

MOCK TRIAL MATTERS

www.nationalmocktrial.org

CALENDAR

Connecticut is in the Eastern 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 11-13—National Tournament, Hartford, CT

May 11—State Coordinators Meeting; Timekeeper Orientation; Coaches Orientation, Artist Orientation and Team Pin Exchange (Dunkin Donuts Park)

May 12— Rounds 1 & 2; Judges' Reception, Student Event (CT Convention Center).

May 13—Rounds 3 & 4; Championship Round; Awards Gala & Dance.

May 14— Scoring Ballots available for state Coordinator pick-up.

* The full schedule for the weekend can be found at: [NHSMTTC Schedule](#)



WELCOME TO HARTFORD!

We at Civics First cannot wait to host all of you in May! We are excited for everything we have planned for you. We hope you enjoy our case! Staff and volunteers from Civics First, Inc. and the 2017 National Mock Trial Host Committee are hard at work putting the finishing touches on your 2017 National High School Mock Trial Championship that will be held from May 11-13 in Hartford, Connecticut. All of the logistical information you will need for the competition and social events is housed on the event website at www.2017nationalmocktrial.org. You can also get up to date information on the [Civics First Facebook page](#), [Twitter @CivicsFirst76](#) or [Instagram @civicsfirst76](#).

On the website you can find information about traveling to Hartford and links to the host hotels. You can also access information about registration, events, and our courthouses where all the competition rounds will take place. Please be sure to register in the correct place! There is a separate registration for observers, volunteers and judges. People can register individually under those categories and purchase tickets and merchandise. You can also sign up for scrimmage rooms/times and team photo times on the website.

Coaches should be prepared with team member information when registering. It is imperative that we have an accurate count of observers per team due to the smaller size of some of the courtrooms. Those that purchase t-shirts will actually get a \$15 voucher to be turned in to the shirt vendor on Thursday, May 11th at the Connecticut Convention Center between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. for their shirt or toward an upgrade to another item.

Civics First looks forward to hosting you this coming May. We are excited to share our state's capitol with the mock trial nation,

highlighting our courts and our 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 Constitution State in May! If you have any questions, contact Beth DeLuco at nationals@civicsfirstct.org or (860) 357-5300.

Where To Find It In Hartford

The Connecticut Convention Center will be the site of all Thursday meetings and scrimmages, team registration, team photos, our merchandise vendor and college and law school vendors for your information. The Awards Gala on Friday night will also be hosted at the Convention Center.

The Hartford Marriott is one of our two host hotels and also the location for Wednesday's team registration and scrimmage rooms as well as Friday night's team Arcade Night.

The Hilton is our other host hotel only a few blocks from the Marriott and Convention Center and right next door to the Dunkin Donuts stadium.

Hartford Courthouses: Friday's trials will take place between three courthouses, state courthouses at 95 Washington Street and 101 Lafayette Street and the Federal District Court at 450 Main Street. 101 Lafayette and 95 Washington are directly across the street from each other and 450 Main Street is only a few blocks away. Judge and court liaison trainings will be held at 450 Main Street. Saturday's first two rounds will be held at 450 Main Street Federal District Court and the Connecticut Convention Center.

The NEW Dunkin Donuts Stadium hosting the Hartford Yard Goats will be the site of the opening ceremony and pin exchange social. There will be a formal opening ceremony Olympic style with a parade of teams around the ball field in front of a full stadium of Yard Goats fans! Teams are requested to either wear matching shirts or bring small state/country flags to distinguish them from other teams during the parade ceremony. Teams will be announced as they round home base. The pin exchange social will take place in the stadium during the game. There is a special area for us with a buffet and space for mingling as well as watching the game!

The Mark Twain House is the site of the Friday night Judges' Reception.

TRANSPORTATION

Air

All teams and attendees are responsible for making their own transportation arrangements to attend the Championship. However, there is an airport shuttle that runs every half hour or so between Bradley Airport and the two host hotels. We are looking in to ways to assist teams with the timing of the shuttles for return to the airport on Sunday May 14th. But we will need to know teams' departure times in order to make these arrangements. Taxi and Uber services are also available.

