

**MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER**  
*Brought to you by the NCAJ Mock Trial Committee*  
**OCTOBER 2009**  
**"Investing in our future, creating tomorrow's leaders"**

**SAME MISSION, NEW NAME**

In order to better reflect the sponsorship and support of the Mock Trial Competition, the NCAJ Foundation Board of Directors met and voted recently to change the name of the Mock Trial Program to the **North Carolina Advocates for Justice High School Mock Trial Competition**. We greatly appreciate all the support we have received in the past and continue to receive from all members of the community.

From Mock Trial's infancy 18 years ago when a few teams came together in Raleigh for a small competition, through the program's growth to 10 regions and as many as 95 teams competing, to our hosting the national tournament in Charlotte in 2005, to this day, the mission and purpose of this program has remained the same: To educate North Carolina High School students about our system of justice and trial by jury by turning courtrooms into classrooms and connecting students with attorneys and judges in the hands-on learning laboratory of the courthouse. The impact of this program far exceeds the courtroom, however, building analytical, writing, and public speaking skills which go hand in hand with confidence, teamwork, leadership and other building blocks for success in whatever future students choose to pursue. The success of this program has always been due to the support and commitment of the staff and members of the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers, now known as the North Carolina Advocates for Justice.

To further our ability to maintain and continue the success of the mock trial program, NCAJ has revived the Carolina Center for Civic Education (CCCE) to operate the North Carolina Advocates for Justice High School Mock Trial Program. The CCCE, formerly created by the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers to run and operate the National High School Mock Trial Championship competition in Charlotte in 2005, is a nonprofit corporation and extension of the NCAJ that will now not only operate the overall mock trial program, but will also work to develop financial partners and grants to help sustain and build the program for years to come. All donations to the CCCE and the North Carolina Advocates for Justice High School Mock Trial competition are tax-deductible.

**FROM THE BENCH**



*Justice Robert H. Edmunds, Jr.*

My involvement with NCAJ Mock Trial Competition originated years ago when Rich Manger invited me to judge a competition. I was pleased to be able to support my friends and colleagues in High Point, so I signed up. And had a blast. I've participated every year since.

Not only is the competition fun, it serves a number of valuable purposes. First, the competition teaches the participating students useful lessons in public speaking, academic discipline, and (sometimes) dramaturgy. Second, every candidate for public office quickly learns that most voters are not terribly well educated about state and local governments. The participants in the competition, as well as their parents, sponsors, and coaches, learn about our system of justice. Third, my role in the competition as a judge reminds me, who has never been a trial judge but who must assess the work trial judges do, how fast things happen at a trial and how often and how quickly trial judges must make difficult and nuanced decisions. Finally, I enjoy hanging out with the attorneys who organize, administer, and run the competition. It's a great group and the snacks they bring to the High Point Courthouse are always a treat.

Even though the purpose of the competition is not to entice students into the profession of law, we've all had the gratifying experience of running into former participants who have succeeded both in school and afterwards and who speak fondly of the program. As members of the bar, we all have a responsibility to serve the greater community. By participating in the competition, we help build good citizens, men and women who will learn and exercise the skills of leadership. I expect to continue participating as long as they'll let me.

Justice Robert H. Edmunds, Jr.  
North Carolina Supreme Court

**HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

Contact a coordinator at a site near you and volunteer your time on February 20, 2010, as a judge, scoring juror, or site volunteer!

Judges/scoring jurors

Site volunteers

**WILMINGTON:**

Ken Campbell krcampbell@att.net

Debi Welsh debi@lawyeraseast.com

**FAYETTEVILLE:**

Becky Britton

Rebecca.britton@hsbfirm.com

Diane Long dll@beaverholt.com

**DURHAM:**

Russell Johnson rjohnson@hsfh.com

Patti Clapper patti@levineandstewart.com

**HIGH POINT**

Rich Manger ram@mangerlaw.com

Karen Parish kwparrish@bellsouth.net

**CHARLOTTE**

Paul Goodson pgoodson@pgoodsonlaw.com Beverly King bev@tissuelaw.com

**ASHEVILLE**

Mark Melrose

Melrose@mountainverdict.com

Cindy Bryson

Bryson@mountainverdict.com

**State Final Competition on 3/20/10**

**Raleigh - Campbell University School of Law**

Gordon Widenhouse [mgwidenhouse@yahoo.com](mailto:mgwidenhouse@yahoo.com)

Or click [here](#) to complete and fax in or email our volunteer form to Rebecca Britton.

