



MOCK TRIAL MATTERS

www.nationalmocktrial.org

CALENDAR

Wisconsin is on Central Time

January 15—State Membership Fees Due

April 1— National Case Release.

April 11—Deadline

- 1) Team registration
- 2) 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.

TBA—Practice Room Schedules

TBA—Photo Schedules

TBA— 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;

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

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

2014 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP Madison, Wisconsin

2014 MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP!

By Marsha Varvil-Weld, 2014 Host Director

National Mock Trial Visitors Won't Want to Leave Madison!

In Madison, we like to tell people that once you visit, you'll keep coming back. With our competition nestled right in Capitol Square and just minutes from the university's picturesque campus, we think the same will be true for National Mock Trial 2014 participants and their families. Information about the 2014 competition can be found at nationalmocktrial2014.wisbar.org.

The competition itself will take place at the Dane County Courthouse, with the final round taking place in the Wisconsin Supreme Court Chambers in the State Capitol. Event organizers are making sure high school students have time for some fun too. The Awards Banquet and Dance will feature a DJ at the [Monona Terrace](#). The Monona Terrace is an exciting destination in and of itself. The convention center was designed by Wisconsin native and internationally-renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright.



Architecture is not the only thing you will be able to explore between competitions. You can check out the Dane County Farmer's Market, which is the largest producer-only farmers' market in the U.S. That means every item available for purchase was produced locally by the vendor.

The Dane County Farmer's Market takes place on Capitol Square, surrounding our state's historic center of government. The magnificent granite structure, which was built between 1906 and 1917, is open to the public weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and weekends from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It's a true must-see. The building boasts 43 varieties of stone from around the world, glass mosaics, and hand-carved antique furniture. It's also the only granite dome in the United States, and the only State Capitol ever built on an isthmus.

Madison is also home to the world-renowned University of Wisconsin-Madison. Mock trial participants who are thinking about applying to this incredible school should take advantage and schedule a tour by going to visitbucky.wisc.edu.

If you feel like exploring beyond Madison, the Wisconsin Dells is less than an hour away. The area, which draws 3 million visitors a year, is breathtaking and fun. With natural stone formations that you can tour by duck boat, water parks, museums, and every other form of amusement you can fathom, it is definitely worth the trek. Visit wisdells.com for more information.

If it sounds like a lot, don't feel overwhelmed. We're recruiting a number of volunteers who will help participants, coaches and parents navigate while they are here.

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. The Concourse is located at 1 West Dayton Street, one block off the Capitol square, and boasts 356 guest rooms. The hotel is located within a few blocks of the event festivities. Room rates are \$139 (single, double) and \$145 (triple, quad). The Hotel features a complimentary shuttle from the airport (5 miles away); complimentary wireless; fitness center; indoor pool, whirlpool and sauna; Business Center; and onsite restaurant and bar. Underground parking is available for \$10 per day. Check-in is at 3 p.m. and check-out at 11 a.m.



Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club:

Please call the Concourse Hotel directly and identify yourself as part of the National High School Mock Trial Championship to receive the room block rate. Cut-off date for this rate is April 15, 2014.

Telephone: 1-800-356-8293

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. The Inn on the Park is the only hotel on the Capitol square. Room rates 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 complimentary newspaper. Check-in is at 3 p.m. and check-out at noon.

Best Western Plus - Inn on the Park:

Please call the Inn on the Park directly and identify yourself as part of the National High School Mock Trial Championship to receive the room block rate. Cut-off date for this rate is April 7, 2014.

Telephone: 1-800-279-8811

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 hotel is one block off the Capitol square. Room rates 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. Contact information will be provided shortly.

Hilton Madison Monona Terrace:
Contact information will be provided shortly.

TOURNAMENT/EVENT INFORMATION

The Concourse Hotel is the site of the registration desk and information, practice rooms, the meeting rooms for Thursday meetings, and team photos. The Pin Exchange and Friday evening event will also be hosted at the Concourse Hotel. The Awards Gala and Banquet will be held at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center. The Awards Banquet will feature a full dinner followed by a



dance hosted by a local DJ. All four rounds of the Championship will be held in the Dane County Courthouse and the Wisconsin State Capitol. The final round will be held in the Wisconsin Supreme Court Oral Hearing Room in the Wisconsin State Capitol. All of the facilities are no more than a four-block walk apart.

