



MOCK TRIAL MATTERS

www.nationalmocktrial.org

CALENDAR

Wisconsin is in Central Time Zone

April 1— National Case Release.

April 11—Deadline

- 1) Online team registration
- 2) Online event ticket Orders
- 3) Tournament schedule adjustment
- 4) Hotel reservation
- 5) Last day to update registration.
- 6) Mandatory Coordinator Survey

April 18—Deadline

Payment for registration and event tickets.

April 18—Practice Room Schedules

Will be posted between April 19th and April 30th.

April 19—Photo Schedules

Will be posted between April 19th and April 30th.

April 25— Noon Deadline

To submit all case and rule questions.

May 8-10—

National Tournament, Madison, Wisconsin.

May 8—State Coordinators

Meeting; Timekeeper Orientation; Coaches Orientation and Team Pin Exchange.

May 9— Rounds 1 & 2; Judges' Reception; Student Social.

May 10—Rounds 3 & 4; Championship Round; Awards Gala & Dance.

May 11— Scoring Ballots available for state coordinator pick-up.



MADISON IS A HUB OF MOCK TRIAL ACTIVITY

By **Katie Wilcox**, 2014 Host Director

It's a very busy time in Wisconsin, as we are gearing up to host National Mock Trial. In addition to the national competitions, which will be held at the Courthouse and the State Capitol, there will be a number of events staged all over Wisconsin's capital city.

On Thursday, May 8, 2014, the Pin Exchange and Tailgate Party will take place at the *Concourse Hotel* from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The evening will feature a classic Wisconsin cuisine—bratwursts—and a live band. This is also the time when teams exchange special items from their home state with the other competitors, so don't forget to bring something for everyone. The event is open to NHSMTC participants, volunteers, observers and friends. Tickets are \$25 per person for all non-official team attendees.



On Friday, May 9, 2014, competitors will have time for a little fun. Participants are invited to dress to impress the judges at the *Costume Contest, Trivia and Ice Cream Social* at the *Concourse Hotel* from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. There will be plenty of fun beyond dressing up. The bash will feature Wisconsin-based trivia and heaping amounts of ice cold custard fresh from America's Dairyland. Stay for one round of trivia or the entire evening. The event is open to NHSMTC participants, volunteers, observers and friends. Tickets are \$15 per person for all non-official team attendees.

The Awards Gala will be an opportunity for teams and observers to celebrate a successful year of Mock Trial, with a banquet style meal and awards ceremony at the *Monona Terrace* on Saturday, May 10 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The National Champion will be announced



during this event. There will also be a special student dance party from 9 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Non-official team attendees may purchase tickets for \$40 per person.

The judge's reception will be held on Friday, May 9, 2014, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the *Madison Club*. This is a private event for judges featuring hors d'oeuvres and a string quartet.

Don't forget to register for all the fun and the main event. Registration is now open at nationalmocktrial2014.wisbar.org. Any questions should be directed to the Public Education Manager at PubEdCoordinator@wisbar.org.

Enjoying Your Stay

Downtown Madison is set on an isthmus between two scenic lakes, and the famed State Street pedestrian mall links the Wisconsin State Capitol Square to the University of Wisconsin campus.

This unique shopping, business and entertainment district is home to more than 370 shops, galleries, restaurants, and night spots, many locally owned, plus museums and cultural destinations. Don't be surprised on Saturday morning when you encounter a huge crowd on Capitol Square. Madison is home to the largest producer-only farmers' market in the U.S. All items are produced locally by the vendor behind the table. So rain or shine, you'll be able to pick up fresh produce or bakery items at the 150 different stands from 8:30 to 2:00. This is a cultural experience you won't want to miss!

Hotel Information

The award winning independent hotel, the *Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club* in downtown Madison, is the headquarters for the National Mock Trial Championship and is currently sold out.

Additional room blocks are available at the *Best Western Plus - Inn on the Park*, located on Capitol Square directly across from the Wisconsin State Capitol. *The Inn on the Park* is the only hotel on the square. It has been a significant part of downtown Madison for over 140 years. The hotel was originally built to accommodate legislators and business leaders. It opened in August 1871 and remains a symbol of hospitality and revival in downtown Madison. Room rates at the *Inn on the Park* are \$119 (single, double) and \$129 (triple, quad). *The Inn on the Park* offers a complimentary airport shuttle (5 miles away); complimentary wireless; Business Center with free printing; complimentary valet parking for 1 vehicle; an indoor pool; fitness center; and a complimentary newspaper. Check-in is at 3 p.m. and check-out at Noon.

Rooms are also available at the *Hilton Madison Monona Terrace*, located adjacent to the *Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center*, which will be the location for Saturday night's awards event. *The Hilton Hotel* offers stunning views of the city and the surrounding

lakes. The hotel is one block off Capitol Square and is within walking distance of State Street, numerous dining options, and shops. Rooms at the hotel have either a view of the Wisconsin State Capitol or Lake Monona. Room rates at the *Hilton* are \$165 (single, double) and \$175 (triple, quad). *The Hilton* offers a complimentary shuttle to and from the airport 7 a.m. – 10 p.m.; an indoor pool and whirlpool and health club. Wireless is available for \$9.95 per day. Check-in is 3 p.m. and check-out is Noon.

In anticipation of the competition, attendees are encouraged to visit the NHSMTC Inc. Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/National-High-School-Mock-Trial-Championship-Inc/267025570002719>. (Please note: when searching for this page, it is the National High School Mock Trial Championship Inc. page –“Inc.” must follow NHSMTC to access the current page.) This page will be updated regularly as information about the competition becomes available.

