



## MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 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"

### **FINDING JOY IN YOUR WORK**

*By Sue H. Johnson*

*CCCE Mock Trial Program Coordinator*



It's hard to believe we are already three weeks into the new year; the busyness of the holidays has transitioned into the busyness of work and the fast-approaching mock trial regionals. Many of us stop for a moment as the calendar turns to evaluate the year just ended and to make plans for the year ahead. How do we want to spend our time? How should we invest our energy and resources?

As Richard Sheridan aptly noted in his essay "How to Learn to Love Your Job," people derive meaning and joy from "working on something much bigger than themselves."<sup>1</sup> Elaborating further, Sheridan recognizes that "humans are wired . . . to be in community with one another. It's why we join teams . . . and then work very hard and long to achieve a difficult and elusive shared goal."

Hundreds of students across North Carolina have been working for months on the criminal case *State of Utopia v. Quinn Penner*. Successfully arguing a mock trial case before real judges and attorneys may have seemed like an "elusive goal" when they began their preparations in September or October. But soon they will reap the rewards for all of their efforts, gaining self-confidence in the process. And you can be a part of it!

A great way to revive your own energy and enthusiasm for the law is by serving as a judge or juror at the **NCAJ High School Mock Trial competition** on **February 1**. As our Regional and Site Coordinators have attested in these newsletters, investing a few hours at regionals reaps rich rewards in the lives of those who serve. The excitement of the students, the skills and abilities they display, can remind you of why you chose this profession – to help right wrongs and achieve redress for injured parties. Sharing your knowledge and expertise with the students can ignite in them a passion for law and justice, helping students to become the leaders of tomorrow.



Will you renew your own joy by joining us at a regional competition? In particular, we still need many volunteers in **Raleigh** and **High Point**. For more information and to access a registration form, go to <http://www.ncmocktrial.org/competitions/regionals>. We hope to see you on February 1<sup>st</sup>!

<sup>1</sup> Wall Street Journal online, [http://blogs.wsj.com/speakeasy/2013/12/18/how-to-learn-to-love-your-job/?mod=e2tw&mod=wsj\\_valetbottom\\_email](http://blogs.wsj.com/speakeasy/2013/12/18/how-to-learn-to-love-your-job/?mod=e2tw&mod=wsj_valetbottom_email), accessed 1/20/14.

## **CCCE EXPANDS SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM!**

By Sue H. Johnson

CCCE Mock Trial Program Coordinator



In 2013 the CCCE took the bold step of enabling more students to learn about our trial-by-jury system by holding our first-ever summer mock trial camps. The camps were a resounding success, bringing more than 100 students and coaches together to learn about our legal system through an intensive camp experience. Participant feedback was very positive, with many expressing a desire for an extended camp experience in the future.

Building upon last year's success, the CCCE will be expanding our mock trial camp program in 2014, both in the length of the camps and the number of locations. Four-day camps will introduce students to every aspect of mock trial, from opening statements to closing arguments and everything in between. Both Basic and Advanced sessions will be offered at three locations: **Chapel Hill, Asheville, and Fayetteville**. At the end of each camp, students will put their knowledge and skills into practice as they argue a civil case before judges and jurors. We look forward to providing a great learning experience to hundreds more students and teachers!

For more information, visit our website at <http://www.ncmocktrial.org/camps/ccce-summer-camps>. Please pass this information on to students, teachers, colleagues and friends who might enjoy this wonderful opportunity. If you have questions or need additional information, contact Program Coordinator Sue Johnson at [SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com](mailto:SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com).



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

Regional Competition (Final roster due)

Widenhouse Award materials due

State Finals - Campbell Law School, Raleigh

National Championship – Madison, WI

CCCE Chapel Hill Summer Camp

CCCE Asheville Summer Camp

CCCE Fayetteville Summer Camp

Saturday, February 1, 2014

Wednesday, February 19, 2014

Friday – Saturday, Feb. 28 - March 1, 2014

Thursday – Sunday, May 8-11, 2014

Wednesday – Saturday, June 25-28, 2014

Wednesday – Saturday, July 9-12, 2014

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 and Adrienne Blocker (High Point Regional Coordinators), 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).***