Transportation— Air

All teams and attendees are responsible for making their own transportation arrangements to attend the National High School Mock Trial Championship. Madison is easily accessible by air, bus or car. The Milwaukee, Chicago and Rockford, IL airports are all within a 2-hour drive of Madison. The Van Galder Bus Service also provides transportation between Chicago O'Hare (\$30 each way) and the Rockford airport (\$11 each way). Please visit their web site at www.coachusa.com/vangalder to get additional information and schedules. The following airlines serve the Dane County Regional Airport in Madison: American, Delta, Frontier and United.

Judging Panel Sign-up and Other Volunteers Sign-up

Attorneys and Judges interested in volunteering to judge the 2014 National High School Mock Trial Championship are encouraged to complete a volunteer form as soon as possible. Each round of the tournament will be judged by a panel comprised of one presiding judge and three scoring judges. All judging materials will be provided electronically to judging panel members several weeks prior to the Championship. An orientation will be provided on the days of the Championship for judges prior to the beginning of each round. Judges and attorneys may volunteer to judge one or more rounds at their convenience. Two rounds will be held on Friday, May 9 (one morning and one afternoon); and two

rounds on Saturday, May 10 (one morning and one afternoon). Please complete the form on this link www.wisbar.org/nationalmocktrial2014 to volunteer your time as a judge. Judges for the National High School Mock Trial Championship are required to have previously judged a minimum of two rounds of a mock trial competition. If you would like to volunteer as a judge for Nationals, please contact your local Mock Trial State Coordinator to volunteer at one of the state tournaments.

Volunteers are also needed to assist with all aspects of the National High School Mock Trial Championship. Volunteers will be needed to monitor courtrooms; staff the registration and information desk; staff information desks at each of the facilities; assist with meals for judging volunteers; collect score sheets; provide directions for team members and observers to locations; and oversee each of the events (Thursday evening Pin Exchange; Friday evening event; assist with the Judges' Reception; decorations for the Awards Gala; and chaperone the dance). Volunteers may sign up by completing the form on this page www.wisbar.org/nationalmocktrial2014. Volunteers may also sign up on the Tournament Registration Site at a later date. Additional information will be provided when the Online Tournament Registration opens.

We hope to see you in Madison for the 2014 National High School Mock Trial Championship!

**New information will be added to
the website regularly.**

**To sign-up for email updates, send
a blank email to:
subscribe-
national_mock_trial_2014@elists.w
isbar.org.**

A Word From Our Chair

By Dewain Fox



Just about a year ago in this column, I wrote these words:

“All of us in the mock trial community are very fortunate that--unlike many in our society--we regularly see and interact with the best and brightest of our high school students! We get to see the good things that they do, and we can forget, at least temporarily, all of the bad things that we hear about our country’s youth. During this holiday season, remember to give thanks for these students who are a true blessing in our lives.”

I want to take a moment to share some good news about one of the “best and brightest” of our former mock trial competitors--Vinay Nayak. I had the good fortune to serve on the scoring panel for the 2010 National Championship round in which Mr. Nayak’s team from Hinsdale Central High School in Illinois faced the team from Breck High School in Minnesota. Although Mr. Nayak’s team finished as the 2010 National Runner-Up, Mr. Nayak was awarded the Carl Oxholm III Outstanding Performance Award.

I recently learned from an internet search that Mr. Nayak--like many of the students who participate in the National High School Mock Trial Championship--went on to a successful college mock trial career at Yale. And what a success it has been! Although Mr. Nayak’s senior season still is under way, by my unofficial count, Mr. Nayak has been recognized as an outstanding attorney at four AMTA (American Mock Trial Association) invitational tournaments, three AMTA regional tournaments, two AMTA Opening Round Championship Series tournaments, and one AMTA National Championship Tournament.

While Mr. Nayak certainly is deserving of congratulations for an outstanding high school and collegiate mock trial career, his accomplishments outside of mock trial are even more commendable. On November 23, 2013, the Rhodes Trust announced that Mr. Nayak is one of only 32 Americans to be named a Rhodes Scholar for 2014. The following is from the biography released by the Rhodes Trust:

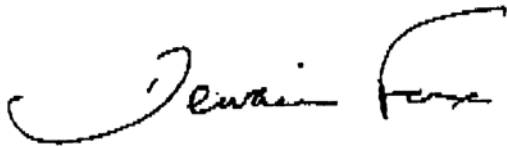
Vinay Nayak, Oak Brook, is a senior at Yale where he majors in political science. His academic work has focused on how the internet can be used to enhance citizen engagement in elections, government and policymaking. He has also applied these interests to political campaigns, including the Obama 2012 re-election campaign where he managed many national digital programs and social media

accounts. Vinay also interned for the White House Office on Digital Strategy and managed the social media presence for Sandy Hook Elementary School parents whose children lost their lives. He has won many Yale prizes, and in forensics and debate was chosen as National Oratory Champion. Vinay plans to do the master of public policy at Oxford.

