

# Mock Trial Matters



## NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

### The NHSMTC Heats Up Phoenix!

By **Dewain Fox**, 2011 Host Director

Greetings from Phoenix—where the Spring weather is gorgeous, the desert flowers are blooming and we're ready to crown a new national mock trial champion!

Pack your shorts, t-shirts, sun glasses, flip-flops and SPF 50 sun block, and join us for the 2011 National Mock Trial Championship on May 5-7, 2011.



The **Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education** is excited to host the 2011 National Championship. The Foundation's major partners for this event are the **Phoenix School of Law**, the **United States District Court for the District of Arizona** and the **American Board of Trial Advocates**. In addition, many law firms, attorneys and friends of the mock trial program have pledged financial and in-kind support.

The **Arizona Host Committee** expects that everyone by now has downloaded the case materials, which became available on the 2011 National Championship website ([www.azflse.org/mocktrial/2011/](http://www.azflse.org/mocktrial/2011/) or [www.azmocktrial2011.com](http://www.azmocktrial2011.com)) on April 1. We hope that your teams find the case challenging, educational and interesting. Any questions regarding the case materials or the rules must be submitted by the state coordinator or the state coordinator's official designee (one person per state) online through the Case Update section of the website. Questions submitted by noon Phoenix time on the Wednesday of each week will be answered by the end of business on Friday of that week. A running list of the Questions and Answers will be available at the Case Update section of the website. **The deadline for submitting questions is 12:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time on Wednesday, April 20, 2011.** The final set of answers will be posted on Friday, April 22, 2011. An updated, clean copy of the case materials will be published on the website by the end of the day on Monday, April 25, 2011. Please remind your teams that they must use clean, updated copies of the case materials in all trial rounds.

If you have not already registered your team to participate in the 2011 National Championship, the deadline to do so is quickly approaching. We don't want to miss anyone—so please register your team today! **All registration materials are due and all fees must be paid by Friday, April 15, 2011.** All necessary forms are available at the Registration Materials & Forms section of the website.

## Calendar

- Arizona tournament website: [www.azflse.org/mocktrial/2011](http://www.azflse.org/mocktrial/2011)
- Please note that Arizona DOES NOT observe Daylight Savings Time. Arizona is on **Mountain Standard Time**.
- **April 1**—AZ National Case release date (CIVIL)
- **April 14 (6 AM Central Daylight Time)**—Hotel reservation deadline
- **April 15**—Team registration deadline
- **April 15**—Deadline for teams to order event tickets
- **April 15**—Deadline to request tournament schedule adjustment
- **April 20 (12 PM MST)**—Deadline to submit all case and rules questions
- **April 22**—Final case/rules Q&A report posted online
- **April 22**—Deadline for judging panel volunteers to purchase banquet tickets
- **April 25**—Updated case materials posted online
- **May 4-5**—Practice rooms available at hotel
- **May 5**—State Coordinator's "Round Table"; State Coordinator's Meeting; Timekeeper Orientation; Tournament Orientation; Opening Team Reception & Pin Exchange (Students/Coaches Only)
- **May 6**—Rounds 1 & 2; Judging Panel Reception
- **May 7**—Rounds 3 & 4; National Championship Rd; Awards Banquet; Dance
- **May 8**—Ballots available to [State Coordinators](#) for pick-up; Happy Mother's Day!

*Continued on next page.*

## ...Phoenix! cont....



You also will find the 2011 **Tournament Information Handbook** on the website. The Handbook contains a lot of useful information about the 2011 National Championship. Please make sure that your team downloads or receives a copy of the Handbook. The information on the website will be updated frequently as we get closer to the Championship—so we encourage all coordinators, coaches, students and observers to bookmark the website and check it often.

The 2011 National Championship will be based at the recently-remodeled **Hyatt Regency Hotel** in downtown Phoenix. The group rate is \$152 per night plus tax for up to 4 people per room. **The deadline for making group reservations is 6:00 a.m. Central Time on April 14, 2011.** The website has a link to the Hyatt's online reservation system, which will enable you to make reservations at the group rate. We strongly encourage teams to make their reservations now, if they have not done so already, before the block of rooms has been filled.

The downtown area is easily accessible from **Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport** by shuttle, taxi, light rail or rental car. Information about ground transportation options is contained in the Handbook, and also is available on the Sky Harbor website ([www.phxskyharbor.com](http://www.phxskyharbor.com)). Teams might want to consider transportation options other than rental cars, in

order to avoid the high cost of overnight parking at the hotel.

The first formal event for the teams participating in the 2011 National Championship is the traditional **pin exchange** on the evening of Thursday, May 5, 2011. This **Cinco de Mayo**-themed event will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, and will include food and drinks. Complimentary tickets will be provided to all official team members. Don't forget to bring pins or trinkets from your home state or city for your team members to exchange during the event!

The competition will be held on Friday and Saturday. In the last edition of *Mock Trial Matters*, we reported that the two rounds of competition on Friday would take place in three separate courthouses (Superior Court, District Court and Bankruptcy Court), which are several blocks apart. We are pleased to report that we now are able to go back to our original plan of holding all of the preliminary rounds on Friday and Saturday at the **Maricopa County Superior Court**. Larry Bakko is breathing a sigh of relief!

The Superior Court is several short blocks from the hotel—or less than a 10-minute walk. On Friday, we will be using the **Central Court Building, East Court Building and Old Courthouse**. On Saturday, we will be using the Central Court Building and East Court Building. The Central and East Court Buildings are connected, and entry to the facility can be made through either building's entrance. The Old Courthouse is a separate building across the street from the main facility. Maps will be included in the on-site registration materials.

## ...Phoenix! cont....



The Special Proceedings Courtroom in the United States District Courthouse will be the venue for the 2011 National Championship Round.