The NHSMTC Twitter account will be used to provide volunteers and visitors news prior to and during the competition. The Twitter handle is @NHSMTC. Visit twitter.com and sign up to follow NHSMTC news.

The Wisconsin Host Committee is looking forward to hosting you for what will be an unforgettable law-related education experience. Encourage your team members to visit the 2014 NHSMTC website at nationalmocktrial2014.wisbar.org, “Like” the NHSMTC Inc. Facebook page, sign up to receive “tweets” and, most-important, register before April 11 to take full advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

Where to Find It in Madison

HOTELS



Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club

The Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club in downtown Madison is the headquarters for the Championship. The Concourse is located at 1 West Dayton Street and within a few blocks of the state Capitol, UW-Madison, State Street and Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Monona Terrace Convention Center.



Best Western Plus - Inn on the Park

Additional room blocks are available at the Best Western Plus - Inn on the Park, located on the Capitol square directly across from the Wisconsin State Capitol. Room rates are \$114 (single) and \$124 (double). Call 1-800-279-8811 and mention "National High School

Mock Trial Championship" to receive the room block rate.



Hilton Madison Monona Terrace

Rooms are also available at the Hilton Madison Monona Terrace, located adjacent to the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, which will be the location for Saturday night's awards event. Rooms at the hotel have either a view of the Wisconsin State Capitol or Lake Monona. Rates at the Hilton are \$165 (single, double) and \$175 (triple, quad). Call 1-608-255-5100.

TRANSPORTATION

Air

All teams and attendees are responsible for making their own transportation arrangements to attend the Championship. The Dane County Regional Airport (MSN) is just minutes from the Capitol Square and has ample parking and other transportation options. American Eagle, Delta, Frontier and United all fly in and out of the Dane County Regional Airport. If the flight you want isn't coming into the Madison airport, airports in Milwaukee, Chicago and Rockford, Ill., are all within a two hour drive of Madison.

Ground

The Van Galder Bus Service also provides transportation between Madison and Chicago O'Hare (\$30 each way), and between Madison and the Rockford Airport (\$11 each way). Visit <http://www.coachusa.com/vangalder> for more information.

**For more information about the
2014 NHSMTC Tournament, visit our
website at:
nationalmocktrial2014.wisbar.org**

A Word From Our Chair

By Dewain Fox



Once again, we are in the midst of March Madness. No—not that time when we mourn our busted brackets, and root for an upset by an underdog. You know—that time when most of us put everything else (work included) on the back burner, while we focus all of our energy on running our local and state mock trial competitions! So, I'll be brief.

I want to use this edition's column to report on an important development. As many of you know, since the untimely passing of Larry Bakko, we have struggled with keeping the National High School Mock Trial Championship website up-to-date. Please understand that the difficulty has not been for lack of effort. It has been the result of some technological issues too complex to describe in this column (or I would break my promise to be brief).

I am excited to report that the Board recently approved a contract to have the NHSMTC website completely redesigned--and the work already is underway! The new website will use a more modern platform that is more user friendly and less expensive to host. While all of the material on the current website will be ported to the new website, the website's functionality will improve, the content will be fresh and up-to-date and the design will have a new and more modern look. You should find that the new design works much better with smartphones and tablets. Barring unforeseen circumstances, look for the new website to launch before the National Championship in May.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to publicly welcome Katie Wilcox as our newest Board member. Katie recently replaced Marsha Varvil-Weld as the State Bar of Wisconsin's Public Education Program Manager following Marsha's retirement. With her new position, Katie also assumed the role of 2014 Host Director. What better way to learn about mock trial than taking over the Wisconsin program just three months before Wisconsin hosts the National Championship! Please welcome Katie when you see her in May, and let her know what a terrific job she has done in such a short period of time. I look forward to seeing everyone in Madison in May. Safe travels!

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

Dewain Fox, Board Chair

2015 National Host

“Everyone is *Still* coming to Raleigh:” May 2015

M. Gordon Widenhouse, Jr. (North Carolina)
2015 Host Director

WALTER
wants you.



Despite learning that Sir Walter Raleigh was beheaded for treason, the national high school mock trial championship will *still* be held in the city that bears his name May 14-16, 2015. In fact, one of the sites to see is his statue—head intact—in the downtown area.

Downtown Raleigh is vibrant and offers a wide range of entertainment venues, restaurants, and other establishments. Indeed, the *New York Times* has recently extolled the “destination-worthiness” of Raleigh. <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/09/travel/36-hours-in-raleigh-nc.html?ref=travel>. Someone must have leaked the news of our hosting to the paper.

Artsposure, an annual downtown celebration and festival of artists and artisans, will coincide with nationals and provide scores of venues for amusement. We plan to have a scavenger hunt on Friday evening to provide a chance to unwind, to explore, and to engage. There are rumors of unusual things to find, although hopefully not Sir Walter’s noggin.

The Carolina Center for Civic Education, which operates North Carolina’s high school mock trial program, will host the event. We are working on those and other plans to assure an exciting experience. As previously explained the new Wake County Courthouse recently opened and will be the site of the competition. The Final Round will likely be held in the United States Courthouse or the Campbell University School of Law, both only a few blocks from the host hotels: the Marriott Raleigh City Center (\$145.00 per night) and Sheraton Raleigh Hotel (\$129.00 per night). The annual and eagerly awaited Pin Exchange on Thursday evening will also include an Opening Ceremony for the tournament. We are looking into something special for this session. The Awards Ceremony on Saturday evening will be at the Raleigh Convention Center, which is adjacent to the hotels. This event will be informal and enjoyable.