Ground

For drivers, there is a large parking garage at the Convention Center as well as parking at both hotels. There is also an Amtrak stop only a few miles away.

Required Tournament Meetings

State Coordinators' Business Meeting

Thursday, May 11 (2-4 p.m. Connecticut Convention Center, Boardroom B)

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 11 (4-5 p.m. Connecticut Convention Center, Meeting Room 22).

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 11 (4-5 p.m. Connecticut Convention Center, Meeting Room 21).

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.

Courtroom Artist Orientation

Thursday May 12 (4-5 p.m. Connecticut Convention Center Boardroom B).

Attendance is required for any students entered in the courtroom artist competition.

Presiding Judge Orientation

Thursday, May 12 (4-5 p.m. Connecticut Convention Center, Boardroom A).

Attendance is required for all presiding judges.

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 p.m. (EST) on April 22 to nationals@civicsfirstct.org. A running list of answers to submitted questions will be posted weekly on every Friday afternoon thru April 22 at www.2017nationalmocktrial.org. The final version of the 2017 case materials will be posted online on April 29.

Coordinators' Round Table Discussion

The 2017 Coordinator's Round Table Discussion will be held on May 11 from 1:00-2:00 pm in Connecticut Convention Center, Boardroom B. 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

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**For more information about the
NHSMTC Tournament, visit our
website:
[2017 NHSMTC](http://www.2017nationalmocktrial.org)**

A Word From Our Chair

By Judge Dewain Fox



This is my last *A Word From Our Chair* column. As I indicated at last year's state coordinators meeting in Boise, this past year was my last at NHSMTTC's helm. At the May 11, 2017 board meeting in Hartford, the board will select a new chairperson to lead NHSMTTC into the foreseeable future. I am confident that NHSMTTC will be in capable hands, because the next chairperson will come from a group of hardworking board members who truly care for the long-term success of NHSMTTC.

In my first column, I expressed gratitude for the great people who serve on the NHSMTTC board and the care they exhibit for one another. Now, after serving as chair for five years, my appreciation for my colleagues on the board has grown. I have presided over several regular and special board meetings during my tenure.

Fortunately, the board is able to reach a consensus on many of the issues that come before it. But, inevitably, there are times when board members may disagree--sometimes passionately--about an issue. Despite these occasional differences, board members generally have treated those with whom they disagree with civility and respect. (Of course, I am discounting the occasional remark that I just chalk up to David Berlin being David Berlin.) Especially in this age when political discourse has reached new lows, I am proud to have led a board whose members can disagree without being disagreeable.

Finally, I am grateful of the many friendships that I have developed with board members and state coordinators during my time as the board chair. I look forward to maintaining those relationships at many future national championships to come. For now, I wish all of you safe travels to Hartford and look forward to reconnecting with you in about a month!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dewain Fox". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D".

Dewain Fox, Board Chair

2018 National Host



Reno, Nevada Competition Update
By Don Christensen
2018 Host Director

Planning is underway for the 2018 National High School Mock Trial Championship in Reno, Nevada. The “Biggest Little City in the World” is ready to host more than 1,500 students, coaches, family members and volunteer judges, team officials and organizers. A Steering Committee is in place to oversee competition logistics, volunteer recruitment and budgeting. The Committee is ahead of schedule on most projects, including the drafting of the case to be argued during the competition.

Fundraising efforts are going strong. The Nevada Bar Foundation has donated \$50,000 to host the event and has received \$20,000 and \$30,000 grants from two private foundations in Reno. Other donations include \$10,000 from Nevada Energy, \$3,000 from UNLV Boyd School of Law, \$2500 from the Nevada Judicial College and \$2500 from the Federal Bar Association Foundation. Additional fundraising events have taken place with more in the planning stages.

Reno has much to offer. Downtown Reno has several attractions all within walking distance of the host hotel, including the Reno Aces Ballpark. The Steering Committee has identified the following locations for team events and receptions.

