

# ***MOCK TRIAL NEWSLETTER***

*Brought to you by the NCAJ Mock Trial Committee  
and the Carolina Center for Civic Education*

***OCTOBER 2010***

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

## **Gorilla Attack at Utopia Zoo Ends Promising Basketball Career**

The 2010/11 Season of NCAJ High School Mock Trial has officially begun with the release of this year’s case: *Malcolm v. Utopia Zoo*. This case was created for the NCAJ Mock Trial Program by Lionel F. Earl, III, a 2008 graduate of Terry Sanford High School and former participant in the High School Mock Trial Program. Lionel is currently attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, pursuing a degree in Political Science. He also serves on the Executive Board of UNC’s Collegiate Mock Trial Team. We are very pleased to be able to use this case with Lionel’s permission and to have his participation on our Case Committee. Many thanks to Gordon Widenhouse, our Case Committee Chair, and to Lionel F. Earl, III, Katy Parker, Michelle Robertson and Ken Campbell for their leadership and talents in adapting and finalizing this case for use this mock trial season. *Malcolm v. Utopia Zoo* is now posted on the [NCAJ Mock Trial](#) website.

## **OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS**

By Laura Bligh, Program Administrator

The North Carolina Mock Trial Competition could not be the success it has become over the last 19 years without the countless hours generously given by hundreds of volunteers each year. In appreciation of their service, we’d like to take the opportunity each month to spotlight one of our incredible volunteers.



*Fran Muse and her 2009/10 team at Jordan High School*

“It takes a village to coach a Mock Trial team,” Fran Muse jokes to her coaching partner Mark Edwards. After five years coaching the Jordan High School team in Durham and five trips to the state finals Fran’s advice seems sound. It takes a lot of her time, but the reward is when the students do well and you can see them implementing the skills that they have been taught. “It’s fun to share these legal skills we have with young minds, and then watch them implement it in a fiercely competitive setting, where they have to think like lawyers and be quick on their feet.”

Fran is a solo practitioner in Durham, a graduate of UNC and Campbell and an active member of her church and community in addition to her role as Mock Trial coach. In order to balance her obligations she hosts practice when it’s convenient for her. “I have learned that I cannot accommodate all of their (the students’) schedules. If students don’t have time to attend practices, I encourage them to be a witness, and not a lawyer.” Fran also does not try to go it alone. She, Mark Edwards, and the teacher coach work together. “It’s a lot of work for one person.”

In spite of all the hours, Fran keeps coming back each year because of the great kids that love doing this. Hearing the name of her team last year winning Regionals was an unbelievable feeling. Fran’s key to success: “There is no substitute for trial preparation.”

*Thank you, Fran, for your dedication and commitment to your team and to the NCAJ High School Mock Trial Program!*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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. All others will continue to fax, email, or mail in their registration.

The registration forms offer another new feature for this year. In addition to receiving 10 copies of the mock trial case and rules, each school may request up to five flash drives that will contain the case files for this year. 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.

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

COMPETITION CASE PUBLISHED:	Friday, September 24, 2010
TEACHER/ADVISOR TRAINING SESSION	Saturday, October 23, 2010

FINAL REGISTRATION DEADLINE	Friday, November 19, 2010
REGISTRATION FEE/ROSTERS DUE	Friday, January 7, 2011
LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW	Friday, January 14, 2011
<b>REGIONAL COMPETITION DATE</b>	<b>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2011</b>
<b>STATE FINALS COMPETITION DATE</b>	<b>FRI/SAT, MARCH 4 &amp; 5, 2011</b>
<b>NATIONAL COMPETITION DATE</b>	<b>THURS/SAT, MAY 4-7, 2011</b>

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

**\*\*NEEDED: SITE COORDINATOR FOR RALEIGH** – We are looking for a dedicated mock trial volunteer to serve as site coordinator for our Raleigh Region. Site coordination involves running the competition day from behind the scenes – arranging logistics, food, beverages, coordinating and overseeing site volunteers, set up, break down, and clean up at the end of the day, registration of teams, score room, etc. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Rebecca Britton at [Rebecca.britton@hsbfirm.com](mailto:Rebecca.britton@hsbfirm.com) or at (910) 864-6888.

**\*\*NEEDED: ATTORNEY ADVISOR FOR TEAM IN DURHAM.** If you are interested or want more information, please contact Rebecca Britton at [Rebecca.britton@hsbfirm.com](mailto:Rebecca.britton@hsbfirm.com) or at (910) 864-6888.

**\*\*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.britton@hsbfirm.com](mailto:Rebecca.britton@hsbfirm.com) or [mgwidenhouse@yahoo.com](mailto:mgwidenhouse@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!**

**\*\*A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO CRUMLEY ROBERTS, LLP, FOR SPONSORING OUR HIGH POINT REGIONAL COMPETITION AND TO MELROSE, SEAGO & LAY, P.A., FOR SPONSORING OUR ASHEVILLE REGIONAL COMPETITION !!!**

**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: Twigg, 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.britton@hsbfirm.com](mailto:Rebecca.britton@hsbfirm.com).**

**CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW** - partnering with NCAJ 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 Etzminger.***

***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.***