

MOCK TRIAL MATTERS

www.nationalmocktrial.org

CALENDAR

Idaho is in the Mountain Time Zone

April 1— National Case Release.

April 15—Deadlines

- Online team registration
 - Online event ticket orders
 - Tournament schedule adjustment
 - Last day to update registration
 - Mandatory Coordinator Survey

*Practice Rooms and Photo schedule is open now ([Click here](#))

April 22—Deadline

- Payment for registration and event tickets
- **Case and rule questions** (Noon Deadline)

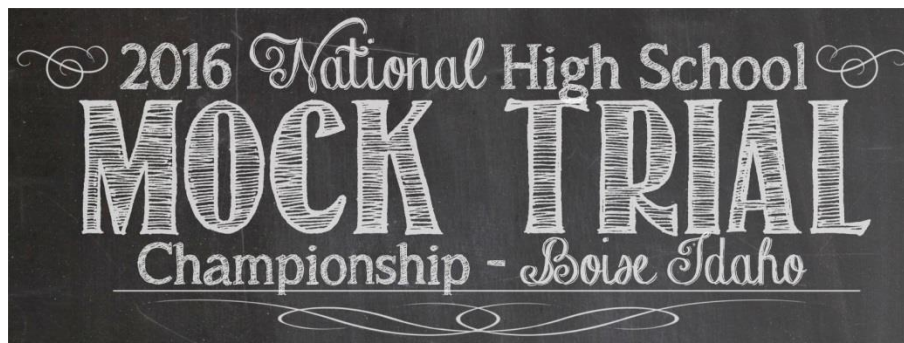
May 12-14— National Tournament, Boise, Idaho

May 12—State Coordinators Meeting; Timekeeper Orientation; Coaches Orientation and Team Pin Exchange

May 13— Rounds 1 & 2; Judges' Reception; Student Event (Capital Park).

May 14—Rounds 3 & 4; Championship Round; Awards Gala & Dance.

May 15— Scoring Ballots available for state Coordinator pick-up.



WELCOME TO BOISE!

By Carey Shoufler, 2016 Host Director

Now that the 2016 National Case has been released, the staff and volunteers from The Idaho Law Foundation and the 2016 National Mock Trial Host Committee are hard at work putting the finishing touches on the 2016 National High School Mock Trial Championship that will be held from May 12 to 14 in Boise, Idaho. All of the logistical information you will need for the competition and social events is housed on the event website at www.2016nationalmocktrial.org. You can also get up to date information on the [Idaho Mock Trial Facebook page](#). On the website you can find information about traveling to Boise and links to the host hotels. You can also access information about registration, events, and our courthouse where all the competition rounds will take place. Here are a few of the highlights:

- The **Boise Centre** will serve as action central for the 2016 National High School Mock Trial Championship. This is where your team will check in and get their team packets. It's also where many of the practice rooms will be, where team photos will be taken, and where team breakfasts and lunches will be served.
- **Alive After Court!** will allow you to debrief after your Friday rounds at the Discovery Center of Boise. There will be food trucks, a photo booth, and music by Boise Rock School to help you refresh and reboot.
- The **Basque Block** will host the Thursday evening Pin Exchange. Enjoy an outdoor evening of authentic Basque food, music, and Oinkari Basque Dancers! By the end of the evening, we predict you will be a fan of paella and croquetas, and may even learn how to jota. al High School Mock Trial Championship, including the championship round.

- The beautiful **Ada County Courthouse** will hold all rounds of competition during the 2016 National High School Mock Trial Championship, including the championship round.
- And wrap up championship weekend with an **Awards Gala** back at the Boise Centre. After dinner on your own at any of Boise's great, nearby restaurants, teams, families, and other guests will gather at the Boise Centre for dreamy desserts and the annual Awards Gala. A capstone of the weekend will be the wisdom imparted by one of Idaho's beloved Cowboy Poets! Next, individual award winners will be announced and the National Champion crowned. Finally, you will dance the night away.

The Idaho Law Foundation looks forward to hosting you in May. We are excited to share our Boise community with the mock trial nation, highlighting our courts and our beautiful state as we plan a memorable event for teams, their families, state coordinators, and the many volunteers who will visit us.