Student Pin Exchange: National Automobile Museum

Team Event: Grand Sierra Hotel – (bowling, race cars, laser tag) or Whitney Peak Hotel (rock climbing)

Judges Reception: National Judicial College

Announcement of Final Teams: BELIEVE Sign

Closing Reception/Awards Gala: Reno Ballroom or Silver Legacy Expo Hall
The National Judicial College brings judges from across the country for training at its facility in Reno. In addition to hosting the Judge’s Reception, the College is also working with the Steering Committee to schedule a judges training in the days before the competition. We anticipate many of those judges taking an extra day or two to stay and judge the competition.

Sleeping accommodations are set. We have selected the Silver Legacy Resort and Casino as the host hotel for the competition. Located within blocks of the downtown courthouses, the Silver Legacy is completely connected to two other resorts and hosts an array of entertainment and dining options on site and within walking distance.

A room block has been set aside and favorable rates negotiated for the 2018 NHSMT competition.

- Midweek Rate (Sun. – Thurs.): \$79
- Weekend Rate (Fri. and Sat.): \$119

Group reservations can be made by calling 800-687-8733. Please be sure to use the group code **NHSMOCK** to receive the rate.

Courtrooms are reserved. Competitors will be spread across 24 courtrooms multiple venues within a few blocks of each other; the Second Judicial District Courthouse, the Mills B. Lane Justice Center and at the Bruce R. Thompson Federal Courthouse, with space and seating available for competitors and observers. Reno City Hall has also been made available at no cost as an operations center.

We're going online. A dedicated website for the [2018 competition is now LIVE](#). This site houses all information related to the competition and include online registration forms, judging and liaison volunteer forms, and an online donation portal. The site is populated with rotating photos of downtown Reno. It is also geared with a younger audience in mind, featuring live streaming from Instagram followers using the #natlmocktrial handle.

Forging Ahead. In the upcoming year, the Steering Committee's focus will shift its primary focus to communications regarding the competition, recruitment of attorneys to serve as scoring judges, and obtaining assistance from local volunteer groups to help shepherd students between events and courthouses. This will include continuing dialogue with members of our local and statewide judiciary, local and specialty bar associations, and informing/inviting attorney participation.

2019 National Host



By Michael Nixon
2019 Host Director

Welcome to Athens, Georgia, the Classic City; steeped in history and home of the University of Georgia (UGA), the oldest land grant university in the country, chartered in 1795. A true southern college town, Athens is a unique mix of the past, present and future, and we are excited to be your host for the 2019 National High School Mock Trial Championship. The Georgia High School Mock Trial Program, along with the State Bar of Georgia and its Young Lawyers Division, is already hard at work making plans for the 2019 Nationals, to be held the weekend of May 16-18.

Teams will be immersed in the city's history throughout the weekend as the competition's events take place both in the picturesque downtown and on the campus of the University of Georgia. But it isn't just antebellum history that can be found here; Athens is also the site of the first powered flight in the state of Georgia as well as the birthplace of several music groups, including the B52s and R.E.M. There is so much to see and explore, and we will highlight more as the event draws closer.

The Hilton Garden Inn will serve as the headquarters for team registration and information, with students being housed in one of three hotels in the middle of downtown Athens. Competition rounds will take place at the Athens-Clarke County Courthouse and the Classic Center, the city's jewel of a convention center. The Classic Center will also play host to all of the practice rooms, various meetings on Thursday and the Awards Gala Saturday night.

The 2019 competition will be a unique experience for the mock trial family in that it will be one of the first visits to a true southern college town and we are excited to share this unique part of Georgia and the south to everyone in 2019!

Nationals 2020 Host (Insert your state here!)

JUST DO IT....We promise we'll be there to help!!!

If you haven't experienced the excitement of hosting the National High School Mock Trial Championship, maybe now is the time to JUST DO IT!!

If you know this excitement but it has been too many years, maybe it's time to JUST DO IT AGAIN!! The Board is looking for Hosts for 2020 and beyond and wants you to know there are resources available to you!!!

- Seed money to begin your fundraising
- Mentors who have "been there, done that"
- A "how to" guide with timelines, forms, etc.
- Technical assistance with the website

- Don't have enough courtrooms, no problem. We are open to using alternative venues, if necessary.
- Publicity and social media highlighting your involvement!

