

Mock Trial Matters



NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Calendar

- **March 31**—National case release date
- **April 1**—2012 Bid proposal deadline
- **April 10**—Deadline for Hotel Reservation & MARTA Pass orders
- **April 16**—Deadline to register a team & order event tickets
- **April 20**—Deadline to submit t-shirt design photos by email
- **April 24**—Case/Rules question deadline
- **April 27**—Final Q&A posting & clean case material posting
- **May 6-7**—Practice rooms available at hotel & SBG
- **May 7**—State Coordinator's "Round Table"; State Coordinator's Mtg; Timekeeper Orientation; Tournament Orientation; Opening Team Reception (Students/Coaches Only); Judging Panel Reception
- **May 8**—Rounds 1 & 2; Georgia Aquarium event
- **May 9**—Rounds 3 & 4; National Championship Rd; Awards Banquet & Dance
- **May 10**—Ballots available to State Coordinators for pick-up; Happy Mother's Day!

Are You Ready for One Peach of a Tournament?

The Georgia host committee is looking forward to the beginning of the first round of the 26th annual National High School Mock Trial Championship in just 34 more days! The 2009 national criminal case was posted to the Atlanta tournament website on Tuesday, 31 March.

Don't forget that there are important deadlines looming! By **Friday, 10 April** (that's 7 days from today!), we need the hotel room reservation and credit card authorization forms for your team, your coaches, your spectators, your judging panel volunteers and from you (if you're able to join us). Also, if you need additional MARTA passes for your extra students and coaches or your spectators, the deadline to submit that order form is 4/10/09. You should also postmark the payment for any additional MARTA passes by the 10th, as well.

The team registration deadline is **Thursday, 16 April** (that's 13 days from today). We need your team registration form (REQUIRED), your team observer registration form (REQUIRED), your travel information form (REQUIRED), your complimentary ticket form (REQUIRED), the event ticket order form (optional), the practice room reservation form (optional), the video request form (optional), the shuttle pass request form (optional) and the souvenir T-shirt order form (optional). We won't accept team registrations or event tickets orders or t-shirt orders after 4/16 - so if your forms won't arrive in our office by snail mail by the 16th, email or fax in a copy. Also, payment for all orders and the team registration fee (\$300) must be postmarked by 4/16. If you have a question or concern about any of these deadlines, contact the Georgia mock trial office. We can't help you with something if we don't know you need help.

The Practice Room schedule will be posted to the website the week before the tournament. Team photo information will be provided online the week of 27 April, as well. As soon as we have all of the team registrations,

we'll post a list of the competitors for this year's tournament to the website.

Take a look at the travel information section of the website over the next couple of weeks. We've added an interactive Google Map of downtown Atlanta for your reference and in addition, we're going to post information about discounts and special offers that members of your state's delegation can take advantage of while they're in Atlanta. We'll also post a schedule for the MARTA train system so that you'll know when the trains run (and when they don't).

Plans are being finalized for the fun tournament events this year: the team welcome reception on Thursday at the Hyatt, the judging panel reception on Thursday at the State Bar of Georgia, breakfast at the Hyatt on Friday and Saturday mornings, lunch at the Freight Depot on Friday and Saturday, the social event at the Georgia Aquarium on Friday night and the awards banquet at the Hyatt on Saturday evening. Not to mention the competition rounds at the Fulton County Courthouse on Friday and Saturday. It's going to be an exciting weekend.

The Georgia host committee is delighted to welcome you to our state capitol in May. Best of luck to all of our competitors - we'll see y'all soon!



Where to Find it in Atlanta

Be sure to check out the “**Travel Info**” section of the tournament website for suggestions on area attractions, local transit, regional links and weather. There’s also an interactive GOOGLE MAP available for your reference.

This list does not constitute a recommendation for any of the businesses listed below. **Caveat emptor.** Call ahead in order to find out hours of operation, seating capacity, directions, menu choices, reservation or appointment requirements and other pertinent information. Most of these businesses are within a mile of one of the hotels.

Transportation Information

- Check out the MARTA website: www.itsmarta.com

Restaurants At the Hyatt Regency Downtown Atlanta

- Kafe Kobenhavn—in the lobby—open for breakfast, lunch and dinner (buffet)
- Avanzare Steaks—dinner only beginning at 5:00 pm—reservations required
- Perks—the lobby coffee bar (serves Starbuck’s coffee)
- Parasol Bar—the lobby bar (open noon to 2:00 a.m.)