A number of people have been promised or threatened with exposure to barbecue, fried pork skins, and collards. For those who have never been exposed to these culinary treats, “coming to Raleigh” will surely be a memorable event. All of us associated with CCCE and mock trial in North Carolina are looking forward to your arrival. Hold on to your heads!

Required Tournament Meetings

State Coordinators' Business Meeting

Thursday, May 8, 1:30-3:30 PM (Concourse)

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

Timekeeper Orientation

Thursday, May 8, 4:00-5:00 PM (Concourse)

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

Coaches Orientation

Thursday, May 8, 4:00-5:00 PM (Concourse)

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

Coordinator's Round Table Discussion

The 2014 Coordinator's Round Table Discussion will be held on May 8th at the Concourse Hotel from 12:30-1:30 pm. Attendance is optional. The Round Table was created to provide coordinators with the opportunity to discuss topics important to mock trial programs from around the nation. It's a great opportunity to ask questions and get exceptional support from mock trial professionals from around the country. We look forward to seeing you at the Round Table!

Rule Updates and Rules/Case Questions

The 2014 Rules posted with the Madison case materials have been updated. Please see changes to: Rule 4.11. Supplemental Material; Costuming.

All cases and rules questions must be submitted by a state coordinator (or his/her official designee) by noon on April 25th to the following email: PublicEdCoordinator@wisbar.org. A running list of answers to submitted questions will be posted weekly on every Friday afternoon thru April 26th at: <http://nationalmocktrial2014.wisbar.org/CaseQA.html>. The final version of the 2014 case materials will be posted online on April 30th.

2014 Spring Board Election



A scheduled election will be held during the State Coordinators' meeting on May 8th in Madison.

There are four 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 Nomination Committee Chair (David Berlin) no later than March 15, 2014. If this deadline was missed, but a person still wishes to be nominated for one of the Board positions, that individual must communicate this intention to the Nomination Committee Chair by the end of the NHSMTC, Inc. Board of Directors meeting on May 8, 2014. This communication must be accompanied by a nominating petition signed by at least three State Coordinators. Additionally, nominations may be made from the floor during the State Coordinators' meeting (see NHSMTC, Inc. By-Laws Article IV, Section 2).

There are four candidates who have indicated their intention to run for four positions, as of the publication date of this newsletter, and they are: Judge Lyle E. Strom (NE), Paul Kaufman (PA) seeking re-election, David Berlin (NM) seeking re-election, and Laura Wesley (CA) seeking re-election. Statements from each of the candidates will be emailed to all state coordinators in April.

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

NHSMTC Committee Work Summary

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

The governing body of the NHSMTC, Inc. is the Board of Directors of the NHSMTC. The 2013-2014 Chair of the Board is Dewain Fox (AZ), the Vice Chair is Emily Reilly (IL), the Treasurer is Donald Christensen (NV) and the Secretary is Laura Wesley (CA). This Board is charged with the following responsibilities:

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

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

Archives Committee—This committee was created by the NHSMTC, Inc. Board in 2011 and is responsible for collecting and maintaining paper and electronic documents and items relevant to the history of the NHSMTC, Inc. Additionally, paper and/or electronic copies of NHSMTC team registration materials, pre and post host reports and other such items as the committee deems appropriate are collected annually. This committee meets as needed and is chaired by Bob Noel (LA). This committee was tasked during the October 2013 meeting of the NHSMTC Board with continuing the process of retrieving the archives from former archivist Dee Runaas (IL) and sorting through the materials to determine what items will be kept, what items will be converted to an electronic format and which items will be discarded. Additionally, this committee was tasked with determining future storage options for the archives. This will include archives of committee reports and other corporate records.

Articles & By-Laws Committee—This committee reviews and develops the by-laws that govern the NHSMTC, Inc. and meets as needed. As part of the committee's work, NHSMTC, Inc. recently re-incorporated as a Delaware corporation (formerly a Louisiana corporation). Amended and Restated Bylaws consistent with Delaware law are expected to be adopted at the May 2014 Board meeting.

Awards Committee—This committee is responsible for soliciting and considering nominations for the Gene Franchini Golden Gavel Award. The committee makes recommendations to the Board for the recipient of this award and determines its presentation. Cynthia Cothran (SC) serves as chair. There is a new process for determining the members of the Awards Committee. The Awards Committee Chair will select at least two past Golden Gavel Award recipients to participate on the committee along with board members appointed to the committee by the Board Chair. The goal will be for the committee to be composed of 50% of previous Golden Gavel Award recipients. The committee reviewed nominations for the 2014 Gene Franchini Golden Gavel award and, if a recipient was selected, will present the award during the NHSMTC Awards Ceremony on Saturday, May 10th in Madison.

In addition to the Golden Gavel Award, the committee has created a new award, the *Larry Bakko Professionalism and Civility Award*, to honor Mr. Bakko's service on the NHSMTC Board and his service to the Mock Trial community. The award will be presented to one team at the closing awards ceremony at the national competition. Each team's registration packet will contain information on the award and the nomination ballot to complete and submit at the completion of their fourth round on Saturday to the presiding judge.