Hosting the NHSMTTC is a great way to grow your program by providing volunteer opportunities to judges, attorneys, and community members, and to help them learn what an amazing, educational program mock trial is.

Just thinking about it? Want to learn more? Contact mgwidenhouse@rudolfwidenhouse.com or susan.nusall@azflse.org

REMEMBER: The NHSMTTC can take place only when a state answers the call and hosts it.

2017 Courtroom Artist Contest



Calling all student artists! The Courtroom Art Contest is a competition that allows artistically talented students the opportunity to participate in the Mock Trial Program. After a successful pilot of the contest at the 2016 NHSMTTC in Idaho, we are proud to announce the Courtroom Art Contest will take place at the 2017 NHSMTTC in Hartford, Connecticut. Please considering starting a contest in your state and sending a winner to Nationals. Last year rules, rubric and training video can be found on the NHSMTTC website. [Click here](#) for more information.

2017 Spring Board Election



A scheduled election will be held during the State Coordinators' meeting on May 11 in Hartford. There are four seats open for election this year and four board members: Laura Wesley, Paul Kaufman, David Berlin and Gordon Widenhouse, are running for the at large seats.

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 15, 2017. 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, David Berlin, dंबरl@duhigglaw.com, before the end of the NHSMTC, Inc. Board of Directors meeting on May 11, 2017. 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 NHSMTC, Inc. By-Laws Article IV, Section 2).

Each candidate will have an opportunity to address coordinators during the State Coordinators' Meeting in Hartford. 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 NHSMTC, 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 2016-2017 Chair of the Board is Dewain Fox (AZ), the Vice Chair is Laura Wesley (CA), the Treasurer is Paul Kaufman (PA) and the Secretary is Rebecca Britton (NC). 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. Nusall (AZ).

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 NHSMTTC 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 NHSMTTC Board officers, including the Chair, the Vice Chair, the Secretary and the Treasurer. It meets as needed to review issues related to the NHSMTTC, Inc. Dewain Fox (AZ), NHSMTTC Board Chair, chairs this committee.

Information Technology—This committee was created by the NHSMTTC, Inc. Board in 2012 to create a long-term plan for the technology needs of the program. The committee meets as needed and currently Michael Nixon (GA) serves as chair. The committee is responsible for establishing the technological requirements for the competition and NHSMTTC website. The collection and maintenance of the NHSMTTC electronic case library is another responsibility of the committee and includes a copy of all past NHSMTTC 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 NHSMTTC, Inc. and recommends actions and strategies to grow and strengthen the program. This committee meets as needed and currently Laura Wesley (CA) serves as chair.

Newsletter Committee—This committee gathers news and articles of interest regarding high school mock trial and produces two editions of the NHSMTTC newsletter, *Mock Trial Matters*, annually. The newsletter is emailed to the state coordinators in the spring and fall and posted on the NHSMTTC 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 NHSMTTC 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 NHSMTTC. 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 36 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 36 years. We are proud of all 450 teams and 8,000 students that participate annually in CRF's Mock Trial Program!

Special thanks to Carlos Monagas from the Riverside District Attorney's Office and Joshua Hanks, Attorney at Law in Riverside for all their help with the revisions and recording the "California Mock Trial Simplified Rules of Evidence" webinar. This great webinar is now available on our webpage, see link below. <http://crf-usa.org/mock-trial-program/mock-trial-webcasts>.

It was a great pleasure to return to Riverside for our 36th Annual California Mock Trial Finals where we held the first state finals. This year's state finals involved 34 teams and over 1,200 students, teachers, attorneys, judges, and parents. The California Mock Trial Championship trial was presided over by Judge Raquel Marquez (past CA Mock Trial student)



from the Riverside County Superior Court. The state title went to Carmel High School from Monterey County, after a tough championship trial against Shasta

High School from Shasta County. Carmel High School advances to the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Hartford, Connecticut. For more information about the California Mock Trial Program, visit our website at www.crf-usa.org.