Peachtree Center Mall—Northern Food Court

- Yami Yami (Japanese sushi and seafood) 404-522-0007
- Caribou Coffee (coffee, tea and pastries) 404-688-3355
- Chick-Fil-A 404-577-4194
- Dairy Queen 404-389-0682
- Farmer’s Basket (Southern buffet-style hot entrees and vegetables) 404-880-9398
- Great Wraps (Greek sandwiches and salad) 404-577-5660
- Noodle Café (Pan-Asian cuisine) 404-880-9884
- Orange Julius (specialty blended drinks, hot dogs and more) 404-589-1985
- Oriental Express (authentic Mandarin, Cantonese, Szechuan) 404-521-1788
- Roman Delight Pizza 404-523-4808
- Willy’s Mexicana Grill 404-524-0821



Peachtree Center Mall—Southern Food Court

- Tropical Cajun (taste of New Orleans) 404-521-2925
- Café du Jour (specialty salads , roll-ups, hot entrees) 404-584-0750
- Fuji Express (Japanese specialties including teriyaki, tempura and sushi) 404-880-0044
- My Friend’s Place (deli) 404-844-4044
- Kameel’s Café 404-523-5484
- KFC (chicken) 404-589 1KFC
- Subway 404-524-1SUB
- Long John Silver’s 404-524-8229

Downtown Food Options Near the Hyatt

- Azio Downtown (popular upscale Italian bistro) 404-222-0808
- Behnihana (Japanese cuisine) 404-522-9627
- Hsu’s Gourmet Chinese Restaurant 404-659-2788
- Mama Ninfa’s (authentic Mexican) 404-521-3500
- Agatha’s: A Taste of Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre (reservations needed) 404-584-2211
- Ray’s in the City: 240 Peachtree St NW, Atlanta, GA - (404) 524-9224
- Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery: 3242 Peachtree Rd NW, Atlanta, GA - (404) 264-0253
- Hard Rock Café: 215 Peachtree St NE, Atlanta, GA - (404) 688-7625
- Mick’s: Peachtree Center, 229 Peachtree St. Atlanta, GA 30308 - (404) 688-6425
- The Ellis on Peachtree: 176 Peachtree Street NW, Atlanta, GA - (404) 523-5155
- Morton’s the Steakhouse: 303 Peachtree Center Ave NE, Atlanta, GA - (404) 577-4366



- Max Lagers Wood-Fired Grill: 320 Peachtree St NE, Atlanta, GA - (404) 525-4400
- City Café: 191 Peachtree St NE, Atlanta, GA - (404) 653-0040
- Dailey's: 17 International Blvd NE, Atlanta, GA - (404) 681-3303

Copy Centers

- Center Printing: Peachtree Center 404-589-0036
- UPS Store: 925-B Peachtree St. NE 404-685-8280

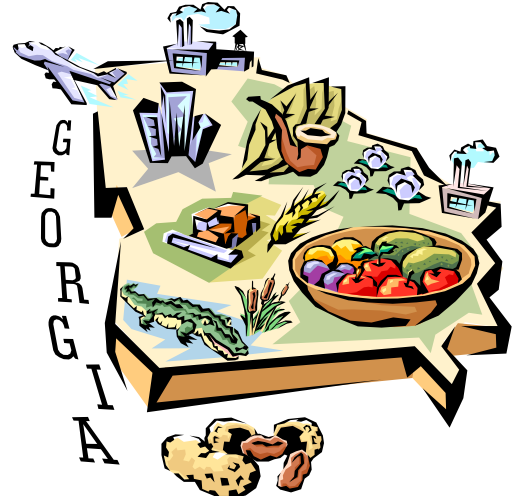
Pharmacies & Food Stores

- La Grande Convenience Store: Peachtree Center 404-688-2254
- Last Stop Snack Shop: Peachtree Center 404-525-8999
- Target: 375 18th St NW, Atlanta, GA - (678) 954-4265
- CVS Pharmacy: 842 Peachtree Street NE 404-892-846
- CVS Pharmacy: 12-J Broad Street SW 404-681-1976
- Peachtree Pharmacy: 231 Peachtree St NE, Atlanta, GA - (404) 522-1492

Nearby Medical Facilities

Should an emergency arise, call 911.