The Superior Court will be open to the public on Friday, and full security will be in effect on both Friday and Saturday. Everyone will have to remove their belts and pass through a metal detector, and all belongings will have to be scanned. We are working with the Superior Court to make this process go as smoothly and quickly as possible, and we ask for everyone's cooperation with this process. More information regarding courthouse security is available in the Handbook, and additional information will be provided as we get closer to the Championship.

The Arizona Host Committee is excited about the use of technology to post the round pairings at the 2011 National Championship. The Committee is working with Larry Bakko, the National Board's Technical Consultant, to use **SMS messaging** to allow teams and observers to access the postings with a smart phone. More information will be distributed on

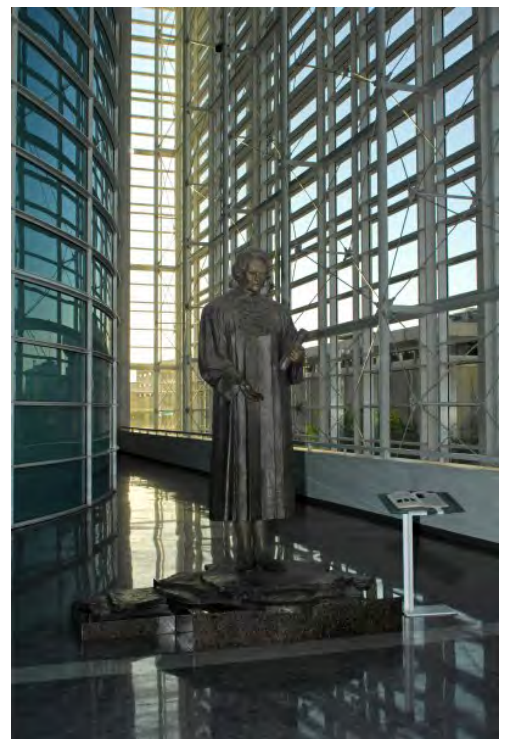
this option—which will be in addition to traditional postings—as we get closer to the Championship. This information also will be presented at the orientation meeting held on the afternoon of Thursday, May 5. All states are strongly encouraged to have a representative attend this meeting.

Immediately after Round 4, teams will gather at the **Cesar Chavez Memorial Plaza** across the street from the Superior Court, for the announcement of the two finalists. The two finalists will proceed immediately to the **Special Proceedings Courtroom** in the **United States District Courthouse**, which is a few blocks away. The Special Proceedings Courtroom is a large, modern courtroom—with an overflow standing room observation area above the courtroom.

On Saturday evening, immediately following the championship round, all of the teams and guests are invited to attend a sit-down dinner and awards banquet that you don't want to miss. The Host Committee is very pleased and excited to announce that **retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor** will speak at the banquet! In addition, awards will be presented to the top ten teams and the top individual performers. The ceremony will take place in the large atrium of the United States District Court. We will open the doors to the courthouse immediately after completion of the championship round, in order to control the noise level in the courthouse. Everyone attending the banquet will need to pass through security to enter the courthouse.

Complimentary tickets for the banquet will be provided to the official team members. Additional tickets are available for purchase at \$60 each. The order form is under the Ticketed Events link under Registration Materials & Forms on the website. Please remind any volunteer judges from your state who want to attend the banquet to complete the **Judging Panel Volunteer Event Ticket Order Form**.

A statue of Justice O'Connor graces the lobby of the U.S. District Courthouse in Phoenix





## ...Phoenix! cont....



The Awards Banquet will be hosted in the atrium lobby of the U.S. District Courthouse on Saturday, May 7th.

The deadline for volunteer judges to purchase banquet tickets is April 22, 2011. The 2011 National Championship will close with a dance for the students on Saturday night. The dance will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel immediately following the awards banquet.

The Host Committee still is recruiting judges and attorneys to volunteer as presiding and scoring judges at the 2011 National Championship. Although we expect a large turnout of Arizona judges and attorneys for this event, we would like to have diverse judging panels with representation from around the country. It is easy to register online. Just click the Volunteer link on the website. Please provide this information to any interested judges and attorneys from your state. Volunteer judges will be invited to attend a special reception held at the world-class **Heard Museum** on Friday

evening. The Heard Museum provides visitors with a distinctive perspective about the art and cultures of Native people, especially those from the Southwest.

The Host Committee is working hard to make everyone's time in Phoenix enjoyable. If you have any questions, in addition to checking the website periodically for updates, you may contact the 2011 National Host Director, **Dewain Fox**, at [dfox@shermanhoward.com](mailto:dfox@shermanhoward.com), or the 2011 Host Coordinators, **Susan Nusall** at [susan.nusall@azflse.org](mailto:susan.nusall@azflse.org) and **Lara Slifko** at [lara.slifko@azflse.org](mailto:lara.slifko@azflse.org). We look forward to seeing everyone in Phoenix in a few weeks!

*Bookmark the Arizona Tournament Website Now!!*

[www.azflse.org/mocktrial/2011](http://www.azflse.org/mocktrial/2011)

## Team Registration Fee Increases for 2011 NHSMTTC

During its May 2010 meeting in Philadelphia, the NHSMTTC Board voted to increase the team registration fee from \$300 to **\$500** for the 2011 NHSMTTC in Phoenix. The last time the team registration fee was increased was in 1998, when it was raised from \$125 to \$300. The increase in the registration fee was announced to state coordinators during the State Coordinator Meeting in Philadelphia in May 2010 and details about the fee increase were reported in the fall 2010 edition of this newsletter.