Georgia

By Michael Nixon

The Georgia Mock Trial Competition concluded its 29th season with our State Finals Competition the weekend of March 4th. The season started off with another outstanding Law Academy weekend in mid-September, where 44 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 civil case was again an original case written by the Georgia committee, centered around a high school co-ed softball game. Harper Bryson was rounding 3rd towards home to win the semi-final playoff game when s/he was hit in the back of the head with the ball thrown by Joey Cobb. Bryson sued Cobb, claiming that Cobb's power and accuracy all but ensured that the throw was intentional in order to take out the competition and ensure a win for Cobb's team. All of the witnesses in the case were on the field or in the stands and were direct witnesses to the play, ranging from the Cobb's shortstop teammate to Bryson's third base coach, along with the local radio announcer and a college/professional scout. Everyone agrees that Cobb's arm would take him/her to the pros one day and Cobb's own TubeYou video showed his/her accuracy. Cobb's defense was that the ball just went a little wide on a quick throw, compounded by Cobb having to change direction of the throw when Bryson ignored his/her coach's sign to stop at third and try for home. The case was released October 12 with the Regional Competitions taking place January 28.

At the next level of competition, the top three teams from the 15 Regions met in one of the seven Districts to fight for a spot at the State Finals Competition. The seven District Champions were joined by a wildcard team drawn from the District Finalists, who all advanced to the State Finals Competition on Saturday, March 4. The team from Grady High School came out as the 2017 State Champion, their 7th overall, defeating Westminster Christian Academy in the Final Round. The team is very excited to have the chance to travel to Hartford and bring home their first National Championship.

As in past years, the Georgia team will be bringing the State Champion of the Craig Harding Memorial Court Artist Contest to Hartford as well, to compete in the first NBSMTC Court Artist Contest. Nicole Harris was selected as the State Champion from 33 entrants from nine 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 Hartford in a few weeks!

Idaho

By Carey Shoufler

The Idaho Law Foundation's Law Related Education Program will finish its 2017 season with our state competition in Boise on March 22 to 24. 12 teams from three regional tournaments will represent their schools at the state competition. This includes two teams from Helena High School from Montana, who continue to participate in Idaho's mock trial competition as they work to build their mock trial program.

Idaho continues to sponsor a courtroom artist contest. Last year's contest winner is now serving as one of the judges for our contest! We will have 4 students who will participate in our state contest, qualifying from their regional contests.

The 2017 Idaho mock trial case is a criminal case, *The State v. Elliot Stewart*, which involves an art heist, in which the art is recovered 15 years after the original theft from an art museum. In our usual way of adding an Idaho twist, we had the stolen art be the art of James Castle, a well-known 20th century Idaho artist.

We continue to post updates to our [Idaho Mock Trial Facebook page](#). Like Idaho Mock Trial on Facebook and we will like you back!

Illinois

By Katy Karayannis

The 2017 ISBA High School Mock Trial Invitational was held on March 11 and 12, 2017, at the University of Illinois College of Law in Champaign, Illinois. Teams representing thirty-nine high schools from across Illinois participated in the event. The winning team was St. Charles North High School, which will represent Illinois at the National High School Mock Trial Competition in Hartford, Connecticut.

The 2017 Invitational was administered by the Illinois State Bar Association's Standing Committee on Law-Related Education for the Public, the Mock Trial Coordinator, Katy Karayannis, and the members of the Illinois Trial Team. A full list of participating schools, sponsors, and volunteers, information about volunteering, and general information about the Mock Trial Invitational program will be posted on the ISBA Mock Trial website at: <http://www.isba.org/teachers/mocktrial>.

Indiana

By Collin Gruver

The Indiana Bar Foundation is honored to facilitate the Indiana High School Mock Trial program, and we look forward to doing so for many years.

This year, 50 teams competed from 19 different high schools in our three regional competitions. Our 2017 regional champions were:

- Hammond Regional: *Team 3* (Valparaiso High School – Valparaiso, IN)
- Indianapolis Regional: *Just Us* (Heritage Christian High School, Indianapolis, IN)

- South Bend Regional: *Dead Precedents* (John Adams High School, South Bend, IN)

24 teams advanced to the 2017 Indiana High School Mock Trial State Finals in Indianapolis on March 4th and 5th. After two days of intense competition, two phenomenal teams advanced to the Championship Round. Those two teams were:

- *America's Next Top Lawyer* (Carmel High School, Carmel, IN); and
- *Not Necessarily* (John Adams).