- Atlanta Medical Center: 303 Parkway Dr NE, Atlanta, GA (404) 265-4000
- Emory University Hospital: Midtown 550 Peachtree St, NE, Atlanta, GA - (404) 686-4411
- Children's Healthcare of Atlanta: 35 Jesse Hill Jr Dr SE, Atlanta, GA - (404) 785-9500
- Grady Health System: 48-50 Coca Cola Place SE, Atlanta, GA 30303 - (404) 616-3970
- Piedmont Hospital: 1968 Peachtree Rd NW, Atlanta, GA - (404) 605-5000



Has your team submitted a t-shirt design for the state champion t-shirt design contest?



If not, we're looking forward to receiving your team's outstanding t-shirt design by email!! The Savannah College of Art and Design is sponsoring this contest and

is providing the "jurors" to determine which state champion t-shirt design is the best in 2009. We'll reveal the winner and give prizes during the Team Welcome Reception (the pin exchange) on Thursday evening.

The deadline to email submission photos is Monday, 20 April.

Details about the contest are on the website



**RECYCLABLE
BIODEGRADABLE
ORGANIC
GREEN**

These have been the Georgia host committee's watch words as we've chosen team souvenirs, explored transportation options and planned events for this year's national tournament. We hope you'll enjoy the results!

2009 Spring Board Election



A scheduled election will be held during the State Coordinators' meeting in Atlanta. There are two (2) Board positions up for election this year. According to the by-laws, interested candidates were to submit their letter of intent to run to the Board Chair (John Wheeler) no later than March 15, 2009. If this deadline is missed, but a person still wishes to be nominated for one of the Board positions, that individual must communicate this intention to the Board Chair by the end of the May Coordinators' meeting. 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 in May. (See NHSMTTC, Inc. By-Laws Article IV, Section 2).

The candidates who have indicated their intention to run for these two positions, as of the publication date of this newsletter, are: **John Wheeler** (IA) and **Aric Fujii** (HI). Statements from each of the candidates will be sent to all state coordinators via email in early April. In addition, each candidate will have an opportunity to address coordinators at the annual State Coordinators Meeting in Atlanta.

Updated Rules and Rules/Case Questions

All State Coordinators should have received two e-mail communications from **Pete Jones** this fall regarding changes to the Rules of Competition and the Rules of Evidence. The changes to the Rules of Competition will take effect at the Atlanta competition. Changes were made to Rules **1.4, 4.6, 5.2** and **5.4**. Changes to the Rules of Evidence were also made in order to conform to changes to the Federal Rules of Evidence. **These rules will be effective for the 2010 competition in Philadelphia. The existing Rules of Evidence (the rules used in the '08 Delaware competition) will be in effect for Atlanta.**



All rules questions must be submitted by either a state coordinator or team coach in writing by email to the Georgia mock trial office before 4/24/09. Case questions should be submitted using the same procedure. A Q&A report will be posted each Friday afternoon under the Case Updates section of the Atlanta tournament website (see site for details). The deadline to submit case/rules questions is **Friday, April 24th**. The final posting of the Q&A and release of the clean, updated, corrected case materials will be **Monday, April 27th**.

Great River Technologies: Web Resource

The **National Mock Trial Practicum web site** provides an exceptional opportunity for coaches to supplement the mock trial resources available to teams participating in mock trial programs throughout the nation. It is a general information, interactive website whose purpose is to enhance the Mock Trial experience for students, teachers, coaches, and judges, to provide an interactive area that will help students better understand how to give a statement, ask questions, control a difficult witness, and make timely objections. It also allows coaches to run a strong Mock Trial program even if they are new to the activity, don't have access to an attorney coach, or would just like to better understand the process and involvement. The National High School Mock Trial Championship Board of Directors fully supports this site and recommends its use to individual teams and statewide mock trial programs, alike.

Great River Technologies Mock Trial Practicum Website

Access may be purchased for **\$100**, which provides a team with 8 access codes (+ a master coach code). Access codes for additional students may be purchased for \$10 each. Purchasing information may be obtained from:

Stacy Beyer Raap at Great River Technologies:
(563) 589-1270 or Sraap@greatrivertech.net
4050 Westmark Drive; Dubuque, IA 52002

Feedback from users is welcome and appreciated.
Contact Stacy for information on serving on the website's national advisory committee.

A Word From Our Chair

Taking It to the Next Level

Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa is a small school with a big future in mock trial. Morningside is one of about a dozen colleges in Iowa and one of more than 300 colleges and universities around the nation that competes in the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) College Mock Trial program. A few years ago, in one of its first years in competition, Morningside did quite well at a regional qualifier and was selected to participate in a national tournament. The publicity and goodwill generated by that success encouraged team leaders and the college administration to think bigger about what mock trial could do for the school.

