLICK HERE** to volunteer as a Judge/Juror, or **HERE** to serve as a site volunteer. We look forward to seeing you there!

CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE!

Volunteering as a coach for team participating in the High School Mock Trial competition is truly one of those instances where for each hour you give, you receive ten-fold satisfaction. For the past several years, I have helped, in a small way, a group of dedicated students and parent coaches as they developed from a novice team to state-wide champions. I played a role that most lawyers could -- I presided over practice rounds, offering frequent words of encouragement and pointers on style and substance wherever appropriate. The students were remarkable and came to each session brimming with ideas and questions that reflected their enthusiasm. This, I think, is what makes this competition such a rewarding volunteer opportunity: the students that you encounter as a volunteer have a passion for our profession and a desire to immerse themselves in it. Spend a few hours with a team, and you will walk away, as I did, with a heartwarming glimpse of the future of our profession. – *Superior Court Judge Paul Ridgeway, 10th District.*



ATTORNEY ADVISORS STILL NEEDED!!

Do you remember how confusing many aspects of the law seemed when you entered law school as a 1L? Did you appreciate the wisdom of professors and mentors as you learned how to analyze statutes and develop legal strategies? Students and teacher-coaches have been hard at work for months, studying affidavits, developing direct and cross examination questions, and practicing opening statements and closing arguments. Attorney advisors are invaluable as the students wrestle with the case and make sure that they are on the “right track.”

Four schools are still in need of an attorney advisor: Panther Creek High School in Cary, Garinger High School in Charlotte, West Mecklenburg High School in Charlotte, and Gray Stone Day School in Misenheimer (just north of Concord). If you are an attorney or advanced law school student who could devote a few hours to helping these teams in January, please contact Rebecca Britton at rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com for more information or to volunteer. *Don't leave these students with only a stuffed tiger to give them legal counsel!!*



Cartoon strip from: Best Calvin and Hobbes Collection, <http://chquotes.synthasite.com/search.php>

CALENDAR 2011/2012 MOCK TRIAL SEASON

Team Roster Form and Money Due
Last Day to Withdraw Without Penalty
Regional Competition
State Finals-Campbell Law School, Raleigh
National Championship-Albuquerque, New Mexico

Friday, January 6, 2012
Friday, January 12, 2012
Saturday, February 4, 2012
Friday/Saturday, March 2-3, 2012
Wednesday-Sunday, May 2-6, 2012

THANK YOU TO OUR REGIONAL AND STATE FINAL COMPETITION SPONSORS!

Asheville: Melrose, Seago & Lay, P.A.
Charlotte: The Sumwalt Law Firm
Durham: Howard, Stallings, From & Hutson, P.A. *and*
Lawyers Mutual Liability Insurance Company of North Carolina
Fayetteville: Britton Law, P.A.
Greenville: Hardee & Hardee, LLP
High Point: Crumley Roberts, LLP
Raleigh: Twiggs, Beskind, Strickland & Rabenau, P.A.
Wilmington: Shipman & Wright, P.A.
State Finals: Rudolf, Widenhouse & Fialko

CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW - partnering with NCAJ to host our state final competition!



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FORTUNATELY, our Regional Coordinators and Site Volunteers play to their strengths – which are NOT the same as Calvin's!

Special thanks to Mock Trial Committee Members and Regional Coordinators who have agreed to serve for the 2011/2012 season: Paul Goodson (Charlotte Regional Coordinator), Rich Manger and Adrienne Blocker (High Point Regional Coordinators), John H. Anderson, Jr., (Wilmington Regional Coordinator), Russell Johnson (Durham Regional Coordinator), Mark Melrose (Asheville Regional Coordinator), Christine Scheef and Sheila Chavis (Raleigh Regional Coordinators), Philip Entzinger (Greenville Regional Coordinator), John O'Neal, Chris Nichols, Mark Sumwalt, Elizabeth Kuniholm, and Elizabeth Spruill.

Special thanks also to our Site Coordinators who have agreed to serve in the 2011/2012 season!

Asheville: Cindy Bryson, Charlotte: Beverly K. Moore, Durham: Patti Clapper, Fayetteville: Elizabeth Owens Greenville: Dalas Young, Kristen Miller; High Point: Karen Parrish, Raleigh: Lindsey Granados, Wilmington: Brandy Jo Lea .

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

CLICK HERE to volunteer for a regional competition near you!

*****If you are interested in serving on the NCAJ Mock Trial Committee, please contact either Sue Johnson, Program Administrator, at sueheathjohnson@gmail.com, or Rebecca Britton or Gordon Widenhouse, Committee Co-Chairs, at rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com or mgwidenhouse@yahoo.com.***

*****For more information on the NCAJ High School Mock Trial Program, visit the NCAJ website at www.ncaj.com, click on "your resources" and "mock trial."***