Congratulations, Vinay, on your prestigious honor! All of us in the mock trial community look forward to hearing about your future accomplishments.

The Board likes to recognize former National High School Mock Trial Championship competitors like Vinay Nayak for their extraordinary achievements. If you hear about an honor deserving of such recognition, please drop the Board a note or post on our Facebook page so that we can keep the entire mock trial community apprised of all the great things that our former competitors are doing.

Finally, I wish every one of you a blessed holiday season, and look forward to seeing you in Madison in May!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dewain Fox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a long, horizontal stroke for the "F".

Dewain Fox, Board Chair

**Visit our Facebook page:
National High School Mock Trial
Championship**

Nationals 2015 Host North Carolina!

“Everyone is coming to Raleigh:” May 2015

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

After a trial laced with hearsay, Sir Walter Raleigh, who conducted his own defense (perhaps an unwise decision), was convicted of treason and eventually beheaded. The national high school mock trial championship will come to the city named for him May 14-16, 2015.



The Carolina Center for Civic Education, which operates North Carolina’s high school mock trial program, will host the event. We pledge to provide an exciting competition with no fear of decapitations. The new Wake County Courthouse opened on schedule in 2013 and will be the site of the competition. The Final Round will likely be held in the United States Courthouse, only a few blocks from the county courthouse. Rooms are available at the Marriott Raleigh City Center (\$145.00 per night) and Sheraton Raleigh Hotel (\$129.00 per night), both of which are within two blocks of the competition site.

The Campbell University school of Law, which hosts the finals of our state competition, is also only a short walk from the hotels and courthouse and will be a venue for some activities. The Judges Reception will likely be held in the rotunda of the law school. The always-anticipated Pin Exchange, which will also include an Opening Ceremony for the tournament, will be at the Sheraton. The Awards Ceremony will be on Saturday evening at the Raleigh Convention Center, which is adjacent to the hotels.

Downtown Raleigh is vibrant and offers a wide range of entertainment venues, restaurants, and other establishments. Artsposure, an annual downtown celebration and festival of artists and artisans, will coincide with nationals and provide scores of venues for amusement.

CCCE enjoys strong support from many local judges, including Justices on the Supreme Court of North Carolina and Judges on the North Carolina Court of Appeals. The historic building that houses the Supreme Court is only a few blocks from the competition headquarters, as are the newly renovated home of the Court of Appeals and the Capitol. Work is underway on what we hope will be an exciting and challenging case. While other activities are in the planning stages, it bears remembering that North Carolina is the birthplace of Pepsi, the home of barbecue, and the source of that culinary delight: collards. These treats, along with others, are sure to make an appearance during the social events.

The CCCE and the local bench and bar eagerly anticipate the May 2015 event. Renowned southern hospitality awaits you.

NHSMTC Committee Updates

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 Don Christensen (NV) and the Secretary is Laura Wesley (CA).

Site Selection Committee

Stacy Rieke, Committee Chair

The committee reported that the 2015 site will be in North Carolina and the 2016 site will be in Idaho. A host Organization is needed for 2017 and beyond! Is your state mock trial organization interested in hosting the NHSMTC in the future? We have openings for hosts starting in 2017! If your organization would like to learn more about how to host the NHSMTC in 2017 or beyond, contact Stacy at stacy.rieke@henry.k12.ga.us.

Case Committee

Paul Kaufman, Committee Chair

The committee is pleased to announce this year's case topic, can you say
"Brains... Brains... Brains..."

Nominating Committee

David Berlin, Committee Chair

A scheduled election will be held during the State Coordinators' meeting on May 9th in Indianapolis. There are 5 at-large Board positions up for election this year. According to the by-laws, interested candidates are to submit their letter of intent to run to the Nomination Committee Chair (David Berlin) no later than March 14, 2014. Submissions can be emailed to dberl@duhigglaw.com.