The college saw that mock trial gives the school significant exposure and helps to recruit tremendous students. It realized that through mock trial, Morningside College might expand its reputation beyond the Sioux City area. They realized that a small school could make a big impact through mock trial; make a significant name for itself; and attract the type of top-notch students they desire. The school's administration got behind the effort to build a national mock trial powerhouse – trying to join the ranks of the University of Virginia, UCLA, University of Maryland and Rhodes College, Bellarmine, and Drake – all past national champions; all actively recruiting talented high school mockers.

The result of this analysis? Morningside now offers scholarships of up to \$5,000 to qualified high school mockers seeking to continue their mock trial participation at the college level! And Morningside College is not alone. Other colleges and universities have committed serious financial resources to their mock trial programs – through scholarships, financial aid, travel stipends, and general team support. In many schools, college mock trial ranks up there with some intercollegiate athletics in budget and institutional support. That's great news for talented high school students involved in mock trial!

Moreover, new college and university mock trial programs are created each year – usually at the instigation of high school competitors who go off to college and want to continue. When they see that no program currently exists, they take it upon themselves to start a program. (HS mockers are not shy and generally know how to take the initiative in most things! Our programs have trained them well!)

Now college mock trial is a different breed from high school mock trial. Cases are usually more titillating, the witnesses are generally more “over the top”, the structure of the competition is a lot more free-wheeling – but it is mock trial – high quality mock trial – and it still affords a great opportunity to build valuable skills and valuable connections and friendships.

At our State Coordinators Meeting in May, I will provide you with a list of current AMTA participating colleges and universities along with contact information – some are professors, some are attorney-coaches, some are students themselves – all should be able to provide information to current high school students about mock trial opportunities at their institutions. I hope you will help spread the word that mock trial does not have to end at the high school level and that colleges and universities may be actively recruiting for quality mockers. Together, let's help the students in our states take their skills to the next level!

See you in Atlanta! **Happy Trials!**




**John Wheeler has served as
Chair of the National Board of
Directors since 2005.
He is the Director of the Iowa
Center for Law and Civic
Education in Des Moines**

Mock Trial Case Library

If you have not yet submitted the mock trial case used during your state competition this season, and you would like to do so, please send the case in an electronic format (PDF preferred) to Pete Jones at pjones@morrisjames.com before the national tournament in Atlanta. So far, cases have been received from Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, Northern Marianas Islands, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, and Washington. (Thanks to all those who have already submitted their 2009 state case!) Summaries of all 2009 cases submitted will be forwarded to state coordinators via email in a few weeks.

If you adapted your 2009 case from another state, be sure to acknowledge your own team of adaptors, the original writers of the case and, if applicable, the writers of the version from which you adapted your competition materials. We want to make sure that all credit is given where that credit is due. Help us acknowledge the time and effort these dedicated case writers spend creating outstanding case materials for students nationwide.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Tournament Update (2010)



National High School Mock Trial Championship Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2010

The Pennsylvania Bar Association has 2010 lined up for hosting a tremendous National High School Mock Trial Competition in Philadelphia, having hosted back in 1996 on the other end of the Commonwealth in Pittsburgh!

Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly Love (and Sisterly Affection), birthplace of American freedom, is looking forward to Mother's Day weekend 2010 and the fast approaching National Mock Trial Competition. Be sure to bring your sneakers for the Rocky Run up the stairs of the Philadelphia Art Museum and for the ghost tour of historic haunts (you'll need the exercise after feasting on local cuisine such as cheesesteaks, tastycakes and soft pretzels). The center city location of the competition hotel, the Marriott, with the courthouse just across the street makes for an easy to navigate competition site so those who over indulge on Pennsylvania treats (did we mention scrapple???) will not have far to travel on a heavy belly.

The recently finalized national logo captures the history of the host state and city which is also embodied in the competition problem. That history will be enjoyed by the students at the Friday night National Constitution Center event as specially focused exhibits will greet the young people, along with games, music and the local delicacies listed above. Plans also call for a fantastic final dinner Saturday night hosted by Third Circuit Court of Appeals Judge and Pennsylvania First Lady Marjorie Rendell which will honor not only the next generation of great advocates participating in the event but serve as a homage to that great line of Philadelphia lawyers from Andrew Hamilton of Zenger trial fame to Pennsylvania Bar President-Elect Cliff Haines.