## Albuquerque, New Mexico Tournament Update (2012)



By **Michelle Giger**, 2012 New Mexico Host Director and President & CEO for the Center for Civic Values

### ¡Bienvenidos a Albuquerque, Nuevo Mexico!

The 2012 National Championship will be hosted in Albuquerque by the **Center for Civic Values** with major cosponsors, the **State Bar of New Mexico** and **National High School Mock Trial Championship, Inc.** The headquarters hotel will be the **Hyatt Regency Albuquerque Downtown**, where the guaranteed rate for attendees is \$110 per night, plus tax for a net rate of about \$125 per night. Reservations at

the Hyatt will be limited to teams and judges. The “overflow” hotel will be the **Albuquerque DoubleTree**, which is about 2.5 blocks from the Hyatt and about the same distance to the courthouses. The property has just been renovated top to bottom and is a great facility with a guaranteed rate of \$129 per night plus tax for a net rate of \$146. The first four rounds of trials will take place at the **2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District** and **Metropolitan Courts**, which are directly across the street from one another. The Championship Round is scheduled in the **Ceremonial Rio Grande Courtroom** (overflow viewing available by video) of the **US District Court**, which is on an adjacent corner to the other two. All three are within easy walking distance from both the Hyatt and the DoubleTree hotels.

Planned activities for the New Mexico tournament include practice rooms on Wednesday and Thursday; a coordinators’ roundtable and business meeting, as well as a coaches’ orientation on Thursday; an accommodation round (if necessary) and team pin exchange/buffet dinner Thursday evening; a judges’ reception in the **Celebration Garden** of the **Albuquerque Bio-Park**, with transportation stops at **Old Town** on Friday; an awards ceremony/dance, with a desert bar; and a hospitality suite for teachers, attorney coaches, coordinators and judges on Saturday.

The 2012 championship will be the first “scaled back” event with fewer bells and whistles than we have seen at past tournaments. For instance, there will be fees for team breakfasts and lunches, as well as for the awards ceremony and dance. Without making these kinds of changes, it would be impossible for New Mexico due to simple economics. Still, Nationals is about the competition and we are confident that all of the participants – students and adults alike – will find their visit to our state to be rewarding and memorable. We expect it to be an outstanding event, and we look forward to seeing all of you in Albuquerque, May 2-6, 2012!



**PLEASE NOTE!**  
The 2012 NHSMTC will NOT be held over Mother’s Day weekend.  
The tournament in Albuquerque is scheduled for May 2-6, 2012 (the first weekend in May).

## Where to Find it in Phoenix



This list does not constitute a recommendation for any of the businesses listed below. **Caveat emptor.** Call ahead in order to determine hours of operation, seating capacity, directions, menu choices, reservation or appointment requirements and other pertinent information. These businesses may or may not be within walking distance of the hotel and/or courthouse.

### Hyatt Regency Downtown Phoenix

- Address: 122 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004
- Phone: (602) 252-1234
- Fax: (602) 254-9472
- To visit the hotel's website, click here: <http://www.hyattregencyphoenix.com/>
- To make online reservations at the NHSMTC group rate, click here: [https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome\\_ei\\_new&eventID=2575875](https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=2575875)

### Transportation Information

- **Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport** serves the Phoenix metropolitan area. It is located near the downtown Phoenix area, and is served by 17 airlines. Rental cars

are available from most major rental agencies through a centralized car rental facility. For more information about the airport, click here: [www.phxskyharbor.com](http://www.phxskyharbor.com).

- **Valley Metro Light Rail Service** - [http://www.valleymetro.org/metro\\_light\\_rail/](http://www.valleymetro.org/metro_light_rail/) Light rail service is available from the Sky Harbor International Airport to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street & Washington station near the Hyatt.
- **Taxi Service**—Taxis may be hailed at the airport or outside the front entrance of the Hyatt. The estimated taxi fare from the airport to the Hyatt is \$15.
- **Van/Shuttle Service**—Shuttles can be reserved in advance for transportation to and from the airport. Super Shuttle operates 24 hours per day. Reservations can be made by calling (602) 244-9000.

### Restaurants in the Hyatt Regency Downtown Phoenix

- **Compass Arizona Grill**— Arizona's only revolving restaurant features seasonal menus with unique and exciting culinary dishes.
- **Networks Bar & Grill**— Enjoy a flatbread pizza or sink your teeth into a Net "Works" Burger at the sports bar that moonlights as a restaurant.
- **Terrace Café**— Breakfast is served in a casual setting in the hotel's beautiful 7-story signature atrium.
- **Einstein Brother's Bagel Café** - This bagel café offers outdoor seating and is located at the street level of the hotel.

### Food Choices near the Hyatt

- **Baja Fresh Mexican Grill** (Mexican) - 50 North Central Avenue; (602) 256-9200
- **BKLYN's NYC Pizza** (Italian) - 144 East Washington Street; (602) 253-7499
- **Blimpie** (sandwiches) - 130 North 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue; (602) 254-9122
- **Brooklyn NYC Pizza** (pizza) - 144 East Washington Street; (602) 253-7499
- **Burger King** (burgers) 1 North 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 108; (602) 254-7088
- **Duck and Decanter** (deli) - 130 North Central Avenue; (602) 266-6637
- **First Watch** (American) - 1 North 1<sup>st</sup> Street, #100; (602) 340-9089
- **Five Guys Burgers** (burgers) - 50 West Jefferson, Suite 180; (602) 687-7575
- **Focaccia Fiorentino** (Italian) - 112 North Central; (602) 252-0007
- **Friday's Front Row Sports Grill** (American) - 401 East Jefferson Street; (602) 462-3506
- **Hanny's** (American/European/Mediterranean) - 40 North 1<sup>st</sup> Street; (602) 252-2285
- **Hard Rock Café** (American/burgers) - 201 East Washington Street; (602) 261-7625
- **Kincaid's** (fish, chop & steak house) - 2 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street; (602) 340-0000
- **Majerle's Sports Grill** (American) - 24 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street; (602) 253-0118