Awards Committee

Cynthia Cothran, Committee Chair

Announcing **The Larry Bakko Professionalism and Civility Award**. The *Larry Bakko Professionalism and Civility Award* is sponsored by the National High School Mock Trial Championship and was created to highlight the importance of professionalism among teams participating in our national tournament while honoring Larry Bakko's passion and dedication for Mock Trial.

The Team Professionalism Award nomination ballot will be included in your team's registration packet. During the competition experience, your team and coaches will observe other participating teams and, using a subjective process, will nominate another team to be considered for the Larry Bakko Professionalism and Civility Award. Teams may take into account the behavior of students, coaches and spectators associated with other teams when making a nomination for this award.

Teams may not campaign for this award. When discussing this award with students, it is hoped that coaches will emphasize the importance of professional behavior inside and outside the courtroom throughout the competition. The discussion of this award will provide you with an excellent opportunity to review the Code of Ethical Conduct and the Rules of the Competition that deal with ethics and decorum. Discussions about this award will provide coaches the opportunity to discuss the high standards of professionalism attorneys are held to as members of the Bar.

The qualities that teams nominated for the award must demonstrate include:

- A professional demeanor
- Civility
- Integrity
- Honesty
- Fair play
- Respect for the court
- Respect for opposing counsel
- Respect for the client

Each team must submit one team ballot nominating another team for the Professionalism Award. A team may not nominate itself. A team may nominate another team that they competed against in one of their rounds, or not, as it sees fit. The NBSMTC Board of Directors will not recommend a particular process by which each team determines their nomination, but suggests that coaches take student input into account when completing the nomination ballot. How a team reaches the decision to nominate another team for this award is completely within the purview of that team.

All ballots are due before a team leaves the courthouse and after the fourth round on Saturday. Ballots will be submitted to the courtroom liaison and turned in with the scoresheets. Do not exit the building before submitting the Larry Bakko Professionalism and Civility Award nomination ballot. For questions regarding this award, contact Cynthia H. Cothran at (803) 576-3788 or ccothran@scbar.org prior to the competition.

Rules Committee

Pete Jones, Committee Chair

The National Board adopted two changes to the rules governing the national championship tournament at its meeting on October 12. First, Rule of Evidence 803(6)(D), deleting the reference to Rules of Evidence 902(11) and 902(12), which do not exist in mock trial. Two changes were made to Rule 4.11, relating to supplemental materials. The first makes clear that roster forms cannot be modified by teams, for example to add pictures of the team members. Only that information called for on the roster forms provided with the competition materials may be included. The second change clarifies an ambiguity regarding whether materials in the case can be marked by the teams during the trial. The amended Rule 4.11 makes clear the limited circumstances under which such markings can be made and the limited use to which such marked documents may be put during trial.

New Rule of Evidence 803 (6)(D) now reads:

- (6) Records of a Regularly Conducted Activity. A record of an act, event, condition, opinion, or diagnosis if:
- (A) the record was made at or near the time by — or from information transmitted by — someone with knowledge;
 - (B) the record was kept in the course of a regularly conducted activity of a business, organization, occupation, or calling, whether or not for profit;
 - (C) making the record was a regular practice of that activity;
 - (D) all these conditions are shown by the testimony of the custodian or another qualified witness; and
 - (E) neither the source of information nor the method or circumstances of preparation indicate a lack of trustworthiness.

New Rule of Competition 4.11 now reads:

Supplemental Material; Costuming

Teams may refer only to materials included in the trial packet. No illustrative aids of any kind may be used, unless provided in the case packet. No enlargements of the case materials will be permitted. Absolutely no props or costumes are permitted unless authorized specifically in the case materials. Costuming is defined as hairstyles, clothing, accessories, and make-up which are case-specific.

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.



WE THE PEOPLE

By William R. Sieben

President, Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates

“We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

These 52 words begin the document that has guided governance of the United States since September 17, 1787, and defined what it means to be an American. With just 27 amendments, the Constitution has held our country together for 226 years.

The Constitution was written by 55 men who came together in Philadelphia to create a Constitution that would replace the failing Articles of Confederation. The writers had a great sense of purpose – to save our country from failure.

The first 10 amendments to the Constitution — the Bill of Rights — were added by 1791, as an "Operator's Manual" and explained how the Constitution should be used. They assured our rights were clearly stated, including better definitions of due process (basic fairness), and they gave the people a clear voice in governing. We have a right to free expression, as a result, and we have the right to confront an accuser and to try our case before a jury.