Under the umbrella of Judge and PA First Lady Rendell's PennCORD (Pennsylvania Coalition for Representative Democracy) initiative which has designated Mock Trial, from elementary fairy tales to the National Competition, a Keystone Civics Project, the Pennsylvania Bar Association's selection to host the 2010 national tournament in Philadelphia is gathering great momentum. PBA Statewide Mock Trial partner and national mock trial lead sponsor Drexel University held its second mini-mock trial tournament this January to prepare student and faculty volunteers for their role in the May 5-9, 2010 event with its third local effort scheduled for January 2010. Fundraising in the down economy is an issue of concern but one that is being handled thanks to generous gifts from Drexel, the American Institute for History Education, the Pennsylvania Bar Trust, the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, and individual attorneys that have brought in more than half of the funds needed for the event.

Check out <http://2010nationalmocktrial.com/> to see the developing plans for 2010.

Phoenix, Arizona Tournament Update (2011)



Celebrate Cinco de Mayo in Phoenix! There's no better place than the Southwest to celebrate Cinco de Mayo—but you'll have to wait until May 5, 2011. That's when the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education will kick off the 2011 National Championship with the traditional pin exchange for all the teams—with an appropriate Cinco de Mayo theme! The organizing committee is in the early stages of planning the pin exchange, and other exciting events for the teams, judges and guests. Phoenix is the country's fifth largest city, and with Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport located only a few miles away, downtown Phoenix is easily accessible from all parts of the country. The Maricopa County Superior Courthouse is walking distance from the Hyatt Downtown Phoenix, which will serve as the official host hotel for all teams. The Foundation is proud to host the 2011 National Championship in downtown Phoenix May 5 through 7, 2011. Mark your calendars and prepare to head west!

News and Notes From Around the Nation and Across the World



California (*Laura Wesley, State Coordinator*): Greetings from California! This year we had over 450 teams from across California participate in the Constitutional Rights Foundations 28th Annual Mock Trial Program. Students argued a criminal case involving a religious group who buys land and stirs controversy in a small tourist town. Following a rally protesting the group's presence in the community, a fire breaks out destroying the group's community center. The leader of the protest rally is arrested for arson and incitement to commit an illegal act. Pretrial issue: Is the defendant's song and conduct at the rally protected by the First Amendment?

The California state finals will take place March 20th-22nd in Riverside, California. There will be 34 counties competing to represent California at the National competition in May. There will also be 30 courtroom artists and journalists competing for recognition as the best artist and journalist in the state! We are very fortunate to have professional courtroom artist Mona Shafer-

Edwards, provide a workshop on the ends and outs of being a professional artist.

Mock trial participants from around the country are invited to apply to CRF's Summer Law Institute at UCLA. The Institute is a great opportunity for students to learn more about our legal system and improve mock trial skills. For more information visit: (<http://www.crf-usa.org/summer-law-institute/>).

Colorado (*Carolyn Gravit, State Coordinator*): Wm. Jackson Palmer High School's team took first place in state at the Colorado Bar Association's State High School Mock Trial Competition today, out of 21 finalist teams. Teams traveled from across the state to the Jefferson County Combined Courts in Golden for the annual competition Friday and Saturday, March 13-14. Over 80 teams from around the state competed in this year's program. In the final round Saturday evening, Palmer faced off in the courtroom against Aurora Central High School's Varsity team. Colorado Supreme Court Justice Alex Martinez presided over the championship round. "I have often heard young adults express appreciation for their mock trial experience, years earlier, recognizing the experience as opening their eyes to their potential," said Justice Martinez. "These kids have been working on their opening and closing statements night and day for the past several weeks," said Palmer coach Regina Walter. "This team has given it their all and they've done it." Aurora Central coach Peter Hedeem, a criminal defense lawyer in Denver, has been a volunteer coach for the past nine years. "I'm just thrilled for all our kids, and all the coaches and judges who helped us get here. Whether we get first in state or last in regional's, mock trial is a great program that really makes a difference in kids' lives," Hedeem said. The Colorado First Judicial District hosted this year's state finals. More than 200 volunteers, besides the 100-plus coaches and 200-plus scoring panelists, assisted Carolyn Gravit, Director of CBA Public Legal Education and CBA Program Coordinator Meghan Bush. "This is a program I really believe in. I love watching the students grow into young adults," said Gravit. "This program is much more than legal skills, its life skills." The fictitious case is a cold criminal case, where the defendant is charged with assault, burglary and theft. Two rival university professors are engaged in a feud to discredit each other. One claims to have a long-lost journal of Zebulon Pike. The other fictitious professor claims that the journal is a fraud and is being used to damage the reputation of Pike and President Jefferson. One evening, the first professor is found unconscious with a blow to the head, and his newly discovered journal vanished from his file cabinet.