See you in the City of Trees! If you have any questions, contact Carey Shoufler at cshoufler@isb.idaho.gov or (208) 334-4500.

**For more information about the NHSMTTC
Tournament, visit our [2016 NHSMTTC
Website](#)**

Where to Find It in Boise

HOTELS

Many hotels are now sold out. Please contact the hotels below to check for availability.

The Safari Inn Downtown

1070 Grove Street, Boise ID 83702

Distance to Boise Centre: Two blocks

Distance to Courthouse: 0.6 miles

Price: \$90.00

Last day to book: 4/4/16

For reservations or questions: Call (208) 344-6556

The Courtyard by Marriott

222 South Broadway Avenue, Boise, ID 83702

Distance to Boise Centre: 1 mile

Distance to Courthouse: 0.4 miles

Price: \$109-\$119

For reservations: [Book online](#)

For questions: (208) 331-2700

Last day to book: 4/20/16

The TownePlace Suites Boise Downtown

1455 S. Capitol Boulevard, Boise, ID 83706

Distance to Boise Centre: 1 mile

Distance to Courthouse: 1 mile

Price: \$99.00

For reservations: [Book Online](#)

For questions: (208) 429-8881

Last day to book: 4/20/16

TRANSPORTATION

Air

All teams and attendees are responsible for making their own transportation arrangements to attend the Championship. The Boise Airport (BOI) is located 4 miles from downtown Boise.

Ground

Check with your hotel for transportation service. Taxi and rideshare services are also available from the lower level of the airport

EVENTS

Mock Trial Headquarters

[The Boise Centre](#) : 850 West Front Street Boise Idaho 83702

Pin Exchange

[The Basque Block](#): 608 W. Grove St. Boise, ID 83702

Trials

[Ada County Courthouse](#): 200 W. Front Street, Boise, ID 83702

Friday Night

[Capitol Park](#): 601 W. Jefferson St. Boise, ID 83702

Awards Gala

[The Boise Centre](#) : 850 West Front Street, Boise Idaho 83702

Required Tournament Meetings

State Coordinators' Business Meeting

Thursday, May 12 (1:30-3:30 PM Grove Hotel, River Fork Room)

Attendance is required of all state coordinators or a coordinator's official designee. A state coordinator's "official designee" must have the state coordinator's written proxy in order to vote.

Timekeeper Orientation

Thursday, May 12 (4:00-5:00 PM Boise Centre, Salmon Room)

Attendance is required of all student timekeepers. One coach (only) per team is welcome to attend, but coach attendance is not required.

Coaches Orientation

Thursday, May 12 (4:00-5:00 PM Boise Centre, Snake Room)

At least one coach from each team is required to attend this meeting. State Coordinators may attend this meeting, as well. This meeting will cover a number of important tournament details and may cover some team-specific details not covered in the State Coordinator's meeting.

Coordinators' Round Table Discussion

The 2016 Coordinator's Round Table Discussion will be held on May 12th at the Grove Hotel from 1:00-2:30 pm in the River Fork Room. Attendance is optional. The Round Table was created to provide coordinators with the opportunity to discuss topics important to mock trial programs from around the nation. It's a great opportunity to ask questions and get exceptional support from mock trial professionals from around the country. We look forward to seeing you at the Round Table!

Rule Updates and Rules/Case Questions

All case and rules questions must be submitted by a state coordinator (or his/her official designee) by 5:00 pm (MT) on April 22nd to the following email: nationalmocktrial@isb.idaho.gov. A running list of answers to submitted questions will be posted weekly on every Friday afternoon thru April 22 at: <https://www.ncmocktrial.org/nationals2015/case>. The final version of the 2016 case materials will be posted online on April 29th.

A Word From Our Chair

By Judge Dewain Fox



I had such grandiose ideas for my column for this edition of the newsletter. Regrettably, I was not able to meet even the extended deadline that Laura Wesley granted me. (Sorry, Laura!) I'll explain the reason for my failure, and hopefully you will agree that I have a good excuse.

