

MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER

Brought to you by the
NCAJ Mock Trial Committee and the Carolina Center for Civic Education
"Investing in our future, creating tomorrow's leaders"
March 2011

State Finals Results

Congratulations to NCHE Speech Club the 2011 NCAJ High School Mock Trial State Champions! **NCHE Speech Club is our first home school team to win the State Championship.** They will be representing North Carolina at the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Phoenix Arizona May 5th-7th.



State Finals Results

First Place-NCHE Speech Club

1st Runner Up-Raleigh Charter Lapis

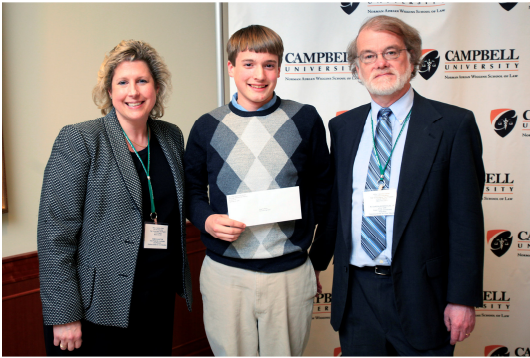
Round 1: Best attorneys: Mary Felder, Melissa Muse, Margaret Dillon and Samuel Johnson.
Best witnesses: Emily Andino, Christine Allison, Meredith Willis and Jake Forest

Round 2: Best attorneys: Adam Sullivan, James Compton, Jenna Beal and Andrew Wells.
Best witnesses: Page Nevel, Mary Felder, Nainisha Chintalapudi and Veronique Rodriguez

Final Round: Best attorney – James Compton
Best Witness – Mary Felder

If anyone is interested in sponsoring the NCHE Speech Club in pursuit of a National Championship please contact Sue Johnson by email, frankfordsue@bellsouth.net or phone, 919-933-9285.

M. Gordon Widenhouse Jr. Award for Inspirational Team Leadership



The Widenhouse Inspirational Team Leadership Award was established to honor Gordon Widenhouse and his energy and commitment to the High School Mock Trial Program. The recipient of this award is not necessarily the star witness or star attorney for their team, but the person who held their team together throughout practices and competitions. This Award is only open to seniors and the application must include a nomination with a letter of recommendation from a team advisor (teacher or attorney) and the nominee must submit an essay describing her or her mock trial experience.

This year's Widenhouse Award for Inspirational Team Leadership goes to George Hachmeister of East Carteret High School. George is described by his teacher advisor, Julia Mullish, as a person "of generous heart and a spirit that makes NO an impossible word. He is one who anchors his life on principle, purpose and passion that makes him a beloved leader among his peers in every sphere (sports, science, math, forensics) and shapes him into a formidable competitor. In practices, George will quietly help opponent attorneys word objections against his own questions and then gently proceed to refute those objections with the rule number, case precedence, reason and courtesy. George is someone who represents the good that comes from the mock trial program."

Congratulations to George and many thanks to all of this year's applicants.

Photos courtesy of Azul Photography.

Why Mock Trial?

By Kenneth Love

Attorney Advisor to Carter G. Woodson School of Challenge

Carter G. Woodson is a small K-12 charter school in south Winston-Salem. The high school has a total of seventy students. Extra-curricular outlets are important for the students to showcase their talents and individual abilities. Mock trial has become the perfect extra-curricular activity in our growing school. During the two years that Carter G. Woodson has fielded teams, the students have excelled and proven their desire to improve and grow as students. We were fortunate enough to have two teams for the regional competition this year.

We received a freshman from the public school system who completely benefited from Mock trial. Before he joined Mock trial, he was labeled as a trouble maker. According to his school records, he was labeled with cognitive problems. In fact, his file referred to him as borderline 'retarded,' and he would never have the ability to learn. At Carter G. Woodson, we believe that every child can learn. He was encouraged to join Mock Trial to assist with his confidence and academic skills. This student showed great determination and progress while participating with our Mock Trial team.