Georgia (*Stacy Rieke, State Coordinator*): The 21st annual high school mock trial competition in Georgia provided us with an opportunity to take a look at ourselves through a unique mock trial case about mock trial. This year, the Georgia problem writers crafted an original civil torts case that centered on an altercation that takes place between a teacher/attorney coach and a judging panel member after the state tournament. The cause of the ruckus is the teacher's anger over the scores on the evaluator's scoresheet. The teams received an inside look at the mechanics of a mock trial competition, including the scoring procedure and the problem writers hope that the case provided coaches with the opportunity to discuss with students appropriate and ethical behavior in the context of both the mock trial program and the legal profession. We also conducted our 11th annual **Law Academy** at the **University of Georgia College of Law** in Athens with 42 students in September and conducted the **Craig Harding Memorial Court Artist Contest** in regions statewide. The state champion court artist is **Kira Hoskins** from **Central High School** in Macon. **Henry W. Grady High School** from Atlanta won the 2009 state champion title in March and will represent Georgia at the national tournament this year. **Ware Magnet School** from Manor received the inaugural **Professionalism Award** at the state tournament this year. It was a great year for mock trial in Georgia and will get even better as we finalize the preparations to host the 2009 National High School Mock Trial Championship in Atlanta in May. (And a note to all of you state coordinators who're on the fence about hosting a national tournament in your state—get off the fence!!! We're still (mostly) sane here at the Georgia mock trial office (OK, we know that's relative!) and are enjoying the experience of interacting with national participants as never before. It's a one-in-a-lifetime opportunity, so don't let it go by! You really should think about hosting.)

News and Notes From Around the Nation and Across the World, cont.



Hawaii (*Will Tanaka, State Coordinator*): This is the first year in which the Hawaii State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division has taken over the administration and coordination of the mock trial competition. It has been such a successful endeavor that the YLD will be continuing the Program next year. The YLD appreciates the guidance and support from the Hawaii State Judiciary, which had coordinated and organized the Mock Trial Program in the past years. This year's case, *STATE OF HAWAII v. SAL SHARP* (CASE NO. 08-5143) was adapted from Indiana's mock trial case involving a fictionalized murder case where the defendant, Sal Sharp, has been charged with the murder of his/her business partner, Danny Domingo, allegedly due to years of repeated gambling debts. This year, a total of seventeen (17) public, private and charter schools from across the state participated in the Mock Trial competitions for this year. There are four "Circuits" or major islands in the State of Hawaii, each of these islands hold their respective island competitions.

The winner of each of the islands moved on to the State championship. Unfortunately, the 2nd Circuit did not have any representatives this year, so Oahu had two teams going to our state finals. After five weeks of intense and spirited competition, four (4) teams advanced to the State Finals which were held Saturday, March 14th at the Hawaii State Supreme Court. Significantly, all four finalists went undefeated in their respective competitions so they were the cream of the crop. At the State Finals, we were very fortunate to have four of our most respected appellate judges from the Hawaii Supreme Court and the Intermediate Court of Appeals (ICA): Justice Steven Levinson (recently retired); Judge Mark Recktenwald (soon to be Justice as he was confirmed to the bench of the Hawaii Supreme Court; Judge Craig Nakamura (ICA) and Judge Daniel Foley (ICA). In the end, Mililani High School came out on top and won its first Mock Trial Championship.

One of the Program chairs, Will Tanaka, shared his experience about the Mock Trial Program: "The Mock Trial Program provides an incredible opportunity to high school students to develop their public speaking skills, to think outside the box, and ultimately, gain a sense of who they are and their belief that if they work as a team, they can accomplish anything. The Mock Trial competition demands hard work, creativity, teamwork and preparation. Although they may not yet realize and appreciate the true value of the hours of practices that they put in, these students are developing the skills necessary to thrive in college, the 'real world' and beyond. We are proud to be part of the inaugural year that YLD adopted the Mock Trial Program. As the YLD Mock Trial Program grows, I hope that the local attorneys, judges, teachers and parents see the importance of sustaining these types of programs for the young generation. As I was on the other side last year as a coach for one of the teams, I saw first hand, how a young, shy freshman can go from barely having the courage to say her own name in front of a crowd to successfully performing cross-examinations against a hostile witness in a competition. You just never know what participation in a Mock Trial Program can do for a student. Imagine the possibilities. If we don't give the students an opportunity, they may never get that chance to believe that anything is possible." Jason Woo, also one of the Program chairs, shared his thoughts about the opportunities that the Mock Trial Program offers to the students: "The Mock Trial Competition is about so much more than just winning a trial. It's an experience that raises their self esteem by giving them the realization that they can do more than they ever thought they could. It rigorously challenges their analytical, writing, and public speaking skills. All of the students, no matter from where or what background, met those challenges commendably in this years mock trial competition."