In 1865 when the 13th and 14th Amendments were passed, with the rights granted by the Constitution and the first 10 Amendments, the states also had to treat us fairly with due process, and slavery was abolished.

Many of the rights derived from our Constitutional battles are still threatened every day, perhaps none more so than the 6th and 7th Amendments, which give us the right to a trial by a jury in all civil and criminal cases. We are in danger of losing the critical checks and balances that our founders believed were at the center of our justice system, embodied in a jury trial, where we speak our minds and express our values.

The American Board of Trial Advocates and its educational foundation are committed to teaching young Americans, lawyers, judges, legislators and our Executive Branch of government about the right to trial by jury – a critical freedom that defines the American experience and makes us the envy of the world.

We have made a number of sources available to students. Check out

- **Justice by the People:** A great source to learn about your rights and responsibilities as citizens. www.scholastic.com/americanjustice
- **James Otis Lecture Series:** Held for high school students on Constitution Day every September 17. Go to www.abota.org to register for an event in your area.
- **We the Jury:** Have fun deciding a tough case while learning about what jurors discuss in the deliberation room. Choose from different civil cases, analyze evidence, weigh testimony, and use the right arguments to reach a fair and impartial verdict. Go to: www.icivics.org, select “Judicial Branch.”

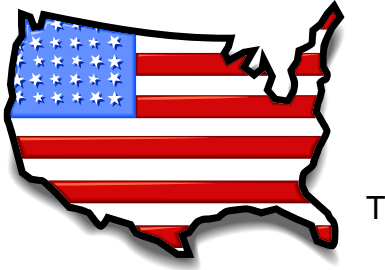
"We" are the people and we must stand for the essential elements of democracy!

One of six generations of Siebens, Bill Sieben comes from a family steeped in Minnesota law and politics for more than 100 years. Bill is a native of Hastings, Minn. He graduated magna cum laude from St. Cloud State University in 1973 and William Mitchell College of Law in 1977.

The ABOTA Foundation is an affiliated charitable entity, the mission of which is to support civic education through education and research. For more information, contact Brian Tyson at (800) 932-2682; briant@abota.org. Or go to www.abota.org.

ABOTA is a proud sponsor of the 2014 National High School Mock Trial Championship





News and Notes From Around the Nation

Arkansas

By Crystal Newton, Arkansas Bar Association

It's Mock Trial season, and there are a lot of changes in Arkansas this year! Traditionally, the Arkansas competition held single-elimination tournaments on a Regional and State level. In an effort to provide more trial time and a better experience for our students, we will be hosting a two-day round robin tournament in Little Rock on Friday, February 21, 2014 and Saturday, February 22, 2014. There will be three preliminary rounds of competition, and the championship round will be held Saturday evening. This is a big change for our state, and we will need to recruit twice as many volunteers to serve as presiding and scoring judges for the competition. We have been successful in our recruitment efforts so far, so we're optimistic about getting the number of volunteers we need this year.

Our registration opened in September, and case materials were released October 22. Our case is an aggravated assault case, adapted from a case originally published by Georgia. The students are already excited, and I can't wait to see it in the courtroom.

The Mock Trial Committee was contacted by an attorney coach that would like to start a suit project for Mock Trial students. She plans on organizing a donation program, making suits available to students that may not be able to purchase one. She heard about similar programs in other states (kudos to those of you that are already doing this!) and was motivated to get her team involved in collecting and distributing the suits. She is working out the logistics, but the Arkansas Mock Trial Committee will be in support of her efforts and will be spreading the word. The suits will be given to students in need. Not only can the students use the suits for the Mock Trial Competition, but also for college and business interviews! This is a great public service project – if anyone is currently doing this, and would like to give us some tips please feel free to contact me at cnewton@arkbar.com. Feel free to follow us on Twitter @ArkBarMT

California

By Lourdes Morales, Constitutional Rights Foundation

Constitutional Rights Foundation is excited to host its 33rd Annual California Mock Trial state finals in San Jose, March 21st- 23rd. The program currently involves 36 California counties and over 8,000 students. This year's case is *People v. Concha*, a case involving the crime of murder and illegal prescription drug use, with a pretrial argument involving the Fourth Amendment. The program has grown to include courtroom journalists and courtroom artists.

Once again, Los Angeles County and San Luis Obispo County are thrilled to continue to host local competitions for 1,000 middle school students. It's a great opportunity to introduce students to the high school program and get them engaged in our legal system!