Case Committee—This committee has the authority to give final approval to a host committee's case materials. The committee reviews drafts of case materials to ensure suitability and compliance with National policies, rules and guidelines. The committee has also been tasked with preparing and having ready in reserve one problem for use at the NHSMTC, in the event the case prepared by the host committee is deemed unusable or in the event no host state is identified in a given year. This committee meets as needed and currently Paul Kaufman (PA) serves as chair. Coaches may not serve as members of this committee. The committee completed its review and approval of the Wisconsin (2014) case materials. The committee continues collaboration with the North Carolina (2015) case writers and will approve the case topic for the 2016 case with the Idaho case writers. Additionally, this committee is working on written guidelines to assist future hosts with preparing case materials.

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

Development Committee—This committee was created to explore external funding sources to support and grow the NHSMTC well into the future. This committee meets as needed and currently John Wheeler (IA) serves as chair. The committee is exploring more National sponsorship of the program.

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

Information Technology—This committee was created by the NHSMTC, Inc. Board in 2012 to create a long-term plan for the technology needs of the program. The committee meets as needed and currently Ann Marie Waldron (IN) serves as chair. The committee is responsible for establishing the technological requirements for the competition and NHSMTC website. Recently, the committee successfully reregistered the website domain and is working on redesigning the NHSMTC website. The collection and maintenance of the NHSMTC electronic case library is another responsibility of the committee and includes a copy of all past NHSMTC cases and state cases submitted for inclusion in the library each season. Those state cases submitted with summaries for the 2013-14 academic year will be placed into the case library.

Long Range Planning Committee—This committee focuses on the institutional advancement of the NHSMTC, Inc. and recommends actions and strategies to grow and strengthen the program. This committee meets as needed and currently Emily Reilly (IL) serves as chair. The 2013 survey gathered data about state mock trial programs to help with gaining a better understanding of state programs and assist with future fundraising. Data was gathered from 33 state programs. Summary included below:

Individual Student Participation: The NHSMTC supports individual state programs that include the participation of 34,320 students world-wide.

Teams Involved in the State Competition: A majority of programs have 26-75 teams. Six have 1-25 teams; four have 300+ teams.

Cost of Competition: Registration fees collected by states vary. Two programs don't charge a fee and eight charge \$200+ per team. The cost of administering the program also varies greatly. Five states reported the cost of administering their program costs \$40,001– 50,000, four reported it costs at \$1-5,000, and four reported costs ranging from \$30,001-100,000.

Newsletter Committee—This committee gathers news and articles of interest regarding high school mock trial and produces two editions of the NHSMTC newsletter, *Mock Trial Matters*, annually. The newsletter is emailed to the state coordinators in the spring and fall and posted on the NHSMTC website. This committee meets as needed and currently Laura Wesley (CA) serves as chair. No new business is currently before this committee.

Nominating Committee—This committee is responsible for encouraging submission of nominations for Board membership and recommending a slate of officers to the Board. It is also responsible for the training and education of new Board members. The committee meets as needed. Currently David Berlin (NM) serves as chair. The deadline for a candidate to submit his/her intention to run for an open at-large position on the NHSMTC Board is March 15th each year. Mr. Berlin reported there are four board vacancies. A request for submissions was placed in the 2013 Fall Newsletter and emailed to coordinators.

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 Don Christensen (NV) serves as chair. The committee recently addressed new policies outlined below:

Policy for responding to questions: Any questions regarding interpretation of the Rules of the Competition and the National High School Mock Trial Rules of Evidence that arise prior to the competition should be directed in writing to the Board Chair, who may refer it to the chair of the appropriate committee for immediate consideration by its members. Following this

consideration, the chair of such committee shall inform and discuss any proposed response with the Board Chair and then respond to the question.

Vendor policy: Vendors are understood as persons or entities which are in the business of supplying a service or product. The Board recognizes that vendors are a potential source of revenue which the host state should be allowed to pursue if it chooses to do so, subject to the requirement that any potential vendor's service or product not be inconsistent with the mission and goals of the National High School Mock Trial Championship, Inc., as determined in the sole discretion of the Board Chair. The host state shall identify and inform the Board Chair by e-mail of any potential vendor and its service or product. The Chair shall respond within seven days with any determination to prevent a vendor from participating. If a host state has determined to allow vendors at a competition, the Board may, if it decides, also have vendors present at the competition as long as there is sufficient space and each vendor is approved by the host state. Any profit from fees derived from a NHSMTTC vendor shall be shared equally between the host state and NHSMTTC.

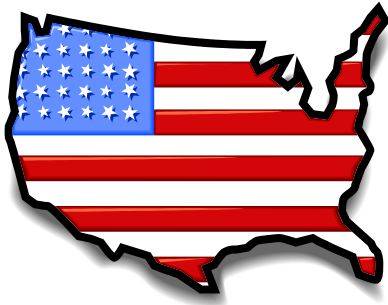
Policy regarding state volunteers scoring and presiding at Nationals: State Coordinators are encouraged to provide the Board with information regarding the qualifications, temperament and experience of judges from their states who may or will be attending the National Championships. Where appropriate, this information may be shared with the individuals responsible for judicial volunteer recruitment and assignment.

Public Relations Committee—This committee is responsible for promoting mock trial and encouraging greater involvement in the NHSMTTC. It also maintains a relationship with media providers and develops guidelines regarding that relationship. This committee meets as needed and currently is chaired by Ann Marie Waldron (IN). The committee reported on their completion of a national and state mock trial PSA that will be available on the NHSMTTC website. The committee also reported on the completion of a media guide that will also be available on the NHSMTTC website.