Indiana (*Susan Roberts, State Coordinator*): Our State Competition was held on March 7th and 8th. The crowned State Champions, and representing Indiana at the National Competition for the 9th year in a row, was John Adams High School from South Bend, Indiana. This year, the students enjoyed exploring the boundaries of a students' right to freedom of speech after a student was suspended for posting a video on the internet from a home computer mocking the principal. Many long-time participants in the program suggested it was their favorite case of all time. Our middle school program is continuing to grow. A big thanks to John Wheeler for encouraging Indiana to start a middle school program!

Nebraska (*Cindy Lilleoien, Coordinator*): Chadron High School has won the 2008 Nebraska High School State Mock Trial Championship Competition. The Chadron team defeated a team from Skutt Catholic High School (Omaha) in the final round on December 9 to win the mock trial competition held at the Justice & Law Enforcement Center in Lincoln. The Honorable Lyle E. Strom, U.S. District Court Senior Judge, presided at the final round of the championship trials.

The 2008 original case, *State of Nebraska vs. Chris Byrd*, was written by a volunteer committee of Nebraska lawyers specifically for the Nebraska High School Mock Trial Project. It involves a parent being charged with providing liquor for a minor in conjunction with a graduation party given in honor of the defendant's son. The Nebraska State High School Mock Trial Project is sponsored by the Nebraska State Bar Foundation and its State Center for Law-Related Education. Statewide, the project involves the participation of over 1,200 students and the volunteer efforts of more than 400 attorneys and judges

who serve as attorney coaches, presiding judges and performance judges.

News and Notes From Around the Nation and Across the World, cont.



New Mexico (*Michelle Giger, State Coordinator*): On Saturday, March 21, at the New Mexico mock trial state championship awards banquet and dance, Nicole Joe, Cibola High, and Evan Dixon, Sandia Prep, both of Albuquerque will be named the recipients of the 4th annual Hon. Gene E. Franchini mock trial scholarship. Any student who has participated in mock trial for two or more years, including through regionals in the application year, is eligible to receive the \$750 award. A Center for Civic Values ("CCV") board committee reviews the applications and determines the winners. The Franchini endowment was established by Michelle Giger and Karl Johnson in 1997 on the occasion of their marriage. Albuquerque attorney Larry Zamzok has generously funded two annual mock trial awards, which will also be presented at this year's banquet. The \$500 cash prizes will go to the two students who are determined by the judging panels to be the MOST outstanding attorney and witness in the state final competition. Each judging panel's nomination must be agreed upon by a majority of the panel, and the winners will be determined by number of

ballots and total points received. The mock trial program will receive \$107,000 for the 2009-2010 academic year from the New Mexico legislature, which appropriated the funds to the UNM School of Law. The law school acts as a "pass-through" agency for CCV, the administrator of the mock trial program since its inception in 1978.

Ohio (*Addie Natalie, State Coordinator*): The 26th annual Ohio High School Mock Trial competition was held March 5 – March 7 in Columbus, Ohio where the state winner was named. Initially 355 teams from 204 schools began the competition across Ohio on January 30. The Championship Round took place at the Ohio Statehouse in the Senate Finance Hearing Room where Indian Hill High School won the competition by defeating Archbishop Hoban High School after each won eight straight trials playing both Plaintiff and Defense at the district, regional and state competition levels. The Ohio Channel broadcast the final trial live on TV and on the web. Viewers can still access the Championship Round anytime on the web by going to www.ocltre.org and following the link for the rebroadcast of the High School Mock Trial Championship Round. Additionally, the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education wants to know about students who have participated in our programs in past years. Where are they now? What are they doing? If you are or know anything about that former middle school mock trial student, Youth for Justice team member, We The People classmate, or Ohio Mock Trial competitor - please share it with OCLRE by emailing DDeHaan@ocltre.org.