We were thrilled to have some amazing judges for our Championship Round. The presiding judge was Indiana Supreme Court Justice Steven David. Retired attorney and case author, Susan Roberts, served as a scoring judge, as did Judge Larry McKinney from the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana and Judge Martha Wentworth of the Indiana Tax Court.

Both of our top two teams gave amazing performances, as did all of our teams throughout various stages of the competition. In the end, *Not Necessarily* from John Adams High School in South Bend was crowned the 2017 Indiana State Champion. The Indiana Bar Foundation is proud to have them represent the Hoosier state in the 2017 National High School Mock Trial Championship.

Mississippi

By Rene Garner

On Saturday, March 4, in the Hinds County Courthouse, Sacred Heart Catholic School finished in first place at the 2017 Mississippi High School Statewide Mock Trial Competition and will represent Mississippi in the 2017 National High School Mock Trial Competition on May 11-13 in Hartford, Connecticut. This is the fifth consecutive trip to Nationals for Sacred Heart Catholic School.

Distinguished members of the Bar judged the statewide final round. These judges included Jenny Tyler Baker, President of the Young Lawyers Division of The Mississippi Bar; Briggs Hopson, President of The Mississippi Bar; Austin Stewart, Past Chair of the Mock Trial Competition and Former Mock Trial Attorney Coach; Judge Linda R. Anderson, US Magistrate Judge Southern District of MS; and Robert Gibbs, who has judged the final round for 26 years, served as the presiding judge.

Twenty-six teams from around the state participated in three regional competitions, which were held in January and February in Jackson, Gulfport and Oxford. From those teams, 16 teams advanced to the statewide competition held on March 3 – 4 at the Hinds County Courthouse and Chancery Courthouse in Jackson.

MSMS Team 1 earned the second place trophy gavel, coached by Scott Colom. The following schools earned the remainder of the top six positions: MSMS Team 2, third place, coached by Scott Colom; Lamar School Team 1, fourth place, coached by Amanda Glover Evans; Long Beach High School, fifth place, coached by Michelle Luber; and St. Patrick Catholic High

School, sixth place, coached by Judge Jennifer Schloegel, Elena Guida and Dee Dee Coleson. A special thanks to all of the attorney coaches and judges who volunteered their valuable time to help with this Young Lawyers Division law related education program in its 34th year.

Nebraska

Cindy Lilleoien

Defending its 2015 national title, the Mock Trial team from Omaha's Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart met the Iowa team in the final round of 2016 competition in Boise, Idaho, on May 14. The Duchesne team representing Nebraska was named national runner-up as the Iowa team took the 2016 top prize.

The team's attorney coaches and its teacher coach were recognized at the Bar Foundation's Legacy of Liberty Breakfast on October 27, 2016. Also recognized was team member Olivia Stanke, the only one who did not graduate from Duchesne last spring.

The Foundation also recognized 15-year Norris High School veteran teacher coach Rick Koenig at the Breakfast. He was presented with a Freedom Throw blanket, made by the company that made blankets for Civil War soldiers.

At the State Championship held in Lincoln on December 6 and 7, Creighton Prep took the title, defeating the Duchesne Academy team. The teams presented a criminal case in which Blake M. Brando is charged with first degree murder in the on-stage shooting of a co-author and actor in the play, *Burr* (in the tradition of the Hamilton-Burr duel). The case follows the Bar Foundation's Law-Related Education theme for 2016, "The Rule of Law as Portrayed in Art – From Comedy to Tragedy." The Prep team will represent Nebraska at nationals in Hartford, Connecticut, in May. Pictures are Duchene 2015-2016 and Creighton Prep 2016-217.