This column effectively will serve as a sequel to my column from the April 2013 Mock Trial Matters. You can see that column [here](#). You may recall that I wrote about the disappointment my niece Sydney faced after leaving it all "on the court" during a tough loss in the 2013 Arizona girls' high school basketball championship game – comparing her feelings to those of a mock trial competitor who leaves it all "in the court" during a grueling mock trial match-up.

To advance forward three years, Sydney is the starting point guard for the Oregon State University women's basketball team. It has been a wonderful three years, but this season simply has been incredible. Syd has helped lead her team to the Pac-12 regular season championship, the Pac-12 post-season tournament championship, and to the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament. The last several weeks have been a whirlwind, as (in addition to running regional and state mock trial tournaments) we followed Syd's team through the first two rounds in Corvallis, and then travelled to Dallas last week to see the team advance from the Sweet 16 to the Elite 8, which culminated in a victory over No. 1 seed Baylor to advance to OSU's first-ever trip to the Final Four.

I promised a column to Laura by Friday, so I am writing feverishly now on Saturday morning from my hotel room in Indianapolis--where Kim and I just arrived at 2:30 this morning. In the semi-final game on Sunday, Oregon State will be facing juggernaut UConn. UConn is on a 72-game winning streak--last losing on November 17, 2014--and is playing for an unprecedented fourth straight national championship. As my friend and fellow board member David Berlin texted me after the Baylor win, "Great win...tough reward."

By the time you read this column, Oregon State either will have pulled off the miraculous upset to advance to the national championship game, or will have finished its season in a hard-fought loss to a daunting opponent. Either way, it has been fun to be part of such an incredible season! And, rather than making the parallels to mock trial, I'll simply ask your indulgence for allowing me to write about basketball in a newsletter devoted to mock trial.

I'll be focused again on mock trial by the time we get to Boise, where Kim and I look forward to seeing everyone. Safe travels!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dewain Fox". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dewain Fox, Board Chair

2017 National Host



May 2017 National High School Mock Trial Is Coming to Hartford, CT!!

**By Beth DeLuca, CT
2017 Host Director**

Civics First, Inc. is so excited and honored to host the 2017 National High School Mock Trial Competition in Connecticut! Connecticut's High School Mock Trial Program began in 1976 sponsored by Civics First. Throughout its history, thousands of students and their teachers have participated in the program. Year after year the program includes over 700 students from more than 50 Connecticut high schools.

We can't wait to show everyone our beautiful and historic city of Hartford. Points of interest will include the Connecticut Convention Center, the State Capitol, the Connecticut Science Museum, Adrienne's Landing, The Old State House, Bushnell Park and our many historic court buildings including the impressive Supreme Court pictured above.

Civics First's staff, board of directors and volunteers, are hard at work drafting the case, creating the theme and logo, fundraising and planning events! The hotels will be the Hartford Marriott and Hilton. The main hub of meetings and scrimmages will be at the Hartford Convention Center which is directly connected to the Hartford Marriott. The Connecticut Judicial Branch has generously donated the courtroom space among two courthouses located on the same block in the Hartford Capitol area. The finals will either be held at the Connecticut Supreme Court or Appellate Court.

Hartford's mock trial event will provide fun activities for teams and volunteers. The Pin Exchange will feature an Olympic style opening ceremony and Food Truck Festival at the historic Bushnell Park on Thursday evening. Entertainment and special guests will be highlighted as well. Friday night's Judges' Reception will be held at the historic Old State House, generously donated, and sponsored by our Connecticut Bar Association. Friday night's student event will be a fun break lounge with video games, DJ, photo booth and snacks to give teams a break from their practices. This will be a drop in open door event. And finally, the Awards Gala will be hosted Saturday evening at the Connecticut Convention Center. We have planned a dessert bar before the awards ceremony and a dance for teams after the ceremony.

See you all soon!!

2018 National Host

Reno, Nevada Competition Update By Don Christensen 2018 Host Director

Head west young men and women where the sun always shines!! The State Bar of Nevada and the Nevada Bar Foundation are excited to host the 2018 National Championship in Reno, Nevada, known as "The Biggest Little City in the World". The host hotel for the Competition will be the Silver Legacy Resort which features affordable rooms, free transportation to and from the nearby Reno Tahoe International Airport and is within easy walking distance of the courthouses which will be used for the competition.

