



***THE NORTH CAROLINA ADVOCATES FOR JUSTICE  
HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION***

***MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER***

*Brought to you by the NCAJ Mock Trial Committee*

***MARCH 2010***

***“Investing in our future, creating tomorrow’s leaders”***

**REGIONAL COMPETITIONS A BIG HIT FOR NCAJ**

On Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 70 teams of high school students across North Carolina walked into Courtrooms in Asheville, Charlotte, Durham, Fayetteville, High Point and Wilmington to try the case of *State of New Justice v. Jackson*. More than 300 volunteers stepped up across the state to support these regional competitions, serving as presiding judges, scoring jurors and site volunteers. More than half of these volunteers were NCAJ members, in addition to members who served as regional coordinators, site coordinators and attorney advisors for the competing teams.

It was a great day for the students, the profession and, in particular, NCAJ, boasting its 18<sup>th</sup> year of this outstanding program that brings a new level of understanding of our judicial system, trial by jury, and the lawyers and judges that work within it.

Overall, the NCAJ Mock Trial Program impacted over 600 high school students and nearly 100 educators this year. The ripple effect beyond these students and educators to their friends and family members is significant and the good will this program generates with the judiciary and with members of the bar across the state is tremendous.

At the end of the day, champions were determined for each regional competition:

ASHEVILLE:	GASTON CHRISTIAN (white)
CHARLOTTE:	MOORESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
DURHAM:	JORDAN HIGH SCHOOL
FAYETTEVILLE:	JH ROSE (green)
HIGH POINT:	GRAY STONE DAY SCHOOL
WILMINGTON:	GASTON CHRISTIAN (red)

Four at large teams will also participate in the State Final Competition based upon their performances and ranking. They include:

NCHE SPEECH CLUB  
EAST CHAPEL HILL

RALEIGH CHARTER (silver)  
TERRY SANFORD (white)

The State Championship competition will be held at Campbell University School of Law in Raleigh on Friday and Saturday, March 19 & 20. On Friday the teams will have tours of the Legislature and Supreme Court as well as tours of Campbell University School of Law and a reception at the law school. Saturday will have a morning round of competition from 9am to 11:30 and an afternoon round of competition from 12 to 2:30. The Final State Championship Round will begin around 4pm, immediately following a reception and awards ceremony and announcement of the final two teams. The State Champion will represent North Carolina at the National High School Mock Trial Championship which will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 6-9, 2010.

### ***HOW CAN YOU HELP?***

***Volunteer to be a scoring juror at State Finals! We still have a few slots left!***  
**Simply e-mail Gordon Widenhouse at [mgwidenhouse@yahoo.com](mailto:mgwidenhouse@yahoo.com).**

### **LEGAL ASSISTANTS, PARALEGALS, LAW STUDENTS!**

**WE ALSO NEED SITE VOLUNTEERS AT STATE FINALS TO HELP WITH SET UP, REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION TABLES, MONITORING COURTROOMS, AND OTHER DUTIES TO HELP THE DAY RUN SMOOTHLY!**

*For more information on the NCAJ High School Mock Trial Program, visit the NCAJ website at [www.ncaj.com](http://www.ncaj.com), click on "Public Information" and "Mock Trial".*

**Special thanks to Mock Trial Committee Members and Regional Coordinators:** Paul Goodson and Jackie Smith (Charlotte Regional Coordinators), Rich Manger, Adrienne Blocker and Celeste Harris (High Point Regional Coordinators), Ken Campbell and Andy McVey (Wilmington Regional Coordinators), Russell Johnson, Carlos Mahoney and Katy Parker (Durham Regional Coordinators), Mark Melrose (Asheville Regional Coordinator), Michelle Robertson, John O'Neal, Chris Nichols, Mark Sumwalt, Elizabeth Kuniholm and Steve Schmidley. Committee Co-Chairs: Gordon Widenhouse (State Finals Coordinator) and Rebecca Britton (Fayetteville Regional Coordinator)

### **Special thanks also to members of the Legal Assistant's Division who served as site coordinators!**

**Asheville:** Cindy Bryson, Debbie Dante and Susan Gaddis, **Charlotte:** Beverly King, **Durham:** Patti Clapper, **Fayetteville:** Diane Long, Beth Owens, Faith Adams, **High Point:** Karen Parrish, **Wilmington:** Debi Welsh, Brandy Lea Balderson

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***When you attend our state final competition, please be sure to note the beautiful welcome board and exhibits that have been prepared and donated by Mark Valentine with The Visual Advantage.***

**Mock Trial 2009/2010 Calendar:**

***STATE FINAL COMPETITION, SATURDAY, 3/20/10- CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW – RALEIGH***

***NATIONALS - 5/6 to 5/9/10 – PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA***

**Thank you to the following sponsors/contributors to the Mock Trial Program:**

The Florence L. Rogers Charitable Trust

**Regional Sponsors for 09/10 season:**

Asheville: Melrose, Siego & Lay, PA, Grimes & Teich, LLP, and the 28<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Bar

Charlotte: The Sumwalt Law Firm

Fayetteville: Hutchens, Senter & Britton, P.A.

High Point: Crumley Roberts, LLP

Durham: Glenn, Mills, Fisher & Mahoney, P.A.

Wilmington: Shipman & Wright, LLP

State Finals: Rudolf, Widenhouse & Fialko

**Individual Pledges:** Doug & Peggy Abrams, Mike Anderson, Brad Bannon, Don Beskind, Janet Ward Black, Steve Bowden, Cliff Britt, Becky Britton, Wade Byrd, Heidi Chapman, Joe Cheshire, John Cox, Burton Craige, Kathleen Glancy, Gary Jackson, Lucy Inman, David Kirby, Albert Kirby, Liz Kuniholm, Carlos Mahoney, Andy McVey, Mark Melrose, Phillip Miller, Chuck Monnett, Chris Nichols, Annemarie Pantazis, Katy Parker, Spencer Parris, Doug Parsons, Karen Rabenau, Lloyd Smith, Adam Stein, Don Strickland, Mark Sumwalt, Hank Teich, Hoyt Tessener, Howard Twiggs, Bob Whitely, Elise Whitley, James Williams, Tricia and Tacker LeCarpentier.

***Thomas, Ferguson & Mullins, LLP, Durham, NC:*** Sponsors of our teacher training workshops held in Raleigh and Greensboro

***Mark Valentine - The Visual Advantage, Raleigh, NC:*** Donating regional competition signs, and signs and exhibits for state finals

***Larry Wolfe - Wolfe Audiovisual Productions, Fayetteville, NC :*** Donating audiovisual services for promotional videos and filming teacher training workshop and Championship round at State Finals.

**CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW** - partnering with the North Carolina Advocates for Justice and the Carolina Center for Civic Education to host our state final competition!