**Food Choices near the Hyatt, cont.**

- **Matador Mexican Restaurant** (Mexican) - 125 East Adams Street; (602) 254-7563
- **Mi Amigos Mexican Grill** (Mexican) - 455 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street; (602) 256-7355
- **Paradise Bakery** (soups/salads/sandwiches) - 3 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street; (602) 256-0462
- **Pizzeria Bianco** (Italian) - 623 East Adams Street; (602) 258-8300
- **Sam's Café** (Mexican) - 455 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street; (602) 252-3545
- **Sing High Chop Suey House** (Chinese) - 27 West Madison Street; (602) 253-7848
- **Steve's Green House Grill** (American/burgers) - 139 East Adams Street; (602) 252-2742
- **Subway** (sandwiches) - 144 North Central Avenue; (602) 271-9866
- **Thai Elephant** (Thai) - 20 West Adams Street; (602) 252-3873
- **The Arrogant Butcher** (urban grill/comfort foods) - 2 East Jefferson Street, Suite 150; (602) 324-8502
- **The Downtown Deli** (American/deli) - 130 North Central Avenue; (602) 258-3069
- **Vitamin T** (Mexican) - 1 East Washington Street, Suite 175; (602) 688-8168
- **Yasda Bento** (Japanese) - 18 West Adams Street; (602) 254-7174
- **Z Pizza** (Italian) - 111 West Monroe, Suite 130; (602) 254-4145

**Copy Centers near the Hyatt**

- **Fed Ex Office Print & Ship Center** - 201 East Washington Street, Suite 101; (602) 252-4055
- **Fed Ex Office Print & Ship Center** - 340 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street; (602) 258-0266
- **UPS Store** - 125 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 110; (602) 251-0135
- **UPS Store** - 111 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Room A-002; (602) 254-6900

**Pharmacy/Convenience/Grocery Stores near the Hyatt**

- **Arizona Center Quick Mart** - 455 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 126; (602) 293-3707
- **Circle K Gas/Convenience Store** - 602 North 1st Avenue; (602) 253-8674
- **CVS Pharmacy** - 50 West Jefferson Street; (602) 296-7611
- **Phoenix Public Market/Urban Grocery and Wine Bar** - 14 East Pierce Street; (602) 254-1799
- **Safeway Grocery Store** - 340 East McDowell Road; (602) 252-4538

**Medical Facilities near the Hyatt**

*Should an emergency arise, call 911.*

- **Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center** - 1111 East McDowell Road; (602) 239-2000
- **St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center** - 350 West Thomas Road; (602) 406-3000
- **Maricopa Medical Center Emergency Room** - 2601 East Roosevelt Street; (602) 344-5011

**Arizona Diamondbacks  
Home Games on  
May 3, 4 and 5**

Tuesday, 5/3 Home against  
the Colorado Rockies (6:40 PM)  
Wednesday, 5/4 Home against  
the Colorado Rockies (6:40 PM)  
Thursday, 5/5 Home against  
the Colorado Rockies (6:40 PM)

Ticket prices range from \$13 to \$170.

Tickets may be ordered online at  
[http://arizona.diamondbacks.mlb.com/  
ticketing/index.jsp?c\\_id=ari](http://arizona.diamondbacks.mlb.com/ticketing/index.jsp?c_id=ari)



## 2011 Spring Board Election

A scheduled election will be held during the State Coordinators' meeting on May 5th in Phoenix. There are **four (4) at-large** 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, 2011. 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 Board Chair by the end of the State Coordinators' meeting on 5/5/11. 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).

There are five candidates who have indicated their intention to run for these four positions, as of the publication date of this newsletter, and they are: **Don Christensen** (NV), **Paul Kaufman** (PA), **Bob Noel** (LA), **Jacob Rambo** (CA) and **Laura Wesley** (CA). Statements from each of the candidates will be sent to all state coordinators via email in April. In addition, each candidate will have an opportunity to address coordinators during State Coordinators Meeting in Phoenix.

## Rule Updates and Rules/Case Questions

The 2011 Rules posted to the website and in the Arizona case materials have been updated to reflect changes approved during the October 2010 NHSMTTC, Inc. Board of Directors meeting. The updates are reflected in rules **4.8, 4.21, 5.3, 5.4, 5.6, 404(b), 611(e)** and **702** .

All case and rules questions must be submitted by a state coordinator (or his/her official designee) through the Case Update section of the 2011 National Championship website (<http://www.azflse.org/mocktrial/2011/>) by **12:00 p.m. Mountain STANDARD Time on Wednesday, April 20th**. (Please note that Arizona does not observe Daylight Savings Time.) A running list of answers to these questions will be posted each week under the Case Materials section of the website. The final posting of the Q&A will be on **Friday, April 22nd**, and release of the clean, updated, corrected case materials will be **Monday, April 25th**.

## Text Alerts During Competition Weekend

In an effort to improve communication and traffic flow at the courthouse during the competition weekend, the NHSMTTC Scoring Operations Center, led by **Larry Bakko** (WI), is planning to publish a five-digit number and instructions for mobile messaging for the 2011 tournament in Phoenix. The goal is to provide team members, coaches and parents with the option of signing up to receive text alerts of round matches and courtroom assignments during the competition weekend. The format of the text messages is under development, and may include a link to a mobile-optimized webpage display.

This SMS (Short Message Service) must meet certain communication industry protocols, so it will display a welcome confirmation screen, and a double opt-in, such as "Are you sure you really want to sign up to receive round postings?". It will also display some required information such as how to obtain HELP and how to STOP the messages. Subscriptions to this SMS will automatically expire on Saturday night, May 7<sup>th</sup>, so the subscribers will not need to "unsubscribe". The Arizona host committee will send out more details to coordinators and teams about the SMS text messaging for the Phoenix tournament as soon as it is available.