Rules Committee—This committee reviews the current competition rules and the modified Rules of Evidence used in the NHSMTTC and makes recommendations for modification. This committee meets as needed and currently Pete Jones (DE) serves as chair. The committee reported on the amendments to the rules which have been updated in the NHSMTTC case materials. Rule 4.11. Supplemental Material: Costuming has been modified to include: The only documents which the teams may present to the presiding judge or scoring panel are the individual exhibits as they are introduced into evidence and the team roster forms. No roster forms may be altered except to provide the information requested. No exhibits may be modified before trial, but attorneys and witnesses may mark exhibits during direct or cross examination. Such marked documents may be used as demonstrative exhibits during the trial and during closing arguments, but may not be entered into evidence. If a team wishes to mark an exhibit entered by the opposing team, it must substitute its own clean copy of that exhibit for this purpose before any markings are made. Exhibit notebooks are not to be provided to the presiding judge or scoring panel. Unless provided by the host committee, name tags or name plates at counsel table are not permitted.

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 Stacy Rieke (GA) serves as chair. The committee reported that the 2016 site will be Idaho and that they are working on a “Host Guidebook”. Currently the Site Selection Committee welcomes inquiries from all interested potential hosts for the 2017 NHSMTC.



News and Notes From Around the Nation

Arkansas By Crystal Newton

The Arkansas Bar Association hosted its very first two-day state tournament in Little Rock, AR on February 21-22, 2014. For the first time in the history of our state competition, we used power matching to pair three preliminary rounds, and the final round between the top two teams in the state. This was a change from our single-elimination tournaments in the past.

In the planning phases for our tournament, our state was faced with challenges in regards to logistics, finances, volunteers, and scoring software. Utilizing both the District and Federal Courthouses, we



were prepared to handle up to 5 consecutive trials each day in actual courtrooms. We were able to use a debate software “Tab Room on the PC” that did all of the power matching and room and volunteer assignments for us. The software was originally designed for debate tournaments. Although we didn’t use it this year, it has the capability to assign volunteers. The new system allowed us to pair our teams and post round pairings quickly. Interested states should view the software:

https://bearspace.baylor.edu/Richard_Edwards/www/TRPC_Software.html.

With 25 teams competing in this year’s competition, the tournament was a success. All of the feedback that we received regarding this year’s new format has been overwhelmingly positive and numerous schools have already signaled their intent to compete in next year’s tournament. We truly believe this change in our competition structure will help increase participation within our state. The competition was fierce, but Parkview Arts and Science Magnet High Schools produced the top two teams in the state. Parkview’s Senior Blue Team came out on top over the Junior and Sophomore Parkview High Red team at the conclusion of the competition and will represent Arkansas at Nationals in May.

Arizona

By Susan Nusall

The Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education and the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Arizona were excited to host the 2014 Arizona High School Mock Trial Regional and State Tournaments. Sixty teams from schools around Arizona participated in 4 regional tournaments in Flagstaff, Phoenix, and Tucson on March 1st. The top 16 teams went on to the state tournament on March 22nd held at the Sandra Day O'Connor Federal Courthouse. Teams from University High School (Tucson) and Brophy College Preparatory (Phoenix) faced off in the championship round. University High will represent Arizona at the National Championship in Madison. This will be University's sixth appearance at the National Championship.

Over 120 members of the legal community and students from Arizona Summit Law School, Arizona State University, and University of Arizona volunteered to make the events an outstanding, educational experience for all those involved. Three students won scholarships for their performance as Outstanding Attorneys. The Arizona Association of Defense Counsel provided \$500, \$300, and \$200 checks to the winning students.

Entries from the Court Artist Contest were judged after the regional tournaments. Four regional winners were chosen and one was named the state winner. Each student was recognized, their artwork was displayed at the Federal Courthouse and at the state program, and they were presented awards at the state tournament. All entries are now on permanent display at the Foundation offices.

California

By Lourdes Morales



Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) just concluded its 33rd Annual California Mock Trial Finals in San Jose. This year's competition involved 34 teams and over 1,200 students, teachers, coaches, and parents. This year's California State Championship went to Menlo School from San Mateo County, after a tough championship trial against La Reina High School from Ventura County, the State Champion for the last three years. We are proud of all 450 teams and 8,000 students that participate annually in CRF's

Mock Trial Program! For more information about CRF or the Mock Trial Program, visit our website at www.crf-usa.org.

Florida

By Annette Boyd Pitts

Teams of students from throughout the State of Florida gathered at the Orange County Courthouse on March 6-8, 2014 to present the case of State of Florida v. Jesse Davis. Davis, a contender for

valedictorian, co-captain of the soccer team, and President of the Future Business Leaders of America had life turned upside down when 28.1 grams of oxycodone were found in his vehicle following a search based on an anonymous tip. Where did the drugs come from? Who did the drugs belong to? Did Davis knowingly possess these drugs? These were the questions that were brought to life as students presented the case as both the prosecution and the defense before panels of attorneys and circuit and county court judges.



This popular academic competition, administered by the Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc. and funded with assistance from the Florida Bar Foundation, the American Board of Trial Advocates, and the Florida Chapter of ABOTA, provides students with a firsthand opportunity to explore the American legal system and the administration of justice using a fictional criminal case. Students worked tenaciously in teams to

develop arguments for both sides of the case and then present the case as attorneys and witnesses. Students from 16 judicial circuits participated in four rounds of competition over three days, presenting the case from the perspective of both the prosecution and the defense. Using the power matching model utilized at the national finals competition, teams are matched based on their respective win/loss records, ballots, and point totals for each round. The top two teams to emerge after the four rounds of competition ultimately competed against one another in the ceremonial courtroom at the Orange County Courthouse.

