



## MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2016

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### **MOCK TRIAL STUDENT EARNS TWO PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIPS!**

*By Emily Neville*

*Triton High School, Erwin, N.C.*



*Editor's note: While most students who participate in mock trial do not intend to pursue law as a career, they all benefit tremendously from the skills that mock trial develops – analytical reasoning, persuasive communication, teamwork, leadership—and the increased self-confidence that results. As an added bonus, these skills often lead to college scholarships. Keep reading to learn about one very accomplished young woman who attributes much of her success to mock trial.*

My experience with mock trial has undoubtedly prepared me for my college career and any career I choose to enter in the future. The skills I gained from numerous competitions, practices, and camps were not only in the nature of the law, but in public speaking, leadership, and commitment.

I have recently been awarded the Morehead-Cain Scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Park Scholarship to North Carolina State University, and needless to say, I have mock trial to thank for these prestigious awards. At one point during the rigorous process, an interviewer commented on my ability to speak clearly and confidently with people of many years my age. I replied honestly and without hesitation that mock trial had positively benefited me in my communicative skills. It has given me the necessary confidence to maintain eye contact with “the jury,” to use proper “courtroom etiquette” in everyday life, and to speak eloquently without pauses or incomprehensible muttering.

The mock trial system does a fantastic job of pushing young scholars out of their comfort zone while giving them an understanding of our nation’s judicial system. With these tools I am ready to embark upon the next chapter of my life: a Park scholar at N.C. State. My current plans are to study Political Science with minors in French and Economics, which may develop into a double major with either of the two subjects. I have wanted to study Political Science since starting mock trial in my sophomore year. Mock trial, combined with excelling in Honors Civics and Economics and A.P. U.S. Government, prompted me to look into career options such as being a lawyer, politician, or some other civil servant.

I participated in mock trial in the first year of its existence at Triton High School. My teacher at the time, Mr. Wesley Sills, started the team and encouraged me to join. It did not take much asking; I knew I would jump at the opportunities it afforded me. For the first year I was a witness for one round and an

attorney for the other round, but I fell in love with being an attorney and entertained that role for both rounds in the following competitions.

I continued my passion for mock trial after the first year by attending the summer camps at UNC-Chapel Hill. I would certainly encourage any fellow mocker to attend the summer sessions. They were helpful by giving me more trial experience with the judging system of our program and by specifically targeting each area of mock trial: direct examination, cross examination, opening and closing statements, etc. I met fellow mockers from all around the state and had a great deal of fun with my own teammates.



The second year of mock trial I had the honor, alongside the rest of my team, to advance to the state competition in Raleigh. My fondest memory of high school is winning the regional championship in Fayetteville. For anyone that has had the chance to be at States, you know what I mean when I say it is a magical, nail-biting weekend.

This past year, inevitably my last year in the high school program, was just as entertaining and

anxiety-filled as the other years. Somewhere in all of the chaos of trying to produce a theme, after the other ten ones I mentioned were shot down, and thinking of ways to get the witness out of the jury box, because you all know we do it, the effort and dedication I put into mock trial paid off. It did not always come in the form of a victory, but in the form of bonds made with my mock trial coach and teammates. It comes in the form of sitting in an interview room months later and being able to articulate why mock trial was worth afternoon and morning practices for over half the school year. Like anything worth doing, mock trial will keep paying off for the rest of my life because it has made me the confident individual I am today.

To everyone that puts a great deal of their time into this organization, thank you. It is because of all the coaches, attorney advisors, and volunteers that high school mock trial for North Carolina can continue to mold the leaders of tomorrow. I am honored to be an example of how influential mock trial is in the lives of its participants.

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*Congratulations to Emily and to all of the other seniors soon to embark upon the next exciting phase of your lives. We are proud of you and wish you well in all your future endeavors!*

### **FOURTH ANNUAL SUMMER CAMP TO TAKE PLACE IN CHAPEL HILL!**

*By Sue H. Johnson*

*CCCE Mock Trial Program Coordinator*

Spring has arrived, with the lazy days of summer soon to follow. For many students, summer is also a time to meet new people and explore new interests: in sports, the arts, outdoors – or in a classroom! Since 2013, hundreds of students have invested in their future by attending the CCCE Summer Mock Trial camp. Once again, we look forward to hosting students from North Carolina and beyond on the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill.