The organizing committee is in the early stages of planning the pin exchange, and other exciting events for the teams, judges and guests. We can't wait to see you here!

May 10-13, 2018. Mark your calendars and prepare to head west!

2016 Spring Board Election



A scheduled election will be held during the State Coordinators' meeting on May 12th in Boise. There are six seats open for election this year. According to the by-laws, interested candidates were to submit their letter of intent to run to the Board Chair (Dewain Fox) no later than March 14, 2016. If this deadline was missed, but a person still wishes to be nominated for one of the Board positions, that individual must communicate this intention to the Nomination Committee Chair by the end of the NHSMTTC, Inc. Board of Directors meeting on May 12, 2016. This communication must be accompanied by a nominating petition signed by at least three State Coordinators. Additionally, nominations may be made from the floor during the State Coordinators' meeting (see NHSMTTC, Inc. By-Laws Article IV, Section 2).

In addition, each candidate will have an opportunity to address coordinators during the State Coordinators' Meeting in Boise. State coordinators (members) who cannot attend this business meeting in person, may submit their vote on any issue before the membership of the organization through a fellow member (state coordinator) by written proxy (see NHSMTTC, Inc. By-Laws Article IV, Section 3).

NHSMTC Committee Work Summary

The National High School Mock Trial Championship, Inc. is an all-volunteer organization. There are no paid staff members who coordinate the activities of the NHSMTC.

The governing body of the NHSMTC, Inc. is the Board of Directors of the NHSMTC. The 2015-2016 Chair of the Board is Dewain Fox (AZ), the Vice Chair is Emily Reilly (IL), the Treasurer is Paul Kaufman (PA) and the Secretary is Laura Wesley (CA). This Board is charged with the following responsibilities:

- Establish policy.
- Develop guidelines and requirements for host states.
- Establish and maintain standards for the hosting of the National Championship.
- Build and maintain a working relationship with the mock trial coordinators of each state having a mock trial program.
- Promote mock trials through marketing and promotions.
- Assist host states in holding the National Championships.
- Provide assistance and guidance to state mock trial organizations as appropriate.
- Provide assistance and guidance to Host Directors as appropriate.

The NHSMTC Board relies on a host organization in an individual state to coordinate the logistics of the national tournament each year and a group of standing committees to accomplish other important work for the organization. Non-board members are welcome to serve on most NHSMTC committees. Anyone interested in serving on a committee should contact Dewain Fox to volunteer. The Committees of the NHSMTC, Inc. are as follows:

Archives Committee—This committee is responsible for collecting and maintaining paper and electronic documents and items relevant to the history of the NHSMTC, Inc. Additionally, paper and/or electronic copies of NHSMTC team registration materials, pre and post host reports and other such items as the committee deems appropriate are collected annually. This committee meets as needed and is chaired by Ms. Wilcox (WI).

Articles & By-Laws Committee—This committee reviews and develops the by-laws that govern the NHSMTC, Inc. and meets as needed and is chaired by David Berlin (NM).

Awards Committee—This committee is responsible for soliciting and considering nominations for the Gene Franchini Golden Gavel Award. The committee makes recommendations to the Board for the recipient of this award and determines its presentation. Cynthia Cothran (SC) serves as chair.

Case Committee—This committee has the authority to give final approval to a host committee's case materials. The committee reviews drafts of case materials to ensure suitability and compliance with National policies, rules and guidelines. The committee has also been tasked with preparing and having ready in reserve one problem for use at the NHSMTC, in the event the case prepared by the host committee is deemed unusable or in the event no host state is identified in a given year. This committee meets as needed and currently Paul Kaufman (PA) serves as chair. Coaches may not serve as members of this committee.

Competition Operations Committee—This committee was created by the NHSMTC, Inc. Board in 2012 to create a long-term plan for the competition operations needs of the program. This committee meets as needed and currently John Wheeler (IA) serves as chair. The committee is responsible for establishing the protocol for competition logistics and operation of the scoring room at each National Championship.

