



## MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2014

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

### **REGIONAL CHAMPIONS ADVANCE TO STATE FINALS!**

*By Sue H. Johnson*

*CCCE Mock Trial Program Coordinator*



On Saturday, February 1, 2014, nearly 650 students from across North Carolina argued the case of *State of Utopia v. Quinn Penner* in our 22<sup>nd</sup> annual NCAJ High School Mock Trial competition. Students from the mountains to the coast converged upon our eight regional sites, ready to display their best trial advocacy skills and most winsome witness portrayals. After three intense trial rounds, the following regional champions earned the right to compete at State Finals, hosted at Campbell Law School in Raleigh:

<b>Asheville Regional Champion:</b>	Gaston Christian School Red
<b>Charlotte Regional Champion:</b>	Hendersonville High School Cats
<b>Durham Regional Champion:</b>	Central Carolina Homeschoolers
<b>Fayetteville Regional Champion:</b>	J. H. Rose High School Black
<b>Greenville Regional Champion:</b>	Raleigh Charter School Silver
<b>High Point Regional Champion:</b>	High Point Central High School
<b>Raleigh Regional Champion:</b>	Raleigh Charter School Lapis
<b>Wilmington Regional Champion:</b>	J. H. Rose High School Green



**THANK YOU** to the many legal professionals who volunteered their time as presiding judges, scoring jurors, and site volunteers at the Regional competitions. We could not have held these events without you!

Altogether, **32 judges, 295 attorneys, 85 paralegals, and 40 law or pre-law students** volunteered their time to make the Regional competitions a success.

## **STAR ATTORNEYS, STAR WITNESSES, STAR PEOPLE**

By M. Gordon Widenhouse, Jr.  
CCCE President

From time to time, I puzzle about the legal profession continually finding it necessary to require attorneys to take courses in "professionalism." Surely, members of a learned profession ought to treat each other, and all those we encounter, courteously, respectfully, and honorably.

But we have grown accustomed to the mentality that "winning" is the aim. Of course, lawyers want to succeed in obtaining the best result for their clients. Sometimes this desire to succeed, in tandem with the stress that goes along with trying to do so, can lead to poor behavior. So reminders of proper decorum are good.



For the past two years, CCCE has used the Star Attorney and Star Witness Awards in the mock trial competition. After every trial, students from each team select the best attorney and the best witness on the *other* team. At least one aim of this process is to promote professionalism and collegiality. It is one of the most important changes we have made to the program.

2014 marks my twenty-second year of involvement with high school mock trials in North Carolina. I have been at more regional competitions and state finals than I care to count. By and large, the conduct of the students, the attorney-advisors, the teachers, and the parents--as well as the presiding judges and scoring jurors--has been exemplary.

These experiences both inspire and uplift me.

But we can all do better.

Candidly, the times I have seen or heard about inappropriate behavior leave me troubled, which can overshadow the far more frequent experiences of the "good things" about mock trials. I suppose we all need reminding.

The ancient Greek rhetorician Quintilian is associated with the notion of the orator as "the good man speaking well." This principle directs us not merely to be good lawyers/witnesses, but to be good people. Our behavior amongst our peers, outside the courtroom and when others are not within eyeshot or earshot, is the true measure of character and professionalism.

We should all reach deeper into the well of goodness inside ourselves. If we are to do better, we must maintain a vigilant approach to and keen awareness of the need for professionalism and sportsmanship. Let us resolve not merely to shake hands after rounds, but to recognize that our words and actions before and after the trials must be proper and professional.

I encourage us all to be attuned to it. Let's find the "Star Person" within each of us.

## **IN HONOR OF STEVE SCHMIDLY, MOCK TRIAL COACH, MENTOR, AND FRIEND**



In honor of Steve Schmidly and the generations of students who will pay his legacy forward, we created a slide show with photos of Steve and some of the many, many individuals whom he impacted in his years at Asheboro High School. We invite you to view the slideshow at <http://tinyurl.com/15e37wq>.

You can also read more about Steve in the Asheboro Courier Tribune: <http://courier-tribune.com/news/schmidly-attorney-teacher-leader>.

## **CALENDAR 2013 – 2014 MOCK TRIAL SEASON**

Widenhouse Award materials due	Wednesday, February 19, 2014
State Finals - Campbell Law School, Raleigh	Friday – Saturday, Feb. 28 - March 1, 2014
National Championship – Madison, WI	Thursday – Sunday, May 8-11, 2014
CCCE Chapel Hill Summer Camp	Wednesday – Saturday, June 25-28, 2014
CCCE Asheville Summer Camp	Wednesday – Saturday, July 9-12, 2014
CCCE Fayetteville Summer Camp	Wednesday – Saturday, July 30-Aug. 2, 2014

## **THANK YOU TO OUR 2013 – 2014 OUTREACH PROGRAM SPONSORS!**

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

**We still need more sponsorship support** to fully realize the goals of our outreach program. If you can join us in this important outreach, please contact Sue at [SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com](mailto:SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com) or CCCE Vice-President Rebecca Britton at [rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com](mailto:rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com)

## **THANK YOU TO OUR 2013 – 2014 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 CCCE 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 2013/2014 season:** 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), Ken Campbell, Sheila Chavis, Laura Jenkins, Carlos Mahoney, Chris Nichols, John O'Neal, Katy Parker, Mark Sumwalt, and Kim Vukovich.

**Special thanks also to our Site Coordinators who have agreed to serve at Regionals in the 2013/2014 season!**  
**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.

**\*\*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](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).**