This year the final showdown took place between Fletcher High School of Jacksonville and Chiles High School of Tallahassee. After a panel of judges evaluated the student performances during the final round, top honors went to Fletcher High School who will go on to represent the state of Florida at the 2014 National High School Mock Trial Finals in Madison, Wisconsin on May 8-10.

Georgia

By Michel Nixon

The 26th season of the Georgia Mock Trial Competition saw some big changes to the structure of the season. Everything started off with another outstanding Law Academy weekend in mid-September. The criminal problem was released October 4 with the Regional Competitions taking place January 25 and February 1.

This season saw the addition of the District Competitions, where the top three teams from the 16 Regions met in one of the 8 Districts to fight for a spot at the State Finals Competition. The District Competitions served several purposes. It increased the number of teams that had a chance to compete beyond the Regional Competition weekend from 18 last season to 48 this season. Of these 48 teams, several had never won their Region and had this chance before. It also shrunk the size of the State Finals competition to 8 teams, all of which had to go through more Rounds to make it to State, improving the competition at State and making the State Finals Rounds much more competitive.

State Finals were held Saturday, March 15 between the 8 District Champions and culminated with Jonesboro High School winning their 7th State title, defeating Lowndes High School in the Final

Round. The team is very excited to have the chance to bring home Jonesboro's 3rd (and Georgia's 5th) National Championship from Madison. Again, the Georgia delegation will be bringing the State Champion of the Craig Harding Memorial Court Artist Contest to Madison as well, to draw the Georgia team in action. View photos of the State Champions and winning entries of the Court Artist Contest can be found on the Georgia Mock Trial website at www.georgiamocktrial.org.

Idaho

By Carey Shoufler

The Idaho Law Foundation's Law Related Education Program is getting ready for our upcoming 2014 Idaho High School Mock Trial Competition. Three regional tournaments will be hosted in different parts of the state on Saturday, March 8. 12 teams will advance from the regionals to the state competition to be hosted in Boise on March 19 to 21.

This is the second year Idaho's mock trial program will include a Courtroom Artist Contest. Seven students from all parts of our state have registered to participate. This year's Idaho mock trial case is a civil case that explores issues of breach of contract and negligence and is based on a historical case stemming from Evel Knievel's famous jump over the Snake River Canyon in 1974. Interestingly, after our Mock Trial Committee wrote the case it was announced that a daredevil out of Texas is planning another attempt to jump the Canyon on the upcoming 40th anniversary of the original jump. In addition to putting together our annual state competition, Idaho has also begun planning for the 2016 National High School Mock Trial Championship that will be hosted in Boise.

Illinois

By Chris Ruys

Illinois State Bar Association's High School Mock Trial Invitational

Teams from 41 high schools statewide participated in the 32nd annual Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA) High School Mock Trial Invitational on **March 8 and 9, 2014**, at the University of Illinois School of Law in Champaign. The top eight teams competed in the final round on March 9, for the state championship.

"The mock trial competition provides a unique opportunity for high school students to learn civics through the courtroom," says Hon. Michael J. Chmiel, of Woodstock, chair of the ISBA's Standing Committee on Law Related Education for the Public, which conducts the program. "Through the efforts of the ISBA and the University of Illinois, high schools have the rare chance to fully expose their students to a valued and necessary profession."

Each 10-member team tried both sides – plaintiff and defense – of a hypothetical case developed by the ISBA Committee. This year's case is *Jersey Johnson v. Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS)*. On Halloween Eve 1938, CBS's radio program, "Mercury Theater on the Air," presented an interpretation of, *The War of the Worlds*. A disclaimer aired at the beginning of the broadcast informing listeners that the work was fictional. Johnson and his/her cousin, Logan St. Clair, did not hear the original disclaimer or one that aired 40 minutes into the program, and believed it to be true. To avoid being captured by aliens, they went into hiding in the cellar of their home. They were later found by authorities in a state of mental disarray and physical deterioration from their time in hiding. In a lawsuit, Johnson alleged that CBS intentionally caused emotional distress and that he/she is now ostracized in the community because of the incident.

Students assumed the roles of attorneys and witnesses, and a panel of Illinois lawyers and judges, along with members of the ISBA Law Related Education Committee, rated the students'

performance. The students also took a written test about the issues of the case and basic legal principles.

The high school mock trials have been conducted each year since 1982 by the ISBA to provide Illinois high school students an interesting and challenging way to gain insight into the American judicial system. Co-sponsors of the 2014 event are Illinois LEARN, Inc.; the Illinois Trial Team of the University of Illinois; the University of Illinois College of Law; and the Diversity Scholarship Foundation of Chicago. The 32,000-member ISBA (isba.org), with offices in Springfield and Chicago, provides professional services to Illinois lawyers, and education and services to the public through a website (illinoislawyerfinder.com), consumer brochures, and distribution of legal information.

Indiana

By Susan Roberts

Indiana's Mock Trial competition will soon have a new home at the Indiana Bar Foundation. After the 2014 rounds of the competition, the Indiana Bar Foundation is assuming responsibility for the program. The IBF also manages We The People, U.S. Senate Youth Program and the Indiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council.