This year's camp takes place from Wednesday, July 27 – Saturday, July 30. Campers will have the chance to learn all aspects of mock trial – from case analysis to closing arguments – from experienced legal professionals. Best of all, they'll get to put their new skills into practice by preparing for, and participating in, a culminating trial scrimmage on the final day! Enthusiastic, dedicated college mockers will lead each team of students, sharing their love of mock trial and lessons from their own experience.



The camp is designed for coaches and for rising 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders, although mature 8<sup>th</sup> graders may also apply. Students can come as individuals or with their team. Day and overnight campers are welcome, and we have separate tracks for beginners and advanced students.

If you know students who would love to take part in this exciting, enjoyable experience, please direct them to our website (<http://ncmocktrial.org/camps/ccce-summer-camps>) or ask them to email Program Coordinator Sue Johnson at [SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com](mailto:SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com). Thank you!

### **THANK YOU TO OUR 2015 – 2016 OUTREACH PROGRAM SPONSOR!**

**Lawyers Mutual Liability Insurance Company of North Carolina**

### **THANK YOU TO OUR 2015 – 2016 COMPETITION SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS!**

#### **State Finals: Rudolf Widenhouse**

Asheville: Melrose Law, PLLC

Supporters: 28<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Bar Association *and* Asheville Area Paralegal Association

Charlotte: The Sumwalt Law Firm

Durham:

Supporter: Durham County Bar Association

Fayetteville: Britton Law, P.A.

Supporter: Cumberland County Bar Association

Greenville: Hardee & Hardee, LLP

High Point: Manger Law Firm

Raleigh: Leone Noble & Seate *and* Twiggs Strickland & Rabenau, Co-Sponsors

Wilmington: Shipman & Wright

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

### **CALENDAR 2015 – 2016 MOCK TRIAL SEASON**

National Championship, Boise, ID

Summer Camp

May 12 - 14, 2016

July 27 - 30, 2016

## ***IT TAKES A VILLAGE . . .***

***Special thanks to our 2015-16 Regional Coordinators and CCCE Board Members:*** Asheville Regional Coordinators Mark Melrose and Marion Parsons-Groat, Charlotte Regional Coordinator Jennifer Errington, Durham Regional Coordinators Russell Johnson and Robert Jessup, Fayetteville Regional Coordinator Rebecca Britton, Greenville Regional Coordinator Phillip Entzminger, High Point Regional Coordinator Rich Manger, Raleigh Regional Coordinators Christine Scheef and Lindsey Granados, Wilmington Regional Coordinator John H. Anderson, Jr.; and CCCE Board Members Gordon Widenhouse, Rebecca Britton, Rich Manger, Adrienne Blocker, Katy Parker, Christine Scheef, Brooke Schmidly, Mark Sumwalt; Chris Nichols (*ex officio*) and Brad Bannon (*ex officio*).

***Special thanks also to our 2015-16 Site Coordinators:***

***Asheville:*** Victoria Townley, ***Charlotte:*** Beverly K. Moore, ***Durham:*** Patti Clapper and Lakisha Chichester, ***Fayetteville:*** Elizabeth Owens, ***Greenville:*** Kristin Byrum; ***High Point:*** Adrienne Blocker, ***Raleigh:*** Michelle Keely and Sandra Strickland, ***Wilmington:*** Brandy Jo Lea and Christi Wert.

***\*\*If you are interested in supporting or learning more about the NCAJ High School Mock Trial program, please contact Sue Johnson, Program Coordinator, at [sueheathjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:sueheathjohnson@gmail.com), or Rebecca Britton or Gordon Widenhouse, Mock Trial Committee Co-Chairs, at [rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com](mailto:rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com) or [mgwidenhouse@yahoo.com](mailto:mgwidenhouse@yahoo.com).***