Development Committee—This committee was created to explore external funding sources to support and grow the NHSMTC well into the future. This committee meets as needed and currently Rebecca Britton (NC) serves as chair.

Executive Committee—This committee is made up of NHSMTC Board officers, including the Chair, the Vice Chair, the Secretary and the Treasurer. It meets as needed to review issues related to the NHSMTC, Inc. Dewain Fox (AZ), NHSMTC Board Chair, chairs this committee.

Information Technology—This committee was created by the NHSMTC, Inc. Board in 2012 to create a long-term plan for the technology needs of the program. The committee meets as needed and currently Emily Lindsey (WI) serves as chair. The committee is responsible for establishing the technological requirements for the competition and NHSMTC website. The collection and maintenance of the NHSMTC electronic case library is another responsibility of the committee and includes a copy of all past NHSMTC cases and state cases submitted for inclusion in the library each season. Those state cases submitted with summaries for the 2015-16 academic year will be placed into the case library.

Long Range Planning Committee—This committee focuses on the institutional advancement of the NHSMTC, Inc. and recommends actions and strategies to grow and strengthen the program. This committee meets as needed and currently Emily Lindsey (WI) serves as chair.

Newsletter Committee—This committee gathers news and articles of interest regarding high school mock trial and produces two editions of the NHSMTC newsletter, *Mock Trial Matters*, annually. The newsletter is emailed to the state coordinators in the spring and fall and posted on the NHSMTC website. This committee meets as needed and currently Laura Wesley (CA) serves as chair.

Nominating Committee—This committee is responsible for encouraging submission of nominations for Board membership and recommending a slate of officers to the Board. It is also responsible for the training and education of new Board members. The committee meets as needed. Currently David Berlin (NM) serves as chair.

Policy Committee—This committee sets policies regarding the conduct of NHSMTC business and the role of Board members and member organizations. This committee meets as needed and currently Cynthia Cothran (SC) serves as chair.

Publicity/Public Relations Committee—This committee is responsible for promoting mock trial and encouraging greater involvement in the NHSMTC. It also maintains a relationship with media providers and develops guidelines regarding that relationship. This committee meets as needed and currently is chaired by Carey Shoufler (ID).

Rules Committee—This committee reviews the current competition rules and the modified Rules of Evidence used in the NHSMTC and makes recommendations for modification. This committee meets as needed and currently Pete Jones (DE) serves as chair.

Site Selection Committee—This committee works with prospective host organizations to put together bid packages. The committee reviews host proposals and makes recommendations to the full Board of Directors about those proposals. This committee meets as needed and currently Gordon Widenhouse (NC) serves as chair.

News and Notes From Around the Nation

California By Lourdes Morales



For 35 years, it has been Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) privilege to conduct the California Mock Trial Finals. CRF thanks all the students, parents, teacher-coaches, attorney-volunteers, judges, and so many others who have supported the California Mock Trial program for 35 years. We are proud of all 450 teams and 8,000 students that participate annually in CRF's Mock Trial Program! We look forward to celebrating many more anniversaries together!



It was a great pleasure to return to Sacramento for our 35th Annual California Mock Trial Finals. This year's finals involved 34 teams and over 1,200 students, teachers, attorneys, judges, and parents. The California Mock Trial Championship trial was presided over by Justice Rosendo Peña from the California Court of Appeal.

The state title went to Dos Pueblos High School from Santa Barbara County, after a tough championship trial against Menlo School from San Mateo County. Dos Pueblos High School advances to the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Boise, Idaho. For more information about the California Mock Trial Program, visit our website at www.crf-usa.org.

Georgia

By Michael Nixon



The 28th season of the Georgia Mock Trial Competition concluded its three levels of competition in mid-March. Everything started off with another outstanding Law Academy weekend in mid-September, where 38 students from across the state came to Atlanta for a long weekend of small- and large-group sessions, aiming to hone their mock trial skills. The season's criminal case was again an original case written by the Georgia committee, and was an extension of the 2009 National High School Mock Trial Championship case. This time, Talbot Berrien is on trial for the theft of *The Cherokee Rose*. Ashley Daugherty is out of jail and gets in with a high-class art thief to steal *The Rose* to get even with the painting that ruined his/her life in 2009. Berrien was the "inside-man" on the heist, giving the thieves access to the security of the Carley Museum and the painting itself. Daugherty and Berrien claim that Talbot was a patsy in the whole thing while the prosecution contends that Talbot was in it the entire time. The case was released October 7 with the Regional Competitions taking place January 30.