"It's an ideal fit for our mission of educating the public about the law," said Charles Dunlap, executive director of IBF. "We created the Center for Law and Civic Education to house youth education programs related to the legal profession." State Coordinator, Susan Roberts said, "I'm enthusiastic about the mock trial program moving forward with the dedicated staff and resources of the Indiana Bar Foundation."

Both Roberts and Ann Marie Waldron have been teaching the IBF staff their systems for managing the competition which, annually, involves about 400 students in regional and state competitions. Also new in Indiana this year is the crowning of a new State Champion. Penn High School of Mishawaka, Indiana will represent Indiana in the 2014 National Championship in Madison. A four-member judging panel unanimously chose Penn as the champion defeating John Adams High School in the Championship Round on March 2nd. John Adams High School had been Indiana's reigning champion for thirteen consecutive years, and State Champion for fifteen years.

Michigan

By Linda Start and Jeff May

The Michigan Center for Civic Education is proud to have conducted the Michigan High School Mock Trial Program since 1982. Although Registration has remained steady over the years, we are embarking on a plan for expansion and increased participation for MHSMTT. This year, we are pleased to be offering a new Regional Tournament through a partnership with the Macomb County Bar Foundation. This marks the second year in a row that we have added a new regional tournament, and we hope to continue this steady expansion over the next few years.

This year's case is *People v. Sam Seaside*, a criminal case of a high-school student accused of the murder of a fellow classmate who went missing after a late-night party. We thank the Colorado Bar Association for letting us adapt and use their case.

The top ten teams from the four Regional Tournaments will compete at the Michigan State Finals on March 29 at Veteran's Courthouse in Lansing, our state capitol. The MHSMTT is funded by the State

Bar of Michigan, the SBM Litigation Section, and the Oakland County Bar Foundation. We would not be able to continue this program without their ongoing support for which we are very grateful. For more information about the Michigan High School Mock Trial Tournament and all of MCCE's programs please visit www.miciviced.org

Minnesota

By Kim Basting

The Mock Trial program, sponsored by the Minnesota State Bar Association, is in its 28th year. Over 110 teams competed for the opportunity to represent Minnesota at Nationals. Minnesota hosts trials all over the State for five weeks in January and February. There were over 50 trials rescheduled due to the extreme weather. The majority of schools statewide had 6 full days of closures, not to mention all of the early release days (they all fell on the days we had trials scheduled)! It has been a challenging season for the program, schools, and volunteers. Over 600 volunteer attorneys participated in judging trials or coaching teams this year and we are grateful for their support! Our State Tournament will be held in early March to determine the team that will be traveling to Madison in May for Nationals. Additionally, "The University of Minnesota Law School is hosting, for the second year, a one-week residential mock trial camp for high school students in early August. Following is a link with more information: <http://www.law.umn.edu/legaledprograms/mock-trial-scholars-program.html>."

North Carolina

By Sue Johnson

The 22nd annual North Carolina Advocates for Justice High School Mock Trial State Finals was hosted for the fifth time at Campbell Law School in Raleigh, NC. On March 1, 2014, our eight regional champions battled for the honor of representing North Carolina in Madison, WI in May. In a hard



Central Carolina Homeschoolers with Gordon Widenhouse, 2015 Nationals Host Director (on far right)

fought final round, the Central Carolina eschoolers (2013 State Champs) once again emerged victorious, defeating a strong team from J.H. Rose High School in Greenville.

Eighty teams competed in Regional competition, an increase of 11% over the 2013 participation; and the numbers

would have been even greater but for a snowstorm right before Regionals that caused several teams to withdraw. Twelve teams were brand-new to the program, including one Regional Champion. Eight

other teams were only in their second year of participation; these twenty fledgling teams were the fruit of our Outreach Project to new schools initiated in 2012-13.

This year's case was an original criminal case, *State of Utopia v. Quinn Penner*, which involved a police detective charged with the murder of a repeat offender. The case introduced our students to current practice in DNA evidence analysis. We are pleased to report that the case was well-balanced, with the prosecution winning 49% and the defense winning 51% of rounds across all regional competitions.

In addition to preparing to host Nationals in 2015, we are excited to be offering our second year of summer mock trial camps. Four-day camps will be held in three locations: Asheville, Chapel Hill, and Fayetteville. Combining instructional sessions with hands-on learning, the camps culminate with trial scrimmages between student teams for both Basic and Advanced levels of instruction.

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

Nebraska

By Cindy Lilleoien

For the 2013 Nebraska competition, teams across the state presented a case involving a landlord-tenant matter in which the owning of a therapy dog in a "no pets allowed" apartment complex was in question. Twelve regional teams met in the state championship in Lincoln in December. The V.J. and Angela Skutt Catholic High School Mock Trial team won the Nebraska High School Mock Trial Championship for the fifth consecutive year. The team is now preparing for the national competition in Madison, Wisconsin. Partial funding for their travel comes from the Nebraska Council for School Attorneys and the Nebraska State Bar Foundation. The Mock Trial Case Committee will soon begin its writing for the 2014-2015 year. The case is expected to follow the Bar Foundation's current Law-Related Education theme, "American Veterans – Everyday Heroes."

