

MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2014

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NORTH CAROLINA "NATIONALS TEAM" ASSISTS IN WISCONSIN!

By Sue H. Johnson

CCCE Mock Trial Program Coordinator



CCCE Nationals Steering Committee members (L to R) Sue Johnson, Becky Britton, Rich Manger, Gordon Widenhouse, Beth Nichols, and Lindsey Granados discuss how best to observe and assist in Wisconsin

To gain insight as we prepare to host Nationals in May of 2015, key members of the CCCE Nationals Steering Committee assisted at the 2014 National Championship in Madison, WI. CCCE President Gordon Widenhouse, Vice-President Rebecca Britton, Secretary Rich Manger, Program Coordinator Sue Johnson, and volunteers Lindsey Granados, Frankford Johnson, and Beth Nichols traveled to Wisconsin to view the behind-the-scenes details of holding such a large event – a convergence of more than 1000 students, teachers, attorney-coaches, family members, and volunteer judges and jurors.

Hosting an event of this magnitude requires the efforts of many volunteers, from those who are leading the charge such as NC Host Director Gordon Widenhouse, to the myriad helpers behind the scenes whose work is so crucial to smooth operations. For months prior to the actual competition, more than 100 local Wisconsin volunteers worked tirelessly finalizing and assembling materials for teams and for judges; confirming details of meals and room reservations; recruiting other volunteers to assist during the actual event; and answering questions from participants about topics ranging from the competition case, to transportation between the airport and the hotels.

These busy pre-event activities will be taking place in North Carolina before we know it! As the steering committee member overseeing our volunteer recruitment, Lindsey Granados spent her time in Wisconsin talking with their many volunteers and taking detailed notes. Lindsey observed, "The level of organization required to coordinate our own Nationals is a daunting task and will require a tremendous effort on the part of our staff and volunteers. However, I have no doubt we will get the job done. We will be counting on paralegals, mock trial aficionados, and other local organizations to help us make the 2015 Nationals a fantastic event!"



Gordon receives the gavel from WI Host Director Kevin Lonargan and immediately tries to return it as a tribute to Wisconsin's event

As members of the National Board, Gordon Widenhouse and Rebecca Britton attended the Board planning meeting to help set the future direction for the organization. Gordon also met with his Wisconsin counterpart Kevin Lonargan, assisting with aspects ranging from assignment of judge and juror panels prior to the competition, to judging multiple trial rounds, to being introduced at the final awards ceremony as the 2015 Host Director. Recounting his recognition at the awards ceremony, Gordon remarks, "I tried to give the Host Director's gavel back to Kevin because Wisconsin ran the 2014 championship in a wonderful way. Since he wouldn't take it, we need everyone to volunteer, roll up their sleeves, and make our event a similar success."



Rebecca took part in the State Coordinators meeting and judged multiple rounds, including the Championship, as well as observing at the evening events. Rich Manger dove in, learning some of the aspects of scoring that are particular to Nationals in addition to judging rounds and helping with other behind-the-scenes tasks.

Beth Nichols observed evening receptions and social gatherings with an eye toward ensuring our 2015 occasions will be fun and memorable. The 2014 event was Beth's first time at a National High School Mock Trial Championship. She took

full advantage of her time in Madison, asking lots of questions and brainstorming ways to create exciting events in Raleigh in May. Beth will also assist CCCE Board member and NCAJ President-Elect Chris Nichols with pre-event publicity, marketing, and acquiring sponsorships and financial support.

CCCE Program Coordinator Sue Johnson will be overseeing multiple areas of the 2015 Nationals logistics, from coordinating the nationals page on our website, to creating the printed materials (programs, ballots, checklists), to overseeing the team registration process, to communicating with the hotels and caterers about event specifics. Sue spent her time in Wisconsin observing and assisting with numerous tasks, including team registration and check-in, courtroom liaison training, ballot scores verification, and evening event logistics. Her husband Frankford Johnson assisted in numerous ways as well, from assisting with team registration, to observing the score room, to serving as bailiff in the championship round.

Sue sums up the team's experiences: "It is an honor for North Carolina to host this prestigious event in 2015. It requires a lot of work to pull it off, but it is all worth it as you see the enormous difference this activity makes in the students' lives. I am confident that the volunteers who join us will enjoy being a part of this incredible event, and I know that with the help of NCAJ members—both attorneys and paralegals—we will put on a championship to be remembered!"