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



Colorado

By Meghan S. Bush, Colorado Bar Association and Denver Bar Association

The Colorado Bar Association High School Mock Trial Committee released its original case problem on November 1, 2013. This year, the committee collaborated with a national awareness initiative on Distracted Driving called ENDDD. Check out their website at <http://endddd.org/>. The case problem was inspired by this initiative in hopes to teach students the consequences of distracted driving. On June 26, 2013, Cody Ortiz, a student at Golden High School drove into an intersection in Golden, Colorado, while, at the same time Elliot Cook, a working parent at the Colorado School of Mines, started to cross through the intersection on a bicycle. The two collided and Elliot Cook was hurt. Right before driving into the intersection, Cody Ortiz looked down at a text message that had just come through on Cody's smart phone. While riding into the intersection, Elliot Cook was talking on Elliot's smart phone. Both parties claim the other one had a red light. Two witnesses, Finley Bush and Sawyer Beard, saw the accident, but both have their own biases. Finley Bush doesn't like Cody Ortiz, and Sawyer Beard doesn't like bicyclists. Skylar Turner, an expert on distracted driving, blames the accident on Cody Ortiz. Parker Madden, an accident reconstructionist, says it was Elliot Cook's fault. Who's at fault?

Additionally, we wanted to do more with the ENDDD initiative. Attorney volunteers will be trained and assigned to schools to speak about the END initiative. We have a goal of 10,000 students to reach and have sign the pledge to end distracted driving.

Georgia

By Michael Nixon, State Bar of Georgia

The Georgia High School Mock Trial Competition registered 133 teams for the 2014 season which will compete in 16 Regions across the State. The season started with the 16th annual Law Academy, held at the State Bar of Georgia's conference facilities over the weekend of September 19-22. We hosted 29 students from around the State for large and small group sessions led by attorneys and judges involved with the program on all manner of topics to help the students improve all areas of their mock trial skills.

This year's case of *Georgia v. Pyke* was released in early October and centers around the murder of a loan shark who was thrown to his death off the city's parking garage structure. The defendant is a local drug dealer, who says he left the meeting with the victim alive and saw someone else push him over from across the deck. Two witnesses see the push but disagree on the pusher. The students will have various crime scene photos to work with this season. We will also be hosting the annual Court Artist contest again this season, hopefully bringing the State Champion Artist to Madison.

The program made a big adjustment to the season's schedule with the addition of the District level of competitions. After the Regional competitions take place January 25 & February 1, the top three teams from each Region will advance to the District Competitions on February 22 to decide the District Champion and move on to the State Finals Tournament. While the State Finals Tournament will now have 8 teams (down from the 18 in season's past), the addition of the District Competition gives 48 teams a chance at competition beyond Regionals compared to the 18 last season. In addition, teams will have to go through more competitions to reach the State Finals weekend on March 15. We are excited about our expanded competition schedule and having many more teams compete deep into February.

Illinois

By Marley Nelson, Illinois State Bar Association

Indiana high school students throughout the state are learning about steroids in athletics and the criminal repercussions of perjury when the defendant Chase Gold is accused of lying about steroid use prior to an Olympic track time trial. The defendant claims that a massage therapist used a cream containing steroids in order to sabotage the defendant's Olympic prospects and lucrative career.

Nevada

By Kathleen M. Dickinson, State Bar of Nevada

Our Nevada Mock Trial season began September 15th 2013 when our case, State of Nevada vs. Dustin Beaver was sent out to registered teachers and teams. We have 15 teams in Southern Nevada and 8 teams in Northern Nevada. The Regional competitions will be February 8th 2014 in Las Vegas; February 21st in Reno; and the State Competition will be March 7th and March 8th in Las Vegas. We had a Mock Trial Workshop on October 19, 2013 at Canyon Springs High School's courtroom for new Mock Trial teachers, coaches and students. We were happy with the turnout of 22 students, 8 teachers, and then 8 presenters and coordinators who covered Direct Exam; Cross Exam; Objections; Openings and Closings. We provided pizza for everyone.



Michigan

Center for Civic Education

Registration is underway for the 31st annual Michigan High School Mock Trial Tournament. We continue to move ahead with our plan for expansion and increased participation for MHSMTT and have added a new Regional Tournament at the Macomb County Circuit Court. We are now pleased to offer four regional tournaments across Michigan (twice the number of two years ago). The top ten teams from the Regional Tournaments will compete at the State Finals on March 29 at Veteran's Courthouse in Lansing, our state capitol.

