



MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2013

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Carolina Center for Civic Education and the NCAJ Mock Trial Committee
"Investing in our future, creating tomorrow's leaders"*

NEW OUTREACH PROJECT IS A SUCCESS!!

By Sue H. Johnson

CCCE Mock Trial Program Coordinator

As we described in our July-August 2012 NCAJ newsletter (see <http://ncmocktrial.org/about/newsletters>), the CCCE Board initiated a new Outreach Project in the 2012-13 season to provide extra support for new schools in rural and inner-city urban areas. In early fall, we contacted 45 schools statewide to describe the benefits of the mock trial program and encourage them to form a team. To assist new schools, we created new resource materials for teacher-coaches, including a number of specific handouts to guide student attorneys and witnesses. All materials were posted on our website for use by both new and returning teams. We also developed curriculum and conducted on-site team training sessions at nine new schools, reaching nearly 140 students, teachers, and attorney advisors from Asheville to Lumberton. We videotaped one of these sessions and posted the videos on our website (<http://ncmocktrial.org/resources/training-materials>), thereby making them available to all schools in the state. Finally, we recruited attorney advisors for all new schools and provided suggestions to guide them in their new roles; as needed, we also recruited attorney advisors for returning schools.

We are very pleased to report that the outreach project was a success, resulting in an **18% increase** in the number of schools competing at the regional competitions over the previous season (from 61 teams to 72 teams). In addition, **16** of the 72 teams were **brand-new** to the program this year! Several of the new teams achieved notable success, advancing as far as third place in their regional competitions. Although others may not have won as many ballots in their inaugural competition, the teachers still found the experience to be worthwhile. As one new teacher-coach wrote to us afterward, "I wanted to say as a first time advisor and new team leader, it was a very rewarding experience. Everyone was so nice and welcomed us with open arms. We messed up all day, but it was worth it. We will see you next year, and thank you once again for all you have done for my club."

The new students also valued the important lessons they learned. One student wrote to say: "My experience with the North Carolina Advocates for Justice Mock Trial competition gave me a substantial amount of growth in not only my public speaking and confidence, but also in my ability to think on my feet. This opportunity first taught me to speak loud and clear in front of an audience with intent and purpose. Everything that I said and how I said it mattered because saying the wrong thing could possibly ruin your case. With this being my first year participating in the mock trial competition, I was very nervous. But after I got over my first few stammers, it was smooth sailing from there. I even got the STAR attorney award, twice! This helped me to realize that hard work goes far.

"Although we did not win either of our two cases, the experience was rewarding enough. For me this was more than a role play competition, for me this was an episode of self-discovery. After participating in the mock trial competition, I decided that after I receive my master's degree in business administration, I would like to go to

law school and own my own civil and entertainment law practice. The mock trial competition was a very good experience and I'm grateful that I was able to participate.”

We are thankful for the support of our Outreach Project sponsors that enabled us to assist so many new schools. And we have already been contacted by a number of additional schools which, while unable to begin a program this year, are excited about starting new teams next year with the extra support we have been able to provide. Next year, our desire is to enable even more students to learn about our legal system while acquiring communication, critical thinking, collaboration, and leadership skills so vital to their future success. **To do this, we will need continued financial support of our outreach efforts; we hope YOU will consider joining us in this important endeavor!!** For more information, please contact Program Coordinator Sue Johnson at SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com or CCCE Vice-President Rebecca Britton at rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com

CCCE SPONSORS OUR FIRST-EVER SUMMER MOCK TRIAL CAMP!!

By Sue H. Johnson

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In previous years, North Carolina students wanting to learn about mock trial during summer vacation have only had the option to attend expensive camps in other states. Thus, numerous students and teachers have asked us to offer a summer mock trial experience for North Carolina students. In prior years, we have lacked the resources to respond. But this year, as part of our Outreach Project, the CCCE is proud to announce our **first-ever three-day Mock Trial Camp!** The goal of the camp is to provide a fun and affordable option to help students gain a deeper understanding of our legal system through mock trial.

The CCCE Summer Mock Trial camp will take place from **June 27 – 29** in **Chapel Hill** on the campus of the **University of North Carolina**. Through a combination of informative presentations by experienced legal professionals and hands-on practice culminating in a final trial in an actual courtroom, students will gain the knowledge and skills to “hit the ground running” when the new case is released in early September. Both Basic and Advanced sessions will be offered to meet the needs of all students. Options are available for both day and overnight campers. For an application, visit <http://ncmocktrial.org/content/ccce-offers-new-summer-camp>.

For more information, please contact Program Coordinator Sue Johnson (SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com or 919-360-0848). *If you know of any interested students or teachers, please let them know about this opportunity!*

THANK YOU TO OUR 2012-13 OUTREACH PROJECT SPONSORS!

Lawyers Mutual Liability Insurance Company of North Carolina
North Carolina Lawyers Weekly
Mary Duke Biddle Foundation

THANK YOU TO OUR 2012-13 COMPETITION SPONSORS!

State Finals: Rudolf Widenhouse & Fialko

Asheville: Melrose, Seago & Lay, P.A.

Charlotte: The Sumwalt Law Firm

Durham: The Law Offices of James Scott Farrin

Fayetteville: Britton Law, P.A.

Greenville: Hardee & Hardee, LLP

High Point: Crumley Roberts, LLP

Raleigh: Twiggs Strickland & Rabenau, P.A.

Wilmington: Shipman & Wright, LLP

CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW - partnering with NCAJ to host our State Finals!

IT TAKES A VILLAGE . . .

Special thanks to Mock Trial Committee Members and Regional Coordinators who have agreed to serve for the 2012/2013 season: Mark Melrose (Asheville Regional Coordinator), Paul Goodson (Charlotte Regional Coordinator), Russell Johnson (Durham Regional Coordinator), Philip Entzinger (Greenville Regional Coordinator), Rich Manger and Adrienne Blocker (High Point Regional Coordinators), Christine Scheef (Raleigh Regional Coordinator), John H. Anderson, Jr., (Wilmington Regional Coordinator), Ken Campbell, Sheila Chavis, Elizabeth Kuniholm, Carlos Mahoney, Chris Nichols, John O'Neal, Katy Parker, Elizabeth Spruill, and Mark Sumwalt.

Special thanks also to our Site Coordinators who will serve at Regionals in the 2012/2013 season! Asheville: Cindy Bryson, Charlotte: Beverly K. Moore, Durham: Patti Clapper, Fayetteville: Elizabeth Owens, Greenville: Kristin Miller; High Point: Karen Parrish, Raleigh: Lakisha Chichester and Fran LaFrankie, Wilmington: Brandy Jo Lea.

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