At the next level of competition, the top three teams from the 16 Regions met in one of the 8 Districts to fight for a spot at the State Finals Competition. The eight District Champions advanced to the State Finals Competition on Saturday, March 19. The team from Jonesboro High School came out as the 2016 season's State Champion, their 8th overall, defeating Northview High School in the Final Round. The team is very excited to have the chance to travel to Boise and bring home the team's 3rd National Championship.



As in past years, the Georgia team will be bringing the State Champion of the Craig Harding Memorial Court Artist Contest to Boise as well, to compete in the first NHSMTTC Court Artist Contest. Michelle Cao was selected as the State Champion from 31 entrants from 11 Regions across the State.

Finally, preparations for Georgia's hosting of the 2019 National High School Mock Trial Championship are well underway. We are excited to show Athens, the Classic City, off to the teams from across the country and feel we have an exciting set of events set up for the competition week.

The Georgia delegation is looking forward to seeing everyone in Boise in a few weeks!

Michigan By Linda Start



MICHIGAN
CENTER FOR
CIVIC EDUCATION

This is the 33rd year that the Michigan Center for Civic Education (MCCE) has conducted the Michigan High School Mock Trial Tournament (MHSMTT). We are indebted to Michigan's legal community for providing funding support and volunteers. The 2016 Tournament is supported by the State Bar of Michigan; Litigation Section, State Bar of Michigan; Oakland County Bar Foundation; and the Macomb County Bar Foundation.

This year MCCE welcomed James Liggins as our new Mock Trial Coordinator. Liggins, is an alum of the MHSMTT and cites himself as an example of how mock trial participation can positively affect a high school student's life. During his sophomore year in high school his teacher said 'you need to do this.' She became a strong influence in his life and introduced him to a profession he would not have otherwise had a chance to see. Currently an associate at Miller Canfield, the lessons he learned and the friendships he made while he was a mock trial member have not left him. One of the attorney coaches of his high school mock trial team sponsored his admission to the Michigan bar. He works for one of the same firms of the same attorney coaches that taught, mentored and guided him in high school over 20 years ago. Liggins is eager to help MCCE expand the MHSMTT and involve more schools and students.

The 2016 Mock Trial season kicked off with a Clinic for students at the Michigan Hall of Justice. In addition to a tour of the Michigan Supreme Court Chambers, students visited the Supreme Court Learning Center. Once again, we reached capacity with 100 students.

Regional Tournaments were held beginning on February 20 and ended on March 5, with the selection of ten finalists who completed in the State Finals on March 19 at Veteran's Courthouse in Lansing, our State Capitol. Sixty teams from across Michigan competed in one four Regional Tournaments.

Kalamazoo Central High School has reclaimed their crown and will be competing at the National Mock Trial Championship.

This year's case is criminal case, *People v. Casey Campbell*. We extend our sincere thanks to the Constitutional Rights Foundation and Classroom Law Project for granting us permission to adapt this case for use in our competition.



Kalamazoo Central High School's varsity mock trial team won the state championship Saturday, March 19, in Lansing. Photo Courtesy of Reh Starks)

For more information about the Michigan High School Mock Trial Tournament and other programs of the Michigan Center for Civic Education, please visit our website at www.miciviced.org.

Nevada

By Kathleen Dickinson



Nevada had a very busy Mock Trial season. We had 18 teams compete at our Southern Nevada Regional Competition and 6 teams competed at our Northern Nevada Regional Competition. Eight teams (4 from the North and 4 from the South) competed at the State Mock Trial Competition on March 4th and March 5th 2016 in the Regional Justice Center in Las Vegas.