This expansion is made possible through funding support from the State Bar of Michigan, the Oakland County Bar Foundation, the Litigation Section, State Bar of Michigan, and the Macomb County Bar Foundation.

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.

Our annual Mock Trial Clinic for students will be held November 21 at Cooley Law School's Auburn Hills campus. Students may also attend via distance-education video conference at the Cooley Law School campuses in Grand Rapids or Ann Arbor.

We look forward to another terrific year with the Michigan High School Mock Trial Tournament. You can learn more about our program at <http://miciviced.org/mock-trial/2014-mhsmtt-tournament>.

North Carolina

By Sue Johnson

Many exciting developments are taking place in North Carolina as we work to expand our program and prepare for hosting Nationals in 2015. We held our first-ever 3 day summer mock trial camps at two locations (Fayetteville and Chapel Hill), which enrolled nearly three times as many students as we had anticipated! Judges and attorneys volunteered their time to lead sessions on all aspects of mock trial, and students put their knowledge into practice by presenting one side of a camp competition case as a culminating activity. Parents and family members were very impressed by all that their students had accomplished in such a short time period.

The camps generated great enthusiasm leading into the start of the season, and we have already registered 81 teams, with an anticipated final enrollment approaching 90 teams (an increase of 25% over 2012-13 if current trends hold). Seventeen of the teams are brand-new to the program this year, and another fourteen teams are only in their second year of participation. Grant funding has allowed us to develop additional training materials and offer free on-site team training sessions for new schools, which has been pivotal in our Outreach Project success.

Written as an original case for this year's competition, *State of Utopia v. Quinn Penner* is a criminal case in which a police officer is charged with the murder of a local drug dealer. The case introduces students to a number of interesting topics, including parkour ("free-running") and forensic analysis. We again were able to draw upon local connections and expertise, as Maher "Max" Noureddine, PhD and President of ForensiGen, LLC, assisted with the description of DNA analysis.

Students will compete at eight Regional competition sites statewide on Feb. 1, 2014, with the regional winners advancing to state finals on Feb. 28 – March 1. The CCCE is very grateful to all of our regional and state finals sponsors, Campbell Law School (our state finals host), the North Carolina Advocates for Justice, and our Outreach Project sponsors for their ongoing support of our mock trial program.

New Jersey

By Sheila Boro, New Jersey State Bar Foundation

Late on a rainy evening in April, a car with two young occupants, Sid Sawyer and Cathy Sawyer, crashed into a tree on a desolate road. Cathy, Sid's sister, was ejected from the vehicle and died soon thereafter. But who was driving the car that tragic night – Cathy or Sid? High school mock trial teams in New Jersey will tackle that question in *State v. Sid Sawyer*. This year's original problem more closely resembles a real case with transcripts of witness interviews. For more information about the 2013-2014 Vincent J. Apruzzese High School Mock Trial Competition, visit the Foundation's website, www.njsbf.org.



Ohio

By **Todd Burch**

The Ohio Center for Law-Related Education will hold the 31st annual Ohio High School Mock Trial competition in 2013-14. Ohio Mock Trial is based on an original case written by a team of volunteer attorneys. This year, students will argue *Phillips School District v. Jesse Springfield, et al.* In this case, the school agrees to license naming rights to its field to a large corporation. Students then organize to protest this action both in school and on the field itself. The school district responds by installing security cameras and searching the lockers of the students involved as well as filing an action to remove the students from the field. The students claim the school district has violated their First and Fourth Amendment rights.

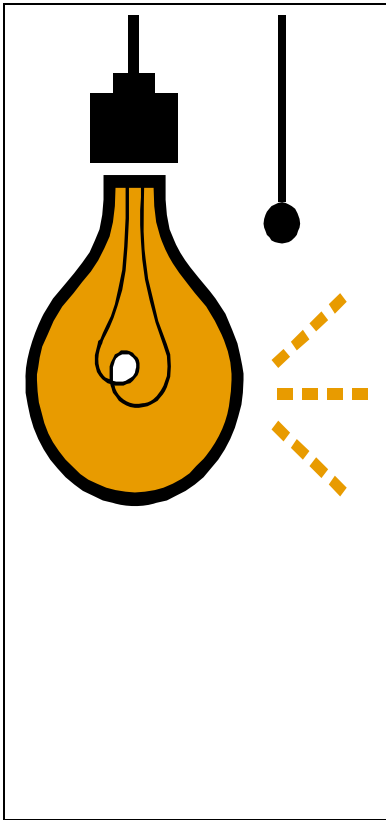
It is expected that more than 350 teams and 3000 students will participate in addition to approximately 1000 volunteer attorneys who serve as committee members, team advisors and judges. Teams will compete in up to three levels of competition at more than 40 sites across the state. Ohio Mock Trial will hold its State Championship on March 6th - 8th, 2014 in Columbus. OCLRE is sponsored by the Ohio State Bar Association, Ohio Supreme Court, Ohio Attorney General and American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio Foundation. The Mock Trial competition is made possible, in part, by a grant 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/>