## A Word From Our Chair

I recently upgraded my Blackberry. It has all of the old features that I had been familiar with, plus many more that I don't even pretend to understand. I was at a coffee shop with a friend and she was showing me some of the cool "apps" that I could load on my phone – and proceeded to do so on mine. They go unused for the most part. Although every day I seem to find another way on my phone to distract me from what I really need to get done. Facebook and all that kind of social media are still a mystery to me. This makes the following stories all the more fantastic to my small mind.

Pocahontas, Iowa is a really tiny place. The entire county in northwest Iowa has a population of not quite 7,500. The county seat and largest "city", also named Pocahontas, is a metropolis of approximately 2,000. The school district which had included Pocahontas and much of the unincorporated areas of the county recently combined with the neighboring towns of Rolfe (671), Pomeroy (710) and Palmer (216). No, this is not a lesson on Iowa geography, but merely background that anyone should know.

Laura was a high school mocker from Pocahontas – a perennial power in Iowa. Ryan, also a mocker, came from Cedar Rapids – from another school with a rich mock trial history. They competed against each other throughout high school – and then with each other as teammates at the University of Iowa – where they fell in love and married. Now both practicing lawyers, they serve as attorney coaches for the Pocahontas Area High School teams. From Chile. Via Skype. During the regional competition and at the State Tournament, Ryan and Laura were able to watch and hear the trials via a laptop set up close to the front of the room and then talk to the team members following the trials with their observations and helpful tips. From the comfort of their own apartment in Santiago (some 5,500 miles away), they are able to work with students to improve critical skills and legal analysis and provide emotional support during a very stressful time.

Toby and Lars were teammates while they were high school students at Pocahontas. They each pursued slightly different paths – Toby in the military, Lars as a newspaper reporter. Until they found themselves both in the Des Moines area at the same time with the same itch to get back involved in an activity they both loved. They found a local school looking for mock trial coaching help and set out to put their experiences to work for current high school students. In 2010, their group of mostly high school juniors finished 7<sup>th</sup> at the State Tournament. Lars was accepted to law school in Washington, D.C. and moved on. Toby and the team (with occasional long distance help from Lars) stayed the course. This year, those students made it to the final four. And Lars, in Washington, D.C. found out from Pocahontas. During the Awards Program a student from Pocahontas was instant messaging with a friend back at home. When the four semi-finalists were announced, she sent the message home. That message was forwarded to Lars' family and they sent it to him. He knew even before Toby could get him on the phone. When their team won the State Championship this past weekend, again Lars found out first – from Pocahontas.

Rob is an attorney at one of the largest law firms in Iowa. One of his partners is the current President of the Iowa State Bar Association. So when he saw my usual last minute plea for more mock trial judges for the state tournament, he cleared some time from his schedule and volunteered to judge. During a break at the event, we started chatting. He offered sympathy of my alma mater's loss in the NCAA basketball tournament and told me that he was going to an alumni viewing party for a game that evening. And speaking of basketball, he was surprised to run into his old high school coach here at the mock trial competition – from Pocahontas. They had exchanged Facebook information and started planning a reunion of the old team from almost 20 years ago. Rob had not participated in mock trial 20 years ago, but he does now.



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

## From the Chair, cont.

I guess the point of these stories is multi-fold. First, the advances in communication technologies have really made the world a much smaller place. Second, social networking begins in high school and lasts a life time. Third, mock trial is such an intense activity that teammates remain friends for a long, long time. And fourth, of course, is that everything revolves around Pocahontas.

If you remember that old game of Six Degrees of Separation, you know that the goal was to connect people, places or things to Kevin Bacon using only 6 “connectors” or less. I challenge you to do the same thing now for Pocahontas – and I bet you can!!

The mock trial team from Pocahontas will not be in Phoenix in May – at least in person. Virtually, of course, all of the state tournament teams from Iowa will be there: following along via blogs and texts and IMs and Facebook updates and other technologies that I have never even heard of but that I could probably do on my phone. It is a small world of mock trial. We are all interconnected. We all have the same passion for a simple activity that makes such a big difference in the lives of young people. I look forward to celebrating with you in Phoenix in just a few weeks – where we can increase the web of connection to another group of students. Ones much savvier than I am. And maybe one or more of them will show me how to create my own Facebook page – or at least figure out what all of the buttons on my Smartphone can do!

Safe Travels and Happy Trials!

See you soon!



John Wheeler, Chair, NHSMTC, Inc. Board of Directors

## News and Notes From Around the Nation



**Georgia** (Stacy Rieke, coordinator)—The 23<sup>rd</sup> year of the Georgia High School Mock Trial Competition was exciting! We had 105 high schools state-wide field a mock trial team during the regional level of the competition in February. Sixteen regional champion and two wildcard teams advanced to the state finals tournament in March. **Grady High School** from Atlanta won their third consecutive state title on March 20<sup>th</sup>. We conducted the 14<sup>th</sup> annual **Craig Harding Memorial Court Artist Con-**

**test** this year and the state champion court artist is **Norris Johnson** from **Baldwin HS** (Milledgeville) and the state finalist court artist is **Keller Pyle** from **Woodland HS** (Cartersville). The **2011 Professionalism Award** was presented to the mock trial team from **Middle Georgia Christian Homeschool Association** (Macon) during the state finals tournament on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Artwork by  
Norris Johnson  
(Baldwin HS,  
Milledgeville, GA)



## News and Notes From Around the Nation



**Indiana** (Susan Roberts, coordinator)—**John Adams High School** from South Bend, Indiana defeated **Valparaiso High School** in the Championship Finals for the Indiana High School Mock Trial Competition held on March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. The crowned State Champions are thrilled to represent Indiana at the National Competition and are looking forward to enjoying some warmer weather after a long, cold winter! This year, the students worked on a negligence and defamation case involving bed bugs at a boutique hotel. We've added several new schools to the competi-

tion, and have recruited several new volunteer attorneys to coach and judge who are enthusiastic about participating again next year. **Kate Johnson** of South Bend, Indiana submitted her own film to win the Indiana High School Mock Trial Art Competition. And **Michelle Shakour** received the **Woods Dedication Award** for her service and guidance as an attorney coach since 1998 to the **St. Joseph High School** mock trial teams. It's been a great year and we're looking forward to Phoenix!