Faith Lutheran Gold took top honors and will be attending the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Boise, Idaho representing Nevada. Our Nevada National High School Mock Trial Committee is gearing up for hosting the National Championship in 2018 in Reno with sub-committees in place. You will enjoy the case that has been written for the event. Fundraising is in full swing.

New Jersey

By Sheila Boro



New Jersey State Bar Foundation

Dedicated To Educating The Public About New Jersey Law

The winners of the New Jersey State Bar Foundation's First-Ever Courtroom Artist Student Competition were honored at the State Championship Mock Trial Finals on March 21 at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick.

Each had traveled to her local county courthouse to sketch her school's mock trial team in action during preliminary rounds of the Foundation's Vincent J. Apruzzese High School Mock Trial Competition. Their drawings, which had to be completed during actual court time, were adjudged the best of the 65 entries received from students throughout New Jersey.



The judges included Foundation President Steven M. Richman, Esq., Brian J. Neary, Esq., Beth Mason and noted courtroom artists Elizabeth Williams and Aggie Kenny, many of whose sketches were recently added to the Library of Congress.

For more information, contact Cynthia Pellegrino at 732-937-7507 or cpellegrino@njsbf.org.

New Mexico By Kristen Leeds



CENTER FOR CIVIC VALUES
PROVIDING EDUCATION AND RESOURCES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE LAW

The 38th annual Gene Franchini High School Mock Trial competition was held in February and March. Our regional competition had 26 teams competing with the top 8 moving onto the state finals in March. Albuquerque Academy was awarded top honors and will be attending the national championship in May. Albuquerque Academy has won two National Titles so we are hoping for a three-peat!



This year's civil case was *Perea vs Sosa* and was adapted from a Georgia case. It involved a high school band student suing the high school band instructor. I think the students had a fun time with this case.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in a few weeks.

North Carolina By Sue Johnson



The 24th annual North Carolina Advocates for Justice High School Mock Trial State Finals was hosted for the seventh time at Campbell Law School in Raleigh, NC. On March 12, 2016, our eight regional champions battled for the honor of representing North Carolina in Boise, Idaho in May. In a hard fought final round between two teams who competed at Nationals in Raleigh last year, Central Carolina Homeschoolers "Veritas" emerged victorious, defeating Gaston Christian School "Red."



In February, eighty-six teams competed in Regional competition at eight sites ranging from Asheville in the mountains, to Wilmington on the coast. Nine teams were brand-new to the program, while eight other teams were only in their second year of participation. These teams

continued the growth in the program resulting from our Outreach Project to new schools initiated in 2012-13.

This year's criminal case, *State of Utopia v. Grayson Zayne.*, was based on the 2015 Pennsylvania state case. It involved a college student charged with murder in the death of a fellow honor society member during the society's initiation activities. We are pleased to report that the case was well balanced, with the defense winning 52% of trials and 51% of ballots across all regional competitions.

This summer the CCCE will host our fourth annual summer mock trial camp in Chapel Hill, NC on July 27 – 30. Combining instructional sessions with hands-on learning, the camps culminate with trial scrimmages between student teams for both Basic and Advanced levels of instruction. Students from outside of NC are welcome. Visit our website at <http://ncmocktrial.org/camps/ccce-summer-camps> for more details.

We are thankful for the more than 450 legal professionals who volunteer as attorney advisors, presiding judges or scoring jurors, and site volunteers at our regional and state competitions. We are also very proud of the nearly 650 students who learned about trial by jury while gaining important collaboration, communication, and critical thinking skills.

Ohio By Caitlyn Smith



The Ohio Center for Law-Related Education's 33rd High School Mock Trial season concluded on March 12th, as Orange High School from Cleveland claimed the State Championship; defeating runner-up Dayton Early College Academy at the Ohio Statehouse. Orange advanced through the District, Regional and State competition, winning nine consecutive trials to win the state championship.