Nevada

By Kathleen Dickinson



Our State Competition will take place on March 3rd and 4th 2017 at the Bruce Thompson Federal Courthouse. We have ten teams competing at the State Competition. In alphabetical order they are: Advanced Technologies Academy, Bishop Gorman High School, Elko High School, Faith Lutheran Middle and High School, two teams from McQueen High School, Reno High School and Spanish Springs High School. The teachers and students are very excited. The case this year is from Oregon, “Avery Leon v

Chinook County Transportation District and Lindsey Palmer”. We appreciate the National High School Mock Trial Case Library. Our State Bar of Nevada colleagues are busy getting ready for the 2018 National High School Mock Trial Championship in Reno, Nevada. May is a beautiful time of year in Reno. Below is a picture of the first-place team from Reno who will compete at the state competition.

New Jersey

By Sheila Boro

Winners of NJ’s county mock trial titles took a light-hearted break during regional playoffs in February at our “Rock the Mock” photo booth at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick. Students struck poses with costumes and props for posting on social media. Competition will continue in March.



New Mexico

By Kristen Leeds



This year we continued our growth and had 25 teams compete at the qualifier competition in February. We added the courtroom artist competition this year and had four artists compete.





The top eight teams and all four artists competed at the state finals in March. Volcano Vista Platinum won top honors and Leann Ashurst from Animas High School took home the top courtroom artist award. Team New Mexico is excited to be going to Connecticut this year.

North Carolina By Sue Johnson

For our milestone 25th anniversary season, the Carolina Center for Civic Education hosted State Finals at Campbell Law School and the North Carolina State Bar Building in Raleigh. On March 11, 2017, ten teams battled for the honor of representing North Carolina in Hartford, CT in May. North Carolina Court of Appeals Judge Lucy N. Inman, a long-term supporter of our program, presided over the championship trial. In a hard fought final round between two perennial powerhouses, Central Carolina Homeschoolers “Lewis” emerged victorious, defeating JH Rose High School “Green.”



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

This year’s original civil case, *Gabriel Torres v. Arcadia Police Department*, dealt with many issues at the forefront of society: bullying; acceptance of differences (in abilities,

religion, and ethnicity); school safety; and reasonable versus excessive force. Feedback on the case was very positive, with coaches commenting on how it allowed them to take a variety of approaches in arguing for each side. We are pleased to report that the case was again well balanced, with the defense winning 51.8% of trials across all regional competitions.

This summer the CCCE will host our fifth annual summer mock trial camp in Chapel Hill, NC on July 26 – 29. 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 34th High School Mock Trial season concluded on March 11th, as Indian Hill High School from the Cincinnati-area claimed the State Championship; defeating runner-up Notre Dame Cathedral Latin High School at the Ohio Statehouse. Indian Hill advanced through the District, Regional and State competitions, winning nine consecutive trials to win the state championship.

In 2017, OCLRE hosted district competitions in 27 different cities, and 9 different regional competitions, and brought schools from 27 different schools to participate in the State competition in Columbus. 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, "Pat Justice v. CAT News" which tackled the 1st Amendment while examining defamation of a public official. 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 OCLRE's programs, please visit <http://www.oclre.org>.



Oregon

By Scott Kerman

The Classroom Law Project in Portland, Oregon, debuted a new Mock Trial case for the 31st Oregon High School Mock Trial Competition. The annual competition--co-sponsored by Lewis & Clark Law School, the Oregon State Bar, and the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association--attracted over sixty teams from seven Oregon regions.

Sixteen teams will compete in the State Competition March 17-18 at the Mark O. Hatfield Federal Courthouse in Portland. Hundreds of attorney, educator, and community member

volunteers participated in the program as judges, coaches, regional coordinators, and support staff for the events around Oregon.

The case, *Landry Lopez v. Buddie's Burgers LLC*, is a whistleblower case that required teams to determine whether Lopez was fired because he closed up Buddie's Burgers early or because he accused a fellow employee, who also is the high school's star athlete, of stealing from the charity booster fundraiser. Colorful witnesses include former Genesee High School athlete and current booster Buddie Gartowski, and former standout basketball player turned table tennis star Sam "Crush" Jackson.

Classroom Law Project thanks its Mock Trial sponsors and fellow Presidents' Circle Member Nike, Inc. for their ongoing support for all of CLP's programs. Their generosity, together with the support of the many law firms and Portland/Oregon businesses and associations that make up the Jefferson Circle and Madison Circle Members, make Classroom Law Project's legal and civics programming possible. For more information about CLP programs, please visit our website at www.classroomlaw.org.

