



MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER

JUNE-JULY 2013

*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 EXCITEMENT!

By Sue H. Johnson

CCCE Mock Trial Program Coordinator

Early in the morning on Thursday **June 27**, more than 80 excited high school students and teacher-coaches converged on Kenan dorm in **Chapel Hill**. Some had been on the road since 5 a.m., yet their enthusiasm was palpable. What inspired them to devote three days of their summer to an intense academic activity? Mock trial, of course! These eager students and teachers were about to experience the very first CCCE 3-day 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 legal consultants shared their knowledge in targeted sessions on trial preparation (Openings, Direct Examination, 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 a concluding criminal trial scrimmage. 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, eight teams of students “showed their stuff” by arguing for either the prosecution or the defense. While notes were allowed due to the compressed time frame, many students – even Basic level teams! – confidently delivered openings and closings without the use of notes. 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!

As they packed up to leave Chapel Hill, the campers and teacher-coaches raved about their experience. As one participant proclaimed on the evaluation survey, “This camp was so well laid out and organized. The three days were amazing! So much information, so quickly, yet not overwhelming. The staff has been so encouraging and helpful. The college students have been excellent mentors to the young people. This has been a wonderful experience!”



On Thursday **July 11**, a smaller but equally enthusiastic group of students and teachers converged on Methodist University in **Fayetteville**.

Designed for day campers only, the Fayetteville camp was targeted toward Basic level students. After attorneys



and mediators taught students the basics of trial preparation, the campers prepared their case while mentored by young attorneys and students in the Legal Studies program at Methodist University. On Saturday, proud family members were amazed as they watched the students confidently display their new skills in their concluding trial! Thanking the camp staff as they prepared to go, many proclaimed that they can't wait for the release of the regular-season case on September 3rd. Survey evaluations were uniformly positive, with comments like the following: “I had an amazing time! My favorite instructor's presentation was exciting and drew me in. I'd come again and bring friends with me!”

What prompted the CCCE to offer these new summer camps? As CCCE President Gordon Widenhouse explained to the Chapel Hill participants, we undertook this initiative as part of our ongoing Outreach Project. No such camps have been offered in North Carolina before; anyone desiring intensive mock trial training had to attend expensive camps out of state. Recognizing the need for our students to have a fun, affordable option to experience the benefits of mock trial, the CCCE leadership directed Program Coordinator Sue Johnson to organize and operate our first-ever mock trial camps. Hoping for a total enrollment of 40 – 50 students, we were thrilled to enroll more twice as many as expected! Next year with sufficient support, the we plan to expand our camps to four sites across the state. Stay tuned for more details to come!



WE WANT TO EXTEND A HUGE “THANK YOU!” TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO MADE THE CAMPS POSSIBLE! WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!!!

Chapel Hill

Instructors: S. Quon Bridges, ADA Phillip Cowan, Scott Eren, Rep. Rick Glazier, Sue and Samuel Johnson (last-minute substitutes for Brooke Schmidly), Carlos Mahoney, Andre McDavid, Charli Morris, Fran Muse, Chris Nichols, and Judge Paul Ridgeway.

Presiding Judges: S. Quon Bridges, Judge Carl Fox, M. Gordon Widenhouse, Jr.

Mentors and Volunteers: Ben Berk, Michael Bojanski, Matthew Burke, Hailey Bunce, Nainisha Chintalapudi, James Compton, Mary Felder, Rashmi Iyer, Frankford Johnson, Samuel Johnson, Christy Lambden.

Fayetteville

Instructors: Rebecca Britton, Tina Estle, Rep. Rick Glazier, Kate Hudson, Chris Nichols, Wendy Vonnegut, Perry Wadsworth, Christy Williamson.

Presiding Judge: Kate Hudson.