Championship round in Wisconsin Supreme Court chambers; Rebecca Britton serving as a scoring juror, Frankford Johnson as bailiff

The Nationals Steering Committee is already hard at work preparing for May of 2015, and we are counting on you to join us! In the spring, we'll need dozens of volunteers to assemble the necessary materials for judges, jurors, and teams. From **May 13-17**, we will need hundreds of individuals to assist behind the scenes, as well as hundreds of attorneys and judges to evaluate the students during the four preliminary rounds of competition. All events will take place in downtown Raleigh.

It's not too early to let us know you want to help! If you're interested, email CCCE Program Coordinator Sue Johnson at SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com with your availability and areas of interest, and she will forward your information to the right person. We look forward to hearing from YOU!

MANY THANKS to the 2015 Nationals Steering Committee members:

Adrienne Blocker, Rebecca Britton, Sue Johnson, Carlos Mahoney, Rich Manger, Beth Nichols, Chris Nichols, Katy Parker, Christine Scheef, Mark Sumwalt, and Gordon Widenhouse.

SPECIAL THANKS to the 2015 Nationals Advisory Committee members:

Janet Ward Black, Rebecca J. Britton, Hampton Y. Dellinger, Justice Robert H. Edmunds, Jr., Hon. N. Lorrin Freeman, Rep. Richard B. Glazier, Campbell Law Dean J. Rich Leonard, Justice Paul M. Newby, Judge Mary Ann Tally, Richard N. Taylor, retired Justice Patricia Timmons-Goodson, M. Gordon Widenhouse, Jr., and Melvin F. Wright, Jr.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY SPONSORING THE 2015 NATIONALS:

North Carolina Advocates for Justice
North Carolina Bar Foundation
Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company of North Carolina
The Chief Justice's Committee on Professionalism
Findlaw
Florence Rogers Trust
Britton Law, P.A.
Janet Ward Black

TO JOIN OUR VALUED SPONSORS, contact Gordon Widenhouse at mgwidenhouse@yahoo.com

CALENDAR 2014 – 2015 MOCK TRIAL SEASON

Competition Case Released!	Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2014
Early Registration Deadline	Friday, Sept. 26, 2014
Final Registration Deadline and \$175 Team Fee Due	Friday, Dec. 12, 2014
Team Member List, Code of Ethics, Release Forms Due	Friday, Jan. 9, 2015
Last Day to Withdraw Without Penalty	Friday, Jan. 9, 2015
Regional Competition	Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015
Widenhouse Award Nomination Materials Due	Weds., Feb. 25, 2015
State Finals Competition	Fri. – Sat., March 6-7, 2015
National Championship, Raleigh, NC	May 14-16, 2015

IT TAKES A VILLAGE . . .

Special thanks to our 2014-15 Regional Coordinators: Mark Melrose (Asheville Regional Coordinator), Frances Knox and Paul Goodson (Charlotte Regional Coordinators), Russell Johnson and Robert Jessup (Durham Regional Coordinators), Philip Entzminger (Greenville Regional Coordinator), Rich Manger (High Point Regional Coordinator), Christine Scheef and Lindsey Granados (Raleigh Regional Coordinators), John H. Anderson, Jr., (Wilmington Regional Coordinator).

Special thanks also to our 2014-15 Site Coordinators:

Asheville: Cindy Bryson, ***Charlotte:*** Beverly K. Moore, ***Durham:*** Patti Clapper and Lakisha Chichester, ***Fayetteville:*** Elizabeth Owens, ***Greenville:*** Kristin Miller; ***High Point:*** Karen Parrish, ***Raleigh:*** Fran LaFrankie and Michelle Keely, ***Wilmington:*** Brandy Jo Lea.

Many thanks to our 2014-15 CCCE Board of Directors:

President M. Gordon Widenhouse, Jr., Vice-President/Treasurer Rebecca J. Britton, Secretary Richard Manger, Adrienne Blocker, Carlos Mahoney, Chris Nichols, Katy Parker, Mark Sumwalt; Danny Glover (Ex Officio), Bill Powers (Ex Officio).

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