South Korea (*Dan Haoule, Coordinator*): South Korea has had another eventful year. Our summer tournament (2008) involved 15 teams and was used to qualify 3 teams to visit Guam to participate in the newly formed Asia/Pacific Tournament that the officials of Guam have been great about helping put together; namely Bruce Bradley who organizes their "state" tournament and certainly also Federal District Chief Judge Hon. Frances Tydingco-Gatewood and Supreme Court Chief Justice Hon. Robert J. Torres and Associate Justice Hon. F. Philip Carbullido. The mock trial relationship between South Korea and Guam will hopefully grow again this coming Fall with the second effort at the Asia/Pacific Tourney, to include other jurisdictions from the region. These additional events aid our kids in preparing for the national event, which concluded last month with the judging and advisory assistance of members of the Yale University Mock Trial Team and their coaches from Yale Law School. We would be happy to host mainland mock trial students who may find themselves in our area during the year.

May It Please the Court DVD and Print Guide

The *May It Please the Court* DVD and print guide is available for purchase from the Georgia mock trial office for \$40. An order form may be printed from the national website. This popular resource includes many helpful hints on establishing, organizing and running a mock trial team, as well as practical aides for putting together a cohesive mock trial presentation or incorporating mock trials into a classroom setting.

National High School Mock Trial Championship, Inc.

John Wheeler, *Board Chair*
Iowa Center for Law and
Civic Education
521 East Locust St - 3rd Floor
Des Moines, IA 50309-1939

Phone: (515) 243-3179

E-mail: jwheeler@iowabar.org

We're on the Web!

www.nationalmocktrial.org

Mock Trial Matters Newsletter

To submit items contact
Stacy Rieke

(404) 527-8779; mocktrial@gabar.org

2009 Board of Directors

Hon. George H. Carley (Georgia)
Dewain D. Fox (Arizona)
Pete Jones (Co-Host Director—Delaware)
Jane Meyer (Pennsylvania)
Stephen Miller (Texas)
Bob Noel (Louisiana)
Emily Reilly (Minnesota)
Stacy Rieke (Host Director—Georgia)
Susan K. Roberts (Indiana)
Dee Runaas (Illinois)
Hon. Richard Sievers (Nebraska)
Andrew F. Susko (Co-Host Director—
Pennsylvania)
John Wheeler (Iowa)
Michael White (Alaska)
Judy Yarbrow (Host Director—Texas)
Larry Bakko (Technical Support—
Wisconsin)

2009 Non-Board Committee Members

Peggy Caldwell (GA), *Ad Hoc Scoring
Comm.*; Cynthia Cothran (SC), *Ad Hoc
Scoring Comm.*; Hon. Gene Franchini (NM)
Awards Comm.; Hon. Robert Kinney (WI)
Awards Comm.; Danelle Liwski (AZ), *Ad
Hoc Scoring Comm.*; Billy Stover (KY), *Ad
Hoc Scoring Comm.*; Kathy Vick-Martini
(WI) *Awards Comm.*; Ann Marie Waldron
(IN), *Ad Hoc Scoring Comm.*

For a complete list of Committee assignments, visit
our website. To volunteer for Committee service,
contact John Wheeler.



The National High School Mock Trial Championship is committed to the study, understanding and appreciation of the American justice system. The mock trial format presents a hypothetical legal case to teams of students who play the roles of witnesses and attorneys. Students participating in mock trials gain an understanding of our society's approach to dispute resolution and justice in general with a hands-on experiential approach. Critical thinking, formulation of ideas and opinions, oral presentation, effective advocacy and even value definition are all required skills to successfully argue a case.

Judging Panel Volunteers Needed for the 2009 National Tournament in Atlanta!

Sign up as a judging panel volunteer online under the "Judge Volunteers" tab on the left.

OUT-OF-TOWN VOLUNTEERS PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR VOLUNTEER FORM BEFORE FRIDAY, APRIL 17.

Contact Stacy Rieke with judging panel questions:
StacyR@gabar.org— Thank you!



Required Tournament Meetings

Don't forget to attend the **required** meetings at this year's tournament!

Thursday, May 7—**State Coordinators' Meeting** (2:00 PM—Hyatt)

Thursday, May 7—**Timekeeper Orientation** (3:00 PM—Hyatt)

The **optional** State Coordinators' "Round Table" meeting will be held
Thursday 5/7 at 1:00 PM at the Hyatt.

Marcia Ellis (NV) will host this round table discussion.

We strongly suggest that all teams send at least 1 coach to the
Tournament Orientation meeting (Thurs. 5/7 at 3:00 PM—Hyatt).

State Coordinators may attend this meeting, as well.

This meeting will cover a number of important tournament details.