South Carolina By Cynthia Cothran



South Carolina recently concluded the 2017 State High School Mock Trial competition at the Matthew J. Perry, Jr. Federal Courthouse. After three rounds at regionals and an additional three rounds at the state competition, the top two teams competed in two championship rounds alternating sides of a civil case. The 2017 State Champion is Strom Thurmond High School from Edgefield, South Carolina. This is their sixth state championship title. The teams competed using a civil case written by SC Bar Staff, Donald Lanier. The civil case was *Jamie Crown v. Windsor General Hospital and Aiden Cooper*. Jamie Crown was employed with Windsor for more than 26 years. Crown lost a daughter to MS that was believed to be brought on by a flu shot. When Crown's employer required all employees obtain a flu shot, Crown refused and was terminated as a result. Crown is suing Windsor General Hospital and its staff for wrongful termination, wrongful termination/violation of public policy, and intentional infliction of emotional distress or "outrage." The hospital denies the allegations.

The South Carolina Bar's Law Related Education Division supports statewide Elementary Mock Trial in the classrooms, Middle School Mock Trial (competitively), and High School Mock Trial (competitively).

Texas

By Caitlyn Smith



This spring, the Texas High School Mock Trial Competition hosted its 38th year of mock trial.

We had 159 teams compete in regional competitions with 28 teams advancing to state competition the weekend of March 3-4 in Dallas, TX. None of this would have been possible without the

support of the Dallas Bar Association and the 400+ attorneys that volunteer for the program. Our state winner this year is returning champs, Creekview High School from Carrollton, TX after a very tough championship round against last year's third place team, Skyline High School from Dallas, TX. This is Creekview's 4th state title in the last five years.



This year's criminal case, *State of Texoma v. Houston Whit* involved the death of an international pop star named, "Pauper" who was found dead at his well-known estate – much like a another musical legend lost in 2016.



We are also excited to have hosted our first ever courtroom artist contest! With the help of professional courtroom artist, Gary Myrick, and other state coordinators we were able to provide a guidelines and resources for our participating students. Fifteen artists qualified for our state contest. Courtney Cook from Midlothian Heritage High School was declared as the winning artist to go to nationals. We look forward to growing this part of the program for years to come!

Virginia

By Matt Rossetini

The Virginia Law Related Education Institute is ready for the 2017 Virginia High School Mock Trial Competition at William & Mary Law School in Williamsburg! Nine teams are competing this year to see who can present the best case in *United States v. Carpenter*, a federal computer piracy trial. VLRE is proud to partner with the Center for Legal and Court Technology at William and Mary Law School, and is financially assisted by a generous grant from the Virginia Law Foundation, which promotes through philanthropy the rule of law, access to justice and law-related education. Please follow us at

valawreed.wixsite.com/home for further information on the competition, as well as on our summer seminar programs and curriculum development opportunities.

NHSMTC Championship Round DVDs

The championship DVDs are a great resource for your state team. Order a DVD by contacting previous NHSMTC hosts:

- 2014 championship round DVD 2014 (WI-Civil case) email kwilcox@wisbar.org
- 2016 championship round DVD 2014 (ID-Civil case) at <https://form.jotform.com/61414955011953>

NHSMTC State Coordinators Survey and Membership Dues

As a reminder, in order to be eligible to participate at Nationals, each state must:

- 1) Complete the National Coordinator's Survey by April 15^h ([Click here to take the Survey](#))
AND
- 2) Pay a \$250 membership fee, due January 16th.

Our Treasure Paul Kaufman is thrilled to report that every single member has paid their member dues. Thank you!



NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

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**For a complete list of assignments, visit our website nationalmocktrial.org*

The mission of the National High School Mock Trial Championship, Inc. is to promote an understanding and appreciation of the American judicial system through academic competitions and other endeavors for students.

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Connect with NHSMTTC on social media



**Judging Panel Volunteers Needed
For the 2017 National Tournament
In Harford.**

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