John Adams High School Mock Trial Team (Indiana)

**Kentucky** (Billy Stover, coordinator)—**Montgomery County High School** will be representing Kentucky at the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Phoenix. This will be Montgomery County's 10<sup>th</sup> trip to nationals, which is more times than any other school has ever attended nationals from Kentucky. This will be teacher-coach **Jon Mansfield's** 10<sup>th</sup> trip to nationals and teacher-coach **Chip Manley's** 3<sup>rd</sup> trip to nationals. In Kentucky's state competition, Montgomery County won their first 4 rounds of competition advancing them to the State Finals. Montgomery County defeated **Model Lab** in the State Championship 5 ballots to 4 ballots in a very close Final. Montgomery County has not been to nationals since 2007 and is very much looking forward to competing in Phoenix.

**Nevada** (Kathleen Dickinson, coordinator)—Our Southern Nevada Regional Mock Trial Competition took place at the **Clark County Regional Justice Center** on January 22, 2011. The case was the **State of Nevada v Parker Plunkett**. The top 3 teams were **Bishop Gorman High School**, **Faith Lutheran High School** and **Advanced Technologies High School**. Our Northern Nevada Regional Mock Trial Competition took place at the **Bruce R. Thompson Federal Courthouse** on February 10, 2011 and the top 3 teams were **McQueen High School**, **Reno High School**, and **Galena High School**. The Nevada State Competition took place February 25<sup>th</sup> and February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the Bruce R. Thompson Federal Courthouse in Reno amidst snow and wind and late flight arrivals. The final two teams were Bishop Gorman and Reno High School. It was an amazing event to observe. Reno High School had the Defense position and Bishop Gorman had the prosecution position. Bishop Gorman High School once again became the State Mock Trial Champions.

**Nebraska** (Doris Huffman, coordinator)—The Mock Trial team from **V.J. and Angela Skutt Catholic High School** in Omaha will represent Nebraska at the National High School Mock Trial Championship (NHSMTC) in Phoenix. This marks the third time that a team from Skutt Catholic has competed at the NHSMTC. This trip, however, will be the first time attorney coaches **Patrick Borchers** and **Judy Borchers** do not have one of their own children as a member of the team. Teacher coach **Mary Meyer's** son, a former team member who traveled to Nationals, has also graduated from Skutt Catholic and Mock Trial. All three coaches of the 2011 team are extremely proud of their student attorneys and witnesses and are hoping that "third time is charm" for Skutt Catholic at the national tournament in Phoenix.



## News and Notes, cont.



**Ohio** (Addie Natalie, coordinator)—The 28<sup>th</sup> annual **Ohio High School Mock Trial competition** began on February 4 with 346 teams from 189 schools competing at 30 different district sites and ended on March 12 at the **Ohio Statehouse** in Columbus when **Archbishop Hoban High School**, Akron won the competition by defeating **Olivia Davidson Washington, Athens County, Home School** program, 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 and viewers can still

access the Championship Round anytime on the web by going to [www.ocltre.org](http://www.ocltre.org) and following the link for the High School Mock Trial Championship Round. Additionally, the **Ohio Center for Law-Related Education** is now on **Facebook**: become a fan!



Archbishop Hoban High School mock trial team (Ohio)

**South Carolina** (Cynthia Cothran, coordinator)—The **South Carolina Bar's Law Related Education (LRE) Division** recently added two new competitive components to the High School Mock Trial program. The previous size of South Carolina's High School Mock Trial teams were limited to the number of attorney and witness roles, which had a maximum of 16 roles. To increase participation and broaden the competitive mock trial roles and skills; a **Courtroom Sketch Artist** and a **Courtroom Journalist** competition component were added at the regional and state level. This was a great opportunity to expose students that typically would not have participated in mock trial to the mock trial program. Both new competitions were well received by the SC Bar Board of Governors, the LRE Committee, the schools, the teachers, the judges, and especially the student participants. Judges for the courtroom sketches included individuals with a variety of newspapers, a television reporter, a freelance designer, an illustrator, graphic artists, a fine artist, a professional photographer, high school art teachers, and an art professor. Judges for the courtroom articles included a television reporter, attorneys, a public relations coordinator, and multiple feature/investigative reporters from several newspapers. The winning student from each category is recognized at their school's awards ceremony and is presented with their work framed along with a certificate. A huge thank you goes to Stacy Rieke with the State Bar of Georgia's mock trial office for sharing the framework for their Courtroom Sketch Artist competition with South Carolina. South Carolina will be glad to share the framework (rules, forms, score sheets, etc.) for either competition with any state interested in implementing either of these fabulous new components. For more information contact **Cynthia H. Cothran** at [ccothran@scbar.org](mailto:ccothran@scbar.org) or (803) 576-3788.

## Let's Find Something to Talk About!!

The 2011 **Coordinator's Round Table Discussion** will be led by **Michelle Giger** (New Mexico) on Thursday, May 5th.