Ohio

By Todd Burch

The Ohio Center for Law-Related Education's 31st High School Mock Trial season concluded on March 8th when Sylvania Southview High School from Toledo claimed the State Championship by defeating Orange High School from Cleveland at the Ohio Statehouse. Sylvania advanced through three levels of competition and won nine consecutive trials to win the championship. The season began with 330 teams from over 170 schools. More than 3000 students participated in addition to over 1000 volunteers who serve as committee members, competition coordinators, team advisors and judges. The competition utilized an original case written by a volunteer committee of attorneys dealing primarily with the 1st and 4th Amendments. The Center is sponsored by the Supreme Court of Ohio, Ohio Attorney General, Ohio State Bar Association and ACLU of Ohio with Mock Trial receiving additional support from the Ohio State Bar Foundation. For more information regarding Ohio Mock Trial and all of the Center's programs please visit <http://www.ocltre.org>.

Pennsylvania

By District Attorney Bill Higgins Jr

In my role as District Attorney, far too often, I share stories about young people in our community who have found themselves on the wrong side of the law. Today, however, I am proud to share a story about seven students at Bedford High School who have brought great pride to Bedford County.

Let me begin with a little background. The Pennsylvania Bar Association sponsors an annual High School Mock Trial Competition throughout the Commonwealth. Over 300 Pennsylvania High Schools participate annually in the competition where student teams are given the opportunity to argue both sides of a fictional case in an actual courtroom before a real judge. The students, who play the roles of lawyers, witnesses, plaintiffs and defendants, are assisted by teacher coaches and lawyer advisors in preparing for competition. Lawyers and community leaders serve as jurors and then determine the winners in each trial based on the teams' abilities to prepare their cases, present arguments and follow court rules.



On a personal level, I have been continuously involved in High School Mock Trial since competing in High School myself. I've served the program in almost every

capacity: judge, juror, coach and coordinator at every level, including Statewide Chairman from 2006-2008. In fact, I served as an attorney advisor to Central High School in Martinsburg when they finished 10th in the Nation in 2009. Despite my enthusiasm and interest in the program, my biggest regret has always been that we have never had a team compete from a Bedford County High School. That is, until this year. At the beginning of the school year, I was introduced to Brad Lantz, a history teacher at Bedford High School. I mentioned to Mr. Lantz that I had an interest in serving as an attorney coach for a mock trial team at Bedford, but I needed a teacher coach to make this happen. Brad accepted my proposal, and along with Assistant District Attorney Ashlan Clark, we took on the task.

We scheduled our first meeting in December, and we were pleased to have 30 students in attendance. The students were told that we would practice every day for approximately two hours to gear up for a competition in February. The next day, we had less than a dozen students ready to make that commitment. As time passed, the reality of daily practices set in, our numbers dwindled to the point that, by Mid-January, we had only 4 students on the team: Macy Sheeder, Paul Enderle, Peyton Millea, and Jarrod Clapper. As the competition requires at least 6 students to compete, and our first trial was just three weeks away, we were in panic mode. Using social media, I reached out to

friends looking for students who might want to join the team. Within a week, we welcomed three additional students: Olivia Foster, Alison Caddy and Henry Vachon.

With the benefit of a few cancelations due to weather, we were finally ready to put our efforts to the test. On Tuesday, February 25th, we faced a very well prepared and experienced Altoona High School team, and, although we were defeated, we held our own, and surprised many in attendance. Our next trial was held on Friday, February 28th against Tyrone High School, and this time, we were victorious. While it may be difficult to convey the significance of this feat for those unfamiliar with the competition, let me say this: first year teams generally do not win.

While our competition season is over (it is a single elimination format), these seven kids can hold their heads high knowing that they put the time and effort into a worthy endeavor, and they were successful. I am not sure if any of these kids have aspirations to practice law as a career, but I do know that they will be successful in whatever they do. It is refreshing as District Attorney, and as a parent, to spend time with the kids in our community who will be making a positive impact on the future of Bedford County. In fact, we have far more good kids than bad, but, unfortunately, the bad ones often seem to get the most attention. I could not be more proud of these mock trial students who, with the exception of graduating senior Alison Caddy, will all be returning to the team next year. We are looking forward to 2015 with confidence, pride and enthusiasm. For more information about the Pennsylvania Mock Trial Program, visit the Pennsylvania Bar Association website at www.pabar.org.

Mandatory State Coordinators Survey

Due April 11th

As a reminder, in order to be eligible to participate at Nationals, each state must complete the National Survey and pay a \$250 membership fee. The membership fee is separate and in addition to a team's \$500 tournament fee. The survey can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/L7DWKZL>. The funds collected through the membership fee have been earmarked specifically for costs borne by NHSMTTC, Inc. for hosting or aiding in the hosting of the national championship.

National High School Mock Trial is looking for a 2017 host!

Have you ever considered hosting? Now's your chance to be the national host in 2017!
Contact Stacy Rieke for more information at srieke89@gmail.com

NHSMTTC Case Library

The National High School Mock Trial Championship, Inc., is pleased to provide a library of mock trial cases online under the Sample Case Database section of the website. The mock trial cases on the website are available to state coordinators interested in using these materials. Access to the case library requires a coordinator to login. We will be providing all state coordinators with information on how to access the case library when the new website is launched. In the meantime, if you need access to the case library and are unable to access it yourself, you can contact Dewain Fox at dfox@shermanhoward.com or Ann Marie Waldron at awaldron@rwyllaw.com.



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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.

National High School Mock Trial Championship is on Facebook!

Visit our page and select “like.” Let’s grow our Mock Trial Community!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/National-High-School-Mock-Trial-Championship-Inc/267025570002719>

Judging Panel Volunteers Needed
for the 2014
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To volunteer go to <http://nationalmocktrial2014.wisbar.org/>