

## 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"**  
**NOVEMBER 2010**

### Outstanding Volunteers

We are fortunate to have volunteers and teams who return year-after-year. These participants can tell amazing stories about how both students and coaches were touched and inspired by the competition.

One of our most recent teams to come onboard has had a fast track to success. The North Carolinians for Home Education (NCHE) Mock Trial team, coached by Sue Johnson, first entered the NC High School Mock Trial Competition last year placing third. The team is made up of homeschooled students from the Triangle area. They've continued their winning ways by taking second place in the Empire International Mock Trial Invitational in Brooklyn, N.Y. this October. The Empire Invitational selects 30 top high school mock trial teams from five countries and numerous states to compete in four preliminary rounds, with the top two teams advancing to the championship round. Student attorney Samuel Johnson also won Outstanding Attorney with a perfect score of 30/30 as a prosecutor during the preliminary rounds. The team members have hopes of continuing to compete in Mock Trial in college, even if they do not intend to study law. The assistance of attorney advisers Phillip Cowan, Will Fay, Will Warihay and Michael Koeltzow was instrumental to the team's success.

In addition to Mock Trial, Sue Johnson also spends her time volunteering with urban and international ministry projects at church, as a debate coach, and with the Capital Area Teen Court. She finds coaching Mock Trial incredibly rewarding. "The excitement of the students as they discuss the case, develop their questions and witness roles, and then put it all together in the competition, is incredibly rewarding and inspiring." Sue had hoped that Mock Trial would be a wonderful learning experience, "but I had no idea just how worthwhile and life-changing it would prove to be, both for the students and their families." The coach and team have come away with a much deeper understanding and appreciation of the American legal system. "Working together to develop their case, the students develop teamwork and leadership skills... It is difficult to imagine another activity that could benefit the students in so many ways while being so exciting and enjoyable!"



Front row, left to right: Coach Sue Johnson, Lydia Poisson, Nikita Chintalapudi, Courtney Gray, Samuel Johnson, Anna Foulkrod, Coach Sue Gray  
Second row, left to right: Michael Bojanski, Jake Forest, James Compton, Nainisha Chintalapudi

## **Volunteers Needed**

We love to have new folks come on board! Currently we are looking for attorneys to assist teams in **Charlotte, Durham, and Raleigh**. We have high school students and teacher/coaches who are excited to join the competition but are in need of an attorney who can help them along the way. If you are interested or know someone who would be a great volunteer please contact Laura Bligh at (910)687-0075 or [lbbecker\\_1@yahoo.com](mailto:lbbecker_1@yahoo.com).

Additionally we are looking for site volunteers to work at our eight regional competitions **Saturday, February 5th**. Site volunteers are needed to assist with set up in the morning, monitoring courtrooms, registration, score room duties, assisting and directing visitors and participants, and clean up at the end of the day. Please contact the following people if you are available to help as a site volunteer:

**Asheville-Cindy Bryson (800)222-2430** [bryson@mountainverdict.com](mailto:bryson@mountainverdict.com)

**Charlotte-Beverly K. Moore (704)321-4745** [bev@tissuelaw.com](mailto:bev@tissuelaw.com)

**Durham-Patti Clapper (919)968-4601** [patti@levineandstewart.com](mailto:patti@levineandstewart.com)

**Fayetteville-Elizabeth Owens (910) 339-6603** [beth@brittonlawfirm.com](mailto:beth@brittonlawfirm.com)

**Greenville-Debi Welsh (252)746-3199** [debi@lawyeraseast.com](mailto:debi@lawyeraseast.com)

**High Point-Karen Parrish (336)275-8234** [kwparrish@bellsouth.net](mailto:kwparrish@bellsouth.net)

**Raleigh-Laura Bligh (910)687-0075** [lbbecker\\_1@yahoo.com](mailto:lbbecker_1@yahoo.com)

**Wilmington-Brandy Lea Balderson (910)762-1990** [Blea@shipmanlaw.com](mailto:Blea@shipmanlaw.com)

## **Announcements**

**TEAM REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19.** **Educators, Advisors & Coaches:** Online Team Registration is available this year to any team who will be using a credit card to pay their registration fees. You will find a link on the NCAJ Mock Trial [website](#). Once you've followed the link enter your primary email address. You do NOT need to be in the NCAJ database to register. As you continue through a few of the fields will not apply. Please ignore them. The only required fields are: First Name, Last Name, Preferred Nickname, Password (you need to enter a password of your choice), Phone number, County where you work, Address/City/Zip. This option is available only if you will be paying with a credit card. Also remember to have each student complete and sign a **video/photo release** - this will be due with your team rosters on **Friday, January 7, 2011**.

If you will be mailing or faxing in your registration please note a change in address for both. Please mail forms and payment to [Rebecca Britton, Britton Law Firm, PO BOX 87429, Fayetteville, NC 28304](#). The fax number is (910)339-6606.

## **CALENDAR SET FOR 2010/2011 MOCK TRIAL SEASON**

COMPETITION CASE PUBLISHED [Friday, September 24, 2010](#)

FINAL REGISTRATION DEADLINE [Friday, November 19, 2010](#)

REGISTRATION FEE/ROSTERS DUE [Friday, January 7, 2011](#)

LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW [Friday, January 14, 2011](#)

REGIONAL COMPETITION DATE [SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2011](#)

STATE FINALS COMPETITION DATE [FRI/SAT, MARCH 4 & 5, 2011](#)

NATIONAL COMPETITION DATE [THURS/SAT, MAY 4-7, 2011](#)

*\*\*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](mailto:Rebecca@brittonlawfirm) or [mqwidenhouse@yahoo.com](mailto:mqwidenhouse@yahoo.com).*

*\*\*If you would like to coach a team, 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](http://www.ncaj.com), click on public information and mock trial.*

## THANK YOU TO OUR REGIONAL AND STATE FINAL COMPETITION SPONSORS!

Asheville: Melrose , Seago & Lay, P.A.

Charlotte : The Sumwalt Law Firm

Fayetteville : Britton Law, P.A.

Greenville : Lawyers East

High Point : Crumley Roberts, L.L.P.

Raleigh : Twiggs, Beskind, Strickland & Rabenau, P.A.

Wilmington : Shipman & Wright, LLP

State Finals: Rudolf, Widenhouse & Fialko

REGIONAL SPONSORSHIP IS STILL AVAILABLE FOR DURHAM : IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SPONSORING THE DURHAM REGIONAL COMPETITION, PLEASE CONTACT REBECCA BRITTON at [Rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com](mailto:Rebecca@brittonlawfirm.com).

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

**Special thanks to Mock Trial Committee Members and Regional Coordinators who have agreed to serve for the 2010/2011 season:** Paul Goodson (Charlotte Regional Coordinator), Rich Manger and Adrienne Blocker (High Point Regional Coordinators), Ken Campbell (Wilmington Regional Coordinator), Russell Johnson (Durham Regional Coordinators), Mark Melrose (Asheville Regional Coordinator), Christine Scheef and Sheila Chavis (Raleigh Regional Coordinators), Sonia Privette (Greenville Regional Coordinator) Michelle Robertson, John O'Neal, John H. Anderson, Jr., Chris Nichols, Mark Sumwalt, Elizabeth Kuniholm and Phillip Etminger.

**Special thanks also to our Site Coordinators who have agreed to serve in the 2010/2011 season!**

**Asheville:** Cindy Bryson, **Charlotte:** Beverly King, **Durham:** Patti Clapper, **Fayetteville:** Elizabeth Owens  
**Greenville:** Debi Welsh; **High Point:** Karen Parrish, **Wilmington:** Brandy Balderson.