The Round Table was created to provide coordinators with the opportunity to discuss topics important to mock trial programs around the nation. Those who attend this meeting can find out what works (and what doesn't) in other programs and can share their own successes and challenges with colleagues. It's a great opportunity to ask questions and get exceptional support from mock trial professionals around the country. Are you interested in getting the conversation started? Contact Michelle before April 22nd to share discussion topic suggestions:

[michelle@civicvalues.org](mailto:michelle@civicvalues.org) or (505)764-9417, ext. 11

## Mock Trial and Teen Court—Connecting to Assist At-Risk Youth



Submitted by **Greg Volz**, Stoneleigh Fellow and Chester Youth Court Coordinator and **David Trevaskis**, PBA Pro Bono Coordinator

As we prepare for the conclusion of another successful year of mock trialing with the coming nationals in Phoenix, thoughts turn to plans for next year and one major concern is how the economic downturn and reduced funding of schools felt in many states will impact mock trial. Face it, mock trial is viewed as one of those “extras” which are falling by the wayside here in Pennsylvania as public schools struggle with a proposed state cut in funding of one billion dollars. Mock trial itself will survive in Pennsylvania—our 326 teams this year represented a record turnout and we now have three university preseason tournaments (held by 2010 NHSMTC sponsor Drexel, LaSalle and Pitt, involving nearly 100 total teams) with a new summer camp starting at Drexel and ongoing programs at Temple. But there is worry that mock trial may be left only for the well to do schools—three of Pennsylvania’s final four this spring were teams from expensive private schools.

An idea from Chester High School, an inner city school with one of the highest poverty rates and lowest graduation rates in Pennsylvania, offers a creative solution for bringing economically challenged schools into the competition. Chester High uses mock trial as a way to reinforce its Youth Court Program and provide its student court members with unique practice experiences. Chester High has been operating a Youth Court since 2007 and the idea is growing across the district where there are now five programs in operation. For those new to the youth court concept, a brief primer—the terms **teen court**, **youth court**, and **peer court** are used interchangeably. Their purpose is to provide an alternative disposition for young people, either in school settings or beyond, who have committed an act that violates the norms of a school or the community. Some youth courts are tied to school discipline matters, others work with juvenile offenders in the justice system. There are also effective models that combine school and community justice youth courts, with the school providing the training and the early experience before veterans of these school-based youth court students move on to work in the juvenile justice system youth courts. Students as young as elementary school age have participated in school based courts. Depending on their structure, training and support, youth courts of significant variety have been shown effective for reducing recidivism among respondents in both school and community justice settings and for reducing delinquency among the active participants serving on the youth court. All young people involved, whether respondents or court members, show improved citizenship skills, dispositions and knowledge.

Youth Courts provide real life experience for young people while mock trial participation by youth court students allows them to hone their skills and better understand the overall justice system. Chester’s experience has shown that youth court and mock trial fit naturally together and as youth court efforts expand around the country, it is important for mock trial organizers to work to include teams from youth courts in competitions. Phoenix will be a good place to highlight this combination since Arizona has a number of youth courts in operation across the state.

The law-related education movement that gave birth to mock trials as a means of teaching about the justice system is also the source for youth courts as an outgrowth of the juvenile justice system. The nation’s first juvenile court began operations in 1899 supported by the belief that youth offenders deserved protection and treatment, not just punishment.

*Continued on next page.*

## Mock Trial and Teen Court, cont.

More recently the philosophy of restorative justice has been at the forefront of juvenile justice reform, as it emphasizes repairing harm and building competencies (skills) in the offending juvenile. The juvenile justice system is confronted with a large number of juvenile offenders and scarce resources for the programming needed to address their needs. The tidal wave of prisoners entering our penal system is financially burdensome. In 1980 there were 8,000 inmates in Pennsylvania prisons. Today the total is an eye popping 51,000 inmates. Building a new prison costs \$200 million dollars and Pennsylvania is building four new ones. Add to that the 60 million dollar budget to run a prison and the planned billion dollars of budget cuts in education are nearly used up.

Public education also is in a crisis. Disruptive classrooms are not conducive to the learning process. America's survival as an economic power, capable of providing prosperity to all citizens, is imperiled if we cannot solve the crisis in public education. The confluence of these two issues, a crisis in juvenile justice and in public education, calls for a strategy that links both systems. Youth courts perform that function. Add mock trial to the mix and you have enhanced the educational value of what is the most replicated juvenile justice program in the nation, with more than 1,150 youth courts known to be operating in the United States. Teenagers receive legal training and hold hearings to determine the appropriate disposition for offenders in both the juvenile justice or educational system. Youth courts empower students with a voice to express their own ideas about justice and afford them a platform to test their public speaking skills, creative problem solving skills, and deliberation skills. They aid students in learning how to ask probing questions, form consensus and reach a fair decision. They are a platform for youth development as well as an effective justice strategy. In Chester, all court officers are students: judge, juror, bailiff, jury foreman, and clerk. Youth courts are flexible with no two being alike. Each can be molded to the culture, economic situation, and resources available in each community. Supporters of mock trial can point to the same youth empowerment and learning; together, the programs create a powerful match.

Last May, while attendees at the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Philadelphia were dancing with the Philly Phanatic, the Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice singled out zero tolerance school policies and the school to prison pipeline as barriers to a just disciplinary system for youth. It encouraged the Pennsylvania Bar Association, which annually sponsors the statewide mock trial competition and which hosted nationals both in 2010 and 1996, to work to improve communication and coordination between the public education and justice systems. Since that time staff for the PA Bar Association have been working hard to nurture a youth court movement and to draft language for a PBA resolution endorsing youth courts, while working to expand the connection between those youth courts and the statewide mock trial program.

## Fun Friday Night Options in Phoenix

Except for Thursday and Saturday, teams will be on their own for dinner and social activities. Downtown Phoenix has many dining options within walking distance of the hotel. Check out the Where To Find It In Phoenix section of this newsletter for some of those options. For teams looking for activities within walking distance of the hotel, the Host Committee suggests taking in a baseball game or visiting the **Arizona Science Center** museum. The **Arizona Diamondbacks** will be hosting the Colorado Rockies in a 3-game series from Tuesday, May 3 through Thursday, May 5. In addition to its regular exhibitions, the Arizona Science Center currently is featuring **Gunther von Hagens' world-famous Body Worlds & The Brain** exhibition. More information about hours and group admissions can be obtained online at [www.azscience.org](http://www.azscience.org). Finally, the monthly First Friday, which features local artists and attracts many people to the downtown area, will be held on the evening of Friday, May 6. This event is teen friendly.





