

MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER

JUNE - JULY 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"*

MOCK TRIAL SUMMER CAMPS INSPIRE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS!

By Sue H. Johnson

CCCE Mock Trial Program Coordinator

Early in the morning on Wednesday **June 25**, 40 excited high school students and teacher-coaches converged on Winston dorm in **Chapel Hill**. While many lived nearby, others had driven from as far away as Wilmington and Mooresville. What inspired them to devote four days of their summer to an intense academic activity? Mock trial, of course! These enthusiastic students and teachers were eager to learn about our legal system during our second annual CCCE Chapel Hill summer mock trial camp. While some students were looking to refine their skills in the Advanced sessions, many Basic level campers weren't entirely sure what mock trial even was – but they were about to find out!



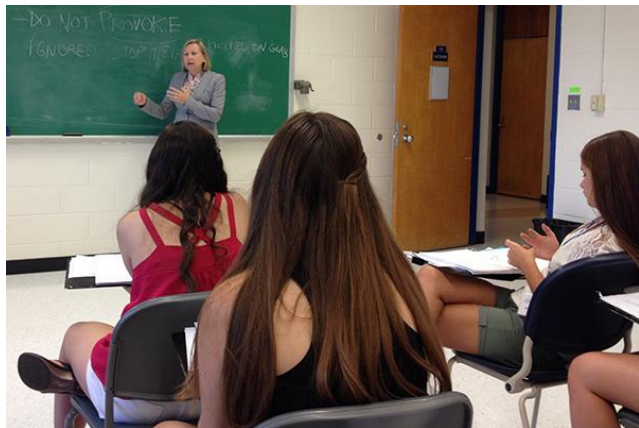
Judges, attorneys, and other legal professionals shared their knowledge in targeted sessions on trial preparation (Case Analysis, Direct Examination, Witnesses, etc.). These sessions were interspersed with hands-on breakout groups, in which the teams of students put their new knowledge into practice by preparing for an end-of-camp mock trial. College “mockers” with experience at the highest levels of high school and collegiate competition mentored each team, guiding students in their preparations and giving them confidence in their new skills.

On Saturday, six teams of students “showed their stuff” by arguing for either the plaintiff or the defense. While notes were allowed due to the compressed time frame, many students confidently proceeded from memory alone. Objection battles were adroitly argued, and witnesses gave convincing portrayals even

under withering cross examinations. At the end of the day, the students and their proud families were thrilled by all they had accomplished!

Preparing to leave Chapel Hill, the campers and teacher-coaches raved about the camp. As one participant proclaimed on the evaluation survey, “My overall camp experience was magnificent, and the entire staff was very friendly and welcoming. I would definitely recommend this camp to my friends; it is extremely fun, educational,

and enriching. I enjoyed everything about it and can’t wait to come back next year!” Our volunteer instructors were equally enthusiastic. Judge Carl Fox, who presided in one of the trials, wrote afterwards, “It was my pleasure to judge during the Mock Trial Camp. The students were very impressive performers and great listeners. They do such a great job! Thank you very much for the opportunity.”



On Wednesday, **July 9**, an equally enthusiastic group of students and teachers converged on UNC-Asheville for our first-ever **Asheville** mock trial camp. The opportunity to learn about mock trial in such a picturesque setting attracted students, not only from North Carolina, but from South Carolina and Tennessee as well. The camp was open to both day and overnight campers at both Basic and Advanced levels. Following the same schedule as the Chapel Hill camp, sessions were led by judges, law clerks, trial attorneys, and public defenders. College-aged mentors came from as far away as UNC-Chapel Hill

and Furman University to share their love of mock trial with the students. Many campers stayed overnight at the Asheville location, giving the students extra opportunities to work together in the evening on their case presentations. On Saturday, proud family members were amazed as they watched four teams of students confidently display their new skills in their concluding trials. Afterward, students expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to take part in such an intensive camp, with comments such as: “The camp was super interesting and fun. It made a big impact on me! I can’t wait to come again next year.”

Our final camp session will begin on **July 30** at Methodist University in **Fayetteville**.

Despite offering only a day camp option, we have one student attending the camp from

Indiana! (She is visiting family in the area while she attends our camp – which she learned about from a Google search!). We again have great support from the university and the local community in making this camp available to our students. Our college-aged mentors are all alumni of the mock trial programs offered by local high schools, and they are eager to “pay it forward” by investing in the next group of



up-and-coming leaders. We look forward to investing in the students in Fayetteville and watching them display their new-found skills and confidence in their Saturday trials on August 2. We are certain that their family members will be equally impressed by their students' accomplishments! As a result of our summer camps, several new schools plan to join the mock trial program this fall – a wonderful benefit to students statewide who will thereby gain important skills and a deeper appreciation for our legal system.

A HUGE “THANK YOU!” TO ALL THE VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTORS AND STAFF!!!

Chapel Hill

Instructors: S. Quon Bridges, Kevin Harrison, Sue Johnson, Mark Kleinschmidt, Chris Nichols, Brooke Schmidly, and Linda Wendling.

Presiding Judges: Justice Robert Edmunds, Jr., Judge Carl Fox, and Judge Paul Ridgeway.

Mentors and Volunteers: Matt Burke, Hailey Bunce, Michael D'Ippolito, Matthew Gambale, Jordan Godwin, Brooklyn Hildebrandt, Dexter Hobbs, Frankford Johnson, Melissa Muse, Adam Sullivan, and Elise Wilson.

Asheville

Instructors: Judge Beverly Beal, Bill Cannon, Tom Cochran, Judge Lucy Inman, Sue Johnson, Ron Justice, Mark Melrose, and Fredilyn Sison.

Presiding Judges: Judge Beverly Beal and Judge Lucy Inman.

Mentors and Volunteers: Jordan Brown, Matt Burke, Jason Iglesias, Frankford Johnson, Kaitlyn Pugh.

Fayetteville

Instructors: Rebecca Britton, Philip Entzminger, Kevin Harrison, Sue Johnson, Cassi Radloff, and Judge Clark Reaves.

Presiding Judge: Kate Hudson.

Mentors and Volunteers: Austin Crawford, Madeline Gooding, Frankford Johnson, Caroline Pope, Samuel Savage, and Wendy Vonnegut.

WE ARE ALSO VERY GRATEFUL FOR OUR OUTREACH PROJECT SPONSORS, WHOSE GENEROUS SUPPORT MADE THE SUMMER CAMPS POSSIBLE!

THANK YOU TO OUR 2013 – 2014 OUTREACH PROGRAM SPONSORS!

Mary Duke Biddle Foundation

Lawyers Mutual Liability Insurance Company of North Carolina

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MORE SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT IS NECESSARY to fully realize the goals of our outreach program. If you can join us in this important mission, please contact Sue at SueHeathJohnson@gmail.com or CCCE Vice-President Rebecca Britton at rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com

CALENDAR 2014 – 2015 MOCK TRIAL SEASON

CCCE Fayetteville Summer Camp	Wednesday – Saturday, July 30-Aug. 2, 2014
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

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 served 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 served 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, or Rebecca Britton or Gordon Widenhouse, Mock Trial Committee Co-Chairs, at rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com or mgwidenhouse@yahoo.com.***