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

stacy.rieke@henry.k12.ga.us



Mandatory State Coordinators Survey and Membership Dues

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

- 1) Complete the National Coordinator's Survey by April 11th (The survey will be emailed to coordinators in early 2014)
- and
- 2) Pay a \$250 membership fee, due January 15th. The membership fee is separate and in addition to a team's \$500 tournament fee due April 18th.

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. See Invoice at the end of the newsletter.

Law Related Resources

American Bar Association - Division for Public Education

The mission of the ABA Division for Public Education is to promote public understanding of law and its role in society.

http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education.html

Bill of Rights in Action (BRIA)

BRIA is a free resource for social studies teachers. Each lesson includes a content reading and interactive classroom activity. Search the online database for topics such as due process, equal protection and the first amendment.

<http://www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/>

Justice by the People

A website sponsored by Scholastic and the Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) that provides free classroom materials, games and pintables'. www.scholastic.com/americanjustice

Make Your Case

Make Your Case is an interactive mock trial online game featured on Scholastic/ABOTA's Justice by the People website. Take part in this courtroom trial simulation and learn how important trials are to the American legal system: <http://www.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3752426>

May It Please the Court

A video/print guide resource for mock trial teams offered by the Georgia mock trial office. An order form may be found on the NHSMTTC website (<http://www.nationalmocktrial.org/about.cfm>) under the "About the Competition section." The cost is \$40/copy.

Washington YMCA Youth and Government Website

YMCA Youth & Government has a multitude of resources to ensure that adults and students alike have the greatest opportunity for success. Check them out today!

<http://www.seattleyymca.org/Locations/YouthAndGovernment/Pages/MockTrial.aspx>

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. To get the log-in information or update a program's coordinator contact information, the state coordinator should contact Dewain Fox at dfox@shermanhoward.com.

<http://www.nationalmocktrial.org/casesearch.cfm>

NHSMTTC Championship Round DVDs

- Order the 2010 championship round DVD (PA-Criminal Case) online at <http://www.2010nationalmocktrial.com/>.
- Order the 2011 championship round DVD 2011 (AZ-Civil case) online at <http://www.azflse.org/mocktrial/2011>
- Order the 2012 championship round DVD 2012 (NM-Criminal case) by email: mocktrial@civicvalues.org
- Order the 2013 championship round DVD 2013 (IN-Civil case) by email skroberts@inmocktrial.com



NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

DUES REMINDER

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP MEMBERSHIP

Membership dues of \$250 are due **January 15th** from each participating mock trial program.

Please note: The membership dues are separate and in addition to your state champion team's \$500 tournament registration fee. The tournament registration fee is due April 18th, and made payable to The State Bar of Wisconsin/National Mock Trial Fund. Both fees are required for participation in the tournament (see the updated Articles and Bylaws posted online).

Checks for the MEMBERSHIP DUES should be made payable to NHSMTC, Inc. and mailed to:

NHSMTC, Inc.
Don Christensen, Treasurer
1285 Baring Blvd. #148, Sparks,
NV 89434
Email: donchristensen1908@gmail.com

Return payment with the form below:



*Please help us keep our records current by completing the information below.
Please note: This is your contact information that will appear in the NHSMTC directory.

State/Territory/Country: _____

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____



NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

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**For a complete list of Committee Assignments, visit our website www.nationalmocktrial.org*

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

For more information about the 2014 NHSMTTC Tournament, visit our website at:

<http://nationalmocktrial2014.wisbar.org>

Judging Panel Volunteers Needed for the 2014 National Tournament in Wisconsin!

To volunteer visit the web site <http://nationalmocktrial2014.wisbar.org>