

## MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2012

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

### **FORMER COMPETITOR DEVELOPS PROMO VIDEO FOR CCCE!**

*By Sue H. Johnson*

*NCAJ Mock Trial Program Administrator*

Involvement in mock trial can be a life-changing experience for students, one which shapes their future even if they have no plans to enter the legal profession. One person who would certainly attest to this truth is Danielle Waugh, a Multimedia Journalist for Gannett's NBC affiliates WLBZ in Bangor and WCSH in Portland, Maine. Danielle describes her job as a "one-man-band reporter, able to research, pitch, shoot, write, and edit every story, every day." Danielle put her considerable talents to use in creating the new CCCE promotional video which helps educators, volunteers, and sponsors understand the enormous positive impact of mock trial on students in North Carolina. *(You can check out the video on our website at <http://ncmocktrial.org/>; click on the "What is Mock Trial?" button on the upper right corner of the home page.)*



So how did a multimedia reporter in Maine come to develop a video for the CCCE? It happened through our common interest in Mock Trial since we met when my former high school mock trial team competed at the Empire International Invitational. As Danielle explains, "Producing mock trial videos has become a bit of a side-hobby. I produce all of the videos for the Empire Mock Trial Association, an international high school mock trial competition in New York City, and produced the Opening Ceremonies video for the American Mock Trial Association's National Championship in collegiate mock trial. Doing this work combines my love for multimedia and mock trial. I competed in mock trial for seven years: four with Syracuse University, and three with Greensburg Salem High School in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. We were three-time state champions, and my first national championship was in 2005 -- in **Charlotte, NC!**

"In high school, I was always an attorney. Most of the time, I did the closing arguments. In 2005, my team placed 12th at nationals in North Carolina. I still remember the event at the race track and doing a lap in a car! In 2006, my team placed 4th at nationals in Oklahoma City, and I won an Outstanding Advocate award. It was a really life-changing experience for me. I remember my teammates and I leaving that competition and returning home, not only feeling like champions -- but also feeling like our futures were bright, and anything was possible. Over those three years, our team was made up of the same core of students, so we really became a family!

"Even though I haven't gone into law professionally, I can't imagine my career without [mock trial]. First and foremost, mock trial gave me the self-esteem to go into TV news. The speaking skills prepared me for my performance on-air, especially in live shots. I very rarely get nervous -- and I think it's because of all my practice in front of a jury. [My mock trial experience] also gave me a kind of 'expertise' in my first job."

In the 2011-2012 season, over 60 teams competed in Regional competitions at eight locations across North Carolina, giving hundreds of students the opportunity to develop self-confidence, critical thinking abilities, and communication skills. In the upcoming year, the CCCE desires to grow the program even more by reaching out to students in under-served areas of the state, including lower income urban schools, rural schools in eastern NC, and schools in the mountains. We plan to provide additional support to teachers and students in new schools, and we intend to begin offering summer camps at several locations across the state. We hope that you will join us, by volunteering to serve as an attorney advisor and mentor for a new team, judging at regional competitions, and supporting the program financially to help us reach out to more students in North Carolina. For more information or to volunteer, contact me at [SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com](mailto:SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com). With your support, we can truly “create tomorrow’s leaders” by “investing in our future!”

### **ATTENDING THE NCAJ CONFERENCE? COME SEE US IN THE EXHIBIT HALL!**

While you’re enjoying yourself at the June NCAJ conference, take a moment to come see the CCCE NCAJ Mock Trial table at the Exhibit Hall. You’ll be able to see our new promo video and website and learn more about how you can become involved in teaching our high school students about the importance of trial by jury and the justice system. And while supplies last, you can get some helpful “freebies” for your visit to the beach: mock trial hats, t-shirts, and sports bags to carry around your beach supplies! I look forward to seeing you there!

### **THANK YOU AGAIN TO OUR 2011-12 COMPETITION SPONSORS!**

#### **State Finals: Rudolf Widenhouse & Fialko**

Asheville: Melrose, Seago & Lay, P.A.  
Charlotte: The Sumwalt Law Firm  
Durham: Howard, Stallings, From & Hutson, P.A. *and*  
Lawyers Mutual Liability Insurance Company of North Carolina  
Fayetteville: Britton Law, P.A.  
Greenville: Hardee & Hardee, LLP  
High Point: Crumley Roberts, LLP  
Raleigh: Twiggs, Beskind, Strickland & Rabenau, P.A.  
Wilmington: Shipman & Wright, LLP

**CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW** - partnering with NCAJ to host our state final competition!

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

***Special thanks to Mock Trial Committee Members and Regional Coordinators who agreed to serve for the 2011/2012 season: Paul Goodson (Charlotte Regional Coordinator), Rich Manger and Adrienne Blocker (High Point Regional Coordinators), John H. Anderson, Jr., (Wilmington Regional Coordinator), Russell Johnson (Durham Regional Coordinator), Mark Melrose (Asheville Regional Coordinator), Christine Scheef and Sheila Chavis (Raleigh Regional Coordinators), Philip Entzminger (Greenville Regional Coordinator), John O’Neal, Chris Nichols, Mark Sumwalt, Elizabeth Kuniholm, and Elizabeth Spruill.***

#### ***Special thanks also to our Site Coordinators who served at Regionals in the 2011/2012 season!***

***Asheville: Cindy Bryson, Charlotte: Beverly K. Moore, Durham: Patti Clapper, Fayetteville: Elizabeth Owens, Greenville: Dalas Young, Kristen Miller; High Point: Karen Parrish, Raleigh: Lindsey Granados, Wilmington: Brandy Jo Lea .***

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