This year, we were happy to see 365 teams compete at the district level, representing 190 schools across Ohio. More than 3500 students participated, and we were supported by over 1000 volunteers serving as committee members, competition coordinators, team advisors, volunteer judges and facilitators. The competition utilized an original case, "The State of Harmony v. Riley Green" which tackled the 4th Amendment while examining excessive force protocols. The Center is sponsored by the Supreme Court of Ohio, Ohio Attorney General, Ohio State Bar

Association and the ACLU of Ohio Foundation. Mock Trial also receives support from the Ohio State Bar Foundation. For more information regarding Ohio Mock Trial and all of the Center's programs please visit <http://www.ocle.org>.

Texas

By Melissa Garcia



This spring, the Texas High School Mock Trial Competition hosted its 37th year of mock trial. We had 133 teams compete in regional competitions with 28 teams advancing to state competition the weekend of March 4-5 in Dallas, TX. Our state champ was Creekview High School from Carrollton, TX after a very tough championship round against last year's second place team, Hillcrest High School from Dallas, TX. This is Creekview's 4th state title and visit to Nationals.

Teams enjoyed trying this year's case involving a beloved show dog being killed by a shot down drone. There's no doubt that our case writing committee likes to keep up with current issues. Note: No real animals were harmed in preparation of this case.

We are also excited to have launched our brand new website just in time for the 2015-2016 year. Not only is it more visually appealing, but we have also been able to present information on the mock trial program much more effectively. Check it out at: www.texashighschoolmocktrial.com.



National High School Mock Trial is looking for a 2020 host!

Have you ever considered hosting? Now's your chance to be the national host in 2020! Contact Gordon Widenhouse for more information at mgwidenhouse@yahoo.com

Mandatory State Coordinators Survey Due April 15th

As a reminder, in order to be eligible to participate at Nationals, each state must complete the National Survey and pay a \$250 membership fee. The membership fee is separate and in addition to a team's \$500 tournament fee. [CLICK HERE](#) to complete the survey. The funds collected through the membership fee have been earmarked specifically for costs borne by NHSMTTC, Inc. for hosting or aiding in the hosting of the national championship.

NHSMTC Case Library

The National High School Mock Trial Championship, Inc., is pleased to provide a library of mock trial cases online under the Sample Case Database section of the website. The mock trial cases on the website are available to state coordinators interested in using these materials. Access to the case library requires a coordinator to login into the “ [Members Area](#).”

NHSMTC Championship Round DVDs

DVD's of previous National Mock Trial Championship Trials can be found at:

- Order the 2012 championship DVD (NM-Criminal case) by email: mocktrial@civicvalues.org
- Order the 2013 championship round DVD (IN-Civil case) by email skroberts@inmocktrial.com
- Order the 2014 championship round DVD (WI-Civil case) by email kwilcox@wisbar.org
- Order the 2015 championship round DVD (NC-Civil case) at: <http://www.ncmocktrial.org/content/order-dvd-2015-national-championship-finals>

**For more information about the NHSMTC
Tournament, visit our [2016 NHSMTC
Website](#)**



NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Dewain Fox,
NHSMTC Board Chair
Maricopa County Superior Court
201 W. Jefferson St.
Phoenix, AZ 85003-2243
Tel: (602) 372-2260
dfox.nhsmtc@cox.net

2015-2016 Board of Directors

David M. Berlin (HD—New Mexico)
Rebecca Britton (At-large—North Carolina)
Cynthia Cothran (At-large—South Carolina)
Beth Deluca (HD—CT)
Pete Jones (At-large—Delaware)
Paul Kauffman (At-large—Pennsylvania)
Michael Nixon (At-large—Georgia)
Susan Nusall (Board HD—Arizona)
Emily Lindsey (At-large—Wisconsin)
Carey Shoufler (HD—Idaho)
Hon. Lyle E. Strom (At-large—Nebraska)
Laura Wesley (At-large—California)
John Wheeler (At-large—Iowa)
M. Gordon Widenhouse, Jr. (HD—North Carolina)
Katie Wilcox (HD—Wisconsin)
Shawn Yancy (At-large—Kansas)

2015-16 Non-Board Committee Members

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Jonathan Grode
Competition Operations
Sue Johnson
Long Range Planning
Rene Garner
Nominating
Doris Huffman
Michelle Giger
Rene Garner
Rules
Carolyn Gravit
Site Selection
Doris Huffman

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