## NHSMTC Committee News



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 2010-2011 Chair of the Board is John Wheeler (IA), the Vice Chair is Stacy Rieke (GA), the Treasurer is Dewain Fox (AZ) and the Secretary is Susan Roberts (IN). 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 all NHSMTC committees, with the exception of the Case and Nominating Committees.** Anyone interested in serving on a committee should contact **John Wheeler** to volunteer. The Committees of the NHSMTC, Inc. are as follows:

**Articles & By-Laws Committee**—This committee reviews and develops the by-laws governing the NHSMTC, Inc. It meets as needed and currently Jane Meyer (PA) serves as chair. During the October 2010 meeting of the NHSMTC, Inc. Board of Directors, several changes proposed by the Articles and Bylaws Committee were adopted. These changes were outlined in detail in the fall 2010 edition of the *Mock Trial Matters* newsletter. The A&B Committee will continue an in-depth review of the NHSMTC, Inc. Articles and By-laws and may make additional recommendations either in the spring or during the fall 2011 BOD meeting.

**Awards Committee**—This committee solicits and considers nominations for the Gene Franchini Golden Gavel Award and also makes recommendation to the Board for the recipient of this award. Past recipients of the award are automatic members of this committee. This committee meets as needed and currently Justice George Carley (GA) serves as chair. No new business is currently before this committee.

**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 Dewain Fox (AZ) serves as chair. Coaches may not serve as members of this committee. The committee has completed its collaboration with the Arizona (2011) case writers, is continuing collaboration with the New Mexico (2012) case writers and will approve the case topic for the 2013 NHSMTC as soon as a host agreement for that tournament has been formalized.

**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 Reilly (MN) serves as chair. During the October 2010 meeting of the NHSMTC, Inc. Board of Directors, several recommendations put forth by this committee after a Long-Range Planning retreat in Minneapolis, MN in June 2010 were adopted. These recommendations were outlined in detail in the fall 2010 edition of the *Mock Trial Matters* newsletter. Additionally, the LRPC created a new informational brochure for the NHSMTC in January 2011. The LRPC will continue to identify issues affecting the long-term health of the organization and making improvements thereto

## NHSMTC Committee News, Cont.



**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 Stacy Rieke (GA) serves as chair. No new business is currently before this committee

**Nominating Committee**—This committee is responsible for encouraging submission of nominations for Board membership. It is also responsible for the training and education of new Board members. The membership of this committee is restricted to Board members, meets as needed and is comprised of Board officers. Currently Susan Roberts (IN), Board secretary, serves as chair. This committee reminds all NHSMTC members that the Board approved a travel stipend for new Board members beginning with the October 2011 meeting in Albuquerque, NM and encourages those who may have not considered Board membership previously to consider it in the future.

**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 Michael White (AK) serves as chair. No new business is currently before this committee

**Publicity Committee**—This committee develops informational pieces promoting mock trial and encouraging greater involvement in the NHSMTC. This committee meets as needed and currently Bob Noel (LA) serves as chair. No new business is currently before this committee.

**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. During the October 2010 meeting of the NHSMTC, Inc. Board of Directors, updates to Rules 4.8, 4.21, 5.3, 5.4, 5.6, 404(b), 611(e) and 702 were approved by the Board. No new business is currently before this committee.

**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 Dee Runaas (IL) serves as chair. Currently the Site Selection Committee is working with potential host committees for the 2013 and 2014 NHSMTC sites.

There are two ad hoc committees currently active: the **Ad-Hoc Curriculum Committee** and the **Ad-Hoc Scoring Committee**.

**Ad-Hoc Curriculum Committee**—This committee reviews and recommends other mock trial preparation materials that may be helpful to teams/programs nationwide. This committee meets as needed and currently John Wheeler (IA) serves as chair. No new business is currently before this committee.

**Ad-Hoc Scoring Committee**—This committee was created in 2008 to review the scoring and ranking system for the NHSMTC. This committee meets as needed and currently Larry Bakko (WI) serves as chair. During the October, 2010 meeting of the NHSMTC, Inc. Board of Directors, this committee was tasked with reviewing the power-matching system when there is an odd number of teams in a bracket.

**National High School Mock Trial Championship, Inc.**

John Wheeler, *Board Chair*  
Iowa Center for Law and Civic Education  
625 East Court Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50309-1939  
Phone: (515) 697-7882  
E-mail: [jwheeler@iowabar.org](mailto:jwheeler@iowabar.org)

**We're on the Web!**

[www.nationalmocktrial.org](http://www.nationalmocktrial.org)

*Mock Trial Matters* Newsletter  
To submit items contact  
Stacy Rieke  
(404) 527-8779; [StacyR@gabar.org](mailto:StacyR@gabar.org)

**2011 Board of Directors**

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



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.

**Judging Panel Volunteers Needed for the 2011 National Tournament in Phoenix!**

The Judging Panel volunteer form is available online at [www.azflse.org/mocktrial/2011](http://www.azflse.org/mocktrial/2011)

For more information on judging panel service, contact Judge Danelle Liwski at [Danelle.Liwski@pcjcc.pima.gov](mailto:Danelle.Liwski@pcjcc.pima.gov) or by phone at (520) 740-4416; fax (520) 879-9773

**Required Tournament Meetings**

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

Thursday, May 5—**State Coordinators' Meeting**  
3-4 PM, Cowboy Artist's Room  
Thursday, May 5—**Timekeeper Orientation**  
4-5 PM, Curtis AB

The optional State Coordinators' "Round Table" meeting will be hosted by **Michelle Giger** (NM) on Thursday 5/5 from 2-3 PM in Sundance.

All teams are strongly encouraged to send at least one coach to the **Tournament Orientation** meeting on Thursday 5/5 from 4-5 PM in Sundance. 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.