This student was on what he perceived to be the weaker of the two teams. Instead of crumbling under the pressure and personifying the monikers he had been given by his past schools, this student took charge and showed a spark that inspired both his teammates and coaches alike. He arranged extra practices to learn his materials. In addition, he convinced the principal to allow him to stay late at the computer lab. On several nights, he remained at the school past 8:00 pm to prepare for the competition. He assisted other teammates when they needed to work on their closing and opening arguments. He became a leader and the students quickly followed his example. This student constantly asked for help and he displayed vigor to improve and overcome his weaknesses. Last year, this student was labeled with severe learning disabilities. Despite those disabilities he has stepped up to the challenge of mock trial. At the Mock Trial competition on February 5, 2011, he was awarded Best Attorney. The school and team were proud and excited for him.

The Mock Trial team changed the culture at Carter G. Woodson and to witness this transformation was absolutely breathtaking. As a practicing attorney, I do not have the privilege of seeing the school's inner workings everyday. But when I am there, it's clear that the entire school was behind our teams. The student government put together 'goodie bags' of bottled water, snacks, and other traveling items for the team to take with them. The school held a very exciting and emotional pep rally the day before competition. Carter G. Woodson's devotion to academic excellence is key to our teams' success; there are not many schools that have pep rallies for academic competitions. When I attended high school, popular students participated in basketball or football. To witness a pep rally for a Mock Trial team was just overwhelming. After the competition, the school's administration requested that the students perform the trial for the entire high school body.

I was very impressed with the level of competition this year. As an attorney who has coached for multiple years, I have seen numerous performances from many schools. This year's competition impressed me more than any other year. Every team was well prepared and each team was determined to win. Mock Trial Competition is essential to developing the tools our students need to succeed.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR STATE FINAL VOLUNTEERS SERVING AS PRESIDING JUDGES AND SCORING JURORS

North Carolina Supreme Court

Justice Robert H. Edmunds, Jr.
Justice Paul M. Newby

Attorneys

Richard A. Manger
Christine Scheef
Deborrah L. Newton

Bradley Bannon

George B. Currin
Robin T. Currin
Elizabeth Barber

North Carolina Court of Appeals

Judge Wanda G. Bryant
Judge Richard A. Elmore
Judge Linda Stephens
Judge Cressie H. Thigpen, Jr.

J. Michael Ricks
Kellie Manette
Damon Chetson
Kelley DeAngelus
Mary Pollard
Heather Rattelade
Matthew Ballew
Carmine Bannon
Maitri "Mike" Klinkosum
Curtis Stackhouse

Brad Sahl
Rick Davis
Robert Hurley
Tacker LeCarpentier
Sarah Jessica Farber
Janet Ward Black
Burton Craige
Elizabeth F. Kuniholm
William S. Mills

Many thanks to Campbell University School of Law and the law firm of Rudolf, Widenhouse & Fialko for their generous sponsorship of the State Finals Events

We deeply appreciate Campbell University School of Law for generously allowing us to take over their building for the NCAJ High School Mock Trial State Final Competition. The Law School administration and staff were tremendously helpful and generous with their time and talent. We especially thank Dean Melissa Essary, Keith Faulkner, Executive Associate Dean for Administrative and Academic Affairs, Julie Lechner, Director of Alumni Relations and Special Events, for their time, support and assistance in making this wonderful event possible. We also thank Mark Gibbons, Cole Dickens, and Chuck Toscano from the IT Department, Linda Davenport (Building Manager) and Jeff Waller (Maintenance Manager) and all law students who provided tours and assisted with events.

Additional thanks to **Larry Wolfe** of **Wolfe Productions** for filming the state finals.

Thanks also to **Christobal** and **Kathleen Perez** of **Azul Photography** for their services throughout the event.

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

***If you would like to coach a team next season, let us know and we'll connect you with a high school in your area!*

For more information on the NCAJ High School Mock Trial Program, visit the NCAJ website at www.ncaj.com, click on public information and mock trial.