FAX: (910) 884-3926, E-MAIL: [Rebecca.britton@hsbfirm.com](mailto:Rebecca.britton@hsbfirm.com)

*Would you like to coach a team? Contact Rebecca Britton at [Rebecca.britton@hsbfirm.com](mailto:Rebecca.britton@hsbfirm.com) or at (910) 864-6888, or one of the regional coordinators listed above.*

**\*\*We have a new team requesting a coach in Fayetteville, another in High Point and one in Manteo. If you are interested in coaching, please contact us!**

*How about sponsoring a Regional Competition? For \$3,500 your firm can sponsor a regional competition near you! Sponsorship covers most costs of operating the regional competition and sponsors are noted and recognized at the regional event and in our newsletter, brochures and programs. (only two regions left that are available for sponsors - Wilmington and Asheville)*

*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), Rebecca Britton (Fayetteville Regional Coordinator)

**Special thanks also to members of the Legal Assistant's Division who have agreed to serve as site coordinators!**

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

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



*Dominic Lerario*

I participated in High School Mock Trial at Terry Sanford in Fayetteville in 2002, '03, and '04 and graduated in 2005. What attracted me to mock trial in the first place was just that I've always been attracted to the field of law. However, what made this even more attractive was the prestige attached to it. The success of prior teams and the successful recruiting gave me the impression mock trial was a very elite activity that could help me succeed like older students. Once I got into the program I was kept involved by the fun I had in it and the great support we students got. It was a great learning experience to work with real attorneys as coaches, and it was obvious that they cared about our success. The willingness of the coaches to volunteer a significant portion of their time made the experience possible, because I know that if it were left just to us students we wouldn't have been able to hold our teams together.

After graduating from Terry Sanford I entered the University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill in the fall of 2005 as a Morehead Scholar. I became involved with the UNC Student Attorney General's staff in my first semester. This group is one component of the UNC Honor System and serves to provide counsels for all parties appearing before the Honor Court whether it be the reporting party or accused student. For three years I served as both an investigative and defense counsel, but mostly defense. At the end of my junior year I earned the position of Managing Associate on staff. In this role I advise junior counsels and also coordinate the logistics/scheduling of many cases reported to the Honor System, managing several cases at the same time all of which are in varying degrees of

progress. Currently I am the Senior Managing Associate and will serve in this position until December 2009, when I will graduate with a double major in Peace, War, and Defense and Chinese Language. The Chinese major is the reason I will need a 9th semester, and in pursuit of this I studied abroad for the fall semester of 2007 in Xiamen, China. I have also been on the UNC Committee on Student Conduct, consulting with faculty and administration on ways to improve the Honor System and approving any changes made the Code of Student Conduct. I'm also an active member of Chi Psi fraternity.

Mock Trial has helped me greatly in almost every activity I've participated in since. The public speaking skills and confidence I gained from my three seasons have proven invaluable in many aspects of life. Particularly with my participation on the Student Attorney General's Staff, I have had to draw on my "courtroom" experience in order to handle cases effectively and the coaching from Mock Trial gave me a head start on the analytical approach needed to be successful in matters of law.

Dominic Lerario  
2005 Graduate  
Terry Sanford High School

**Mock Trial 2009/2010 Calendar:**

Case Release: 10/9/09

*Teacher training: Raleigh 10/17/09, Triad 10/24/09*

*Registration deadline: 12/11/09*

*Payment/Rosters deadline: 1/13/10*

**REGIONAL COMPETITIONS: 2/20/10**

**STATE FINAL COMPETITION: 3/20/10**

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

**Program:**

The Florence L. Rogers Charitable Trust

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO GLENN, MILLS, FISHER & MAHONEY, P.A.,  
FOR SPONSORING THE DURHAM REGIONAL COMPETITION! ALSO, A  
SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOMAS, FERGUSON & MULLINS, PA FOR  
SPONSORING OUR TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOPS!**

Regional Sponsors for 09/10 season:

Charlotte: The Sumwalt Law Firm

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

High Point: Crumley Roberts, LLP

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

State Finals: Rudolf, Widenhouse & Fialko

\*\*Sponsorships are available for Wilmington, and Asheville. For information, call or e-mail Rebecca Britton at (910) 864-6888, [rebecca.britton@hsbfirm.com](mailto:rebecca.britton@hsbfirm.com).

**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 Whitley, Elise Whitley, James Williams, Tricia and Tacker LeCarpentier.

**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 Championship round at State Finals.

**Thomas, Ferguson & Mullins, P.A.**, Durham, NC: *Sponsoring teacher training workshops in Raleigh and in Greensboro.*

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