Mentors and Volunteers: Nick Aubrey, Rhyann Breen, Amanda Briggs, Stephanie Buffaloe, Jamaal Doran, Frankford Johnson, Jeremy Kampus, Kawana Lee, Cassie Radloff, Samuel Savage, Jeanne Snider, Jacob Tello, Jacob Trigoboff, Trenice Watson.

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

In the next article, Outreach Project sponsor Lawyers Mutual Insurance of North Carolina describes their reasons for helping us provide these exciting opportunities to our students.

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: LAWYERS MUTUAL INSURANCE OF NORTH CAROLINA

By Monisha Yowell

Marketing Coordinator, Lawyers Mutual Insurance



For over 35 years Lawyers Mutual Liability Insurance Company of NC has been dedicated to serving the legal community through our commitment to service and education. Our dedication to service and education reaches far beyond our insureds. The company is always looking for ways to give back to the legal community.

Lawyers Mutual was very excited for an opportunity to invest in the future of the profession through the support of CCCE's Mock Trial Outreach Project. Some of the best professional athletes were groomed and taught at local summer camps, so why not give the same opportunity to some of the brightest future legal professionals in North Carolina?

It's important that we stand behind these students. A program such as this speaks volumes about the way the legal community rallies behind each other. We all recognize that education is the key to the future. The participants in this program have so much passion and knowledge about the legal system. The real world experience students receive through this program is unparalleled and the confidence they walk away with will stick with them forever. Participants have an amazing support system in their families and the volunteers who come out year after year. It's great to see legal professionals leading by example. Not only does the program seek to give the students an opportunity to grow and learn, but teachers as well through an expanded resource manual and onsite training. Every facet of this program is key in shaping the success of these students.

It's truly a privilege to be able to serve the legal community in this capacity. This will be the program's first ever 3 day Mock Trial Camp. Lawyers Mutual was a sponsor for last year's Durham Regionals as well. There is so much about what CCCE is doing that resonates with Lawyers Mutual's story of having a vision to better serve the legal community and connecting with people who believed in the vision. We certainly believe in the vision of CCCE's Mock Trial Outreach program and are happy to lend our support for this amazing program and these bright young people. *Monisha Yowell connects Lawyers Mutual with their insureds and the legal community through the use of social media. You can reach Monisha at 800.662.8843 or monisha@lawyersmutualinc.com.*



WE WILL ANNOUNCE OUR 2013-14 OUTREACH PROJECT SPONSORS SOON!

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

A sincere "Thank You" to our 2012-13 Outreach Project Sponsors!

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

WE WILL ANNOUNCE OUR 2013-14 COMPETITION SPONSORS SOON!

Thank you again to our 2012-13 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 NCAJ to host our State Finals!

IT TAKES A VILLAGE . . .

We will announce our 2013-14 Mock Trial Committee Members, Regional Coordinators, and Site Coordinators soon! Special thanks to Mock Trial Committee Members and Regional Coordinators who served for the 2012/2013 season: Mark Melrose (Asheville Regional Coordinator), Paul Goodson (Charlotte Regional Coordinator), Russell Johnson (Durham Regional Coordinator), Philip Entzminger (Greenville Regional Coordinator), Rich Manger and Adrienne Blocker (High Point Regional Coordinators), Christine Scheef (Raleigh Regional Coordinator), John H. Anderson, Jr., (Wilmington Regional Coordinator), Ken Campbell, Sheila Chavis, Elizabeth Kuniholm, Carlos Mahoney, Chris Nichols, John O'Neal, Katy Parker, Elizabeth Spruill, and Mark Sumwalt.

Special thanks also to our Site Coordinators who served at Regionals in the 2012/2013 season!
Asheville: Cindy Bryson, ***Charlotte:*** Beverly K. Moore, ***Durham:*** Patti Clapper, ***Fayetteville:*** Elizabeth Owens, ***Greenville:*** Kristin Miller; ***High Point:*** Karen Parrish, ***Raleigh:*** Lakisha Chichester and Fran LaFrankie, ***Wilmington:*** Brandy Jo Lea.

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