

MOCK TRIAL MATTERS

www.nationalmocktrial.org

CALENDAR

North Carolina is in the Eastern Time Zone

April 1— National Case Release.

April 15—Deadlines

- Online team registration
- Online event ticket orders
- Tournament schedule adjustment
- Last day to update registration
- Mandatory Coordinator Survey

*Practice Rooms and Photo schedule is open now (See NHSMT 2015 welcome page)

April 17—Deadline

- Hotel reservations

April 18—Deadline

- Payment for registration and event tickets

April 25— Noon Deadline

- To submit all case and rule questions

May 14-16—

National Tournament, Raleigh, North Carolina

May 14—State Coordinators Meeting; Timekeeper Orientation; Coaches Orientation and Team Pin Exchange

May 15— Rounds 1 & 2; Judges' Reception; Student Scavenger Hunt

May 16—Rounds 3 & 4; Championship Round; Awards Gala & Dance.

May 17— Scoring Ballots available for state Coordinator pick-up.



2015 National High School Mock Trial Championship May 14-16—Raleigh North Carolina

WELCOME TO RALEIGH!

By M. Gordon Widenhouse, 2015 Host Director

The National High School Mock Trial Championship is just around the corner. We in North Carolina are working on the final phases of welcoming you to Raleigh in just a few weeks.

You can begin to anticipate the many items Raleigh offers, including numerous museums, ample restaurants where you can partake of traditional Southern delicacies, and the entertainment provided by many artists during Raleigh's annual Artsposure. The Scavenger Hunt on Friday evening will take you on a multi-stop trek through downtown that hits many of the local highlights.

Raleigh is the City of Oaks. A large sculpture of an acorn guards one of the downtown parks. It is dropped every New Year's Eve at midnight. A statue of the town's namesake, Sir Walter Raleigh, moves around the downtown area.

Each year, Raleigh hosts the always-enjoyable Artsposure, which happily coincides with this year's NHSMT. It will provide opportunities to experience some of the best in local visual and musical art experiences in very informal settings throughout the downtown area, all of which are easily accessible from the host hotels (which are beginning to see a rise in reservations for people coming to NHSMT in May).

The trials on Friday and Saturday will be held at the new Wake County courthouse (in two connected buildings), the nearby Campbell Law School, and the North Carolina State Bar.



The Championship Round will be in the ceremonial courtroom in the Wake County Courthouse, a beautiful large courtroom.

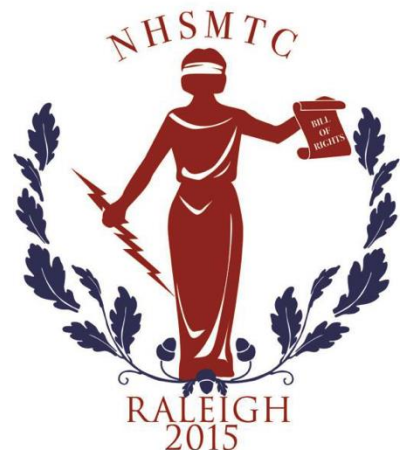
There are two host hotels, the Marriott and Sheraton. Both are within two blocks of the courthouse and are next door to the Raleigh Convention Center (site of the Saturday Awards gala). Rooms will be available on Wednesday and Thursday for team practices as well as the meetings of the National Board and the State Coordinators.

On Thursday evening, the Pin Exchange will be at the Sheraton. It will include a buffet of Southern cuisine and intermittent entertainment by circus performers, both indoors and outdoors. The Honorable Paul Newby, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, will make some remarks at the Pin Exchange. Justice Newby was actively involved in the litigation that provided the inspiration for this year's case. His presentation will add important historical background that will breathe life into the case before the trials on Friday and Saturday.

On Friday evening, there will be a scavenger hunt in the downtown area in conjunction with Raleigh's annual Artsposure celebration. Food trucks in the area especially for attendees of the competition. There will be a reception for judges and lawyers on Friday evening at the North Carolina State Bar, which is also in downtown Raleigh. The Honorable Mark Martin, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina will briefly welcome people at the reception

On Saturday evening, the Awards Ceremony will include a dessert buffet, followed by a dance, in the Raleigh Convention Center next door to the Sheraton and Marriott. We have some very special guests who will be at this closing portion of the championship. These people will make the dessert buffet a truly memorable event for everyone involved. In addition, Creative Visions, a local production company with ties to North Carolina mock trials, will be providing the technical support for the Award Ceremony, which will guarantee an enjoyable visual and audio experience for all.

Our website for the NHSMTTC 2015 is online. We look forward to welcoming you to Raleigh in May.



Where to Find It in Raleigh

HOTELS



Sheraton Raleigh Hotel—The Sheraton is one of the two headquarters for the Championship and is located two blocks from the courthouse. Registration and most of the scrimmages as well as the pin exchange will take place at the Sheraton. The hotel is located at 421 South Salisbury Street, Raleigh NC 27601. For reservations call 800-325-3535 and reference the National High School Mock Trial Championship.



Raleigh Marriott City Center— The Marriott is one of the headquarters for the Championship and is located two blocks from the courthouse. Several of the scrimmages will take place here as well as the pre-tournament meetings. The hotel is located at 500 Fayetteville Street, Raleigh NC 27601. For reservations call 800-2289290 and reference the National High School Mock Trial Group.

TRANSPORTATION

Air

All teams and attendees are responsible for making their own transportation arrangements to attend the Championship. The Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU) is located 15 miles from downtown Raleigh.

Ground

Neither hotel provides shuttles. McLauren Transportation will provide transportation for \$10.00 per person. Click on [reservations](#) to secure your special rate.

A Word From Our Chair

By Dewain Fox



One of my former mock trial students who lives in the United Kingdom returned to Phoenix recently for a visit. Her visit gave me the terrific opportunity to have a small mock trial reunion of sorts--reminiscing with some very special people, and reflecting on some of the life-changing relationships I've built over the years through mock trial.

For a little background, I coached Megan Nielsen and Lance Broberg through four years of high school and four years of college mock trial. They were on the team that won the 1997 National Championship after finishing in second place at the 1996 National Championship. Both continued on to law school at the University of Arizona in Tucson, where they both met their future

spouses.

Megan met James, a pilot with the Royal Air Force who was training with the U.S. Air Force in Tucson. Several years ago, I attended their beautiful wedding ceremony in a castle near Canterbury, England. Megan and James are now the parents of a lovely 18-month old daughter. Megan and her family currently reside in Scotland, where Megan continues to practice law.

Lance married Tiffany, a fellow law student. They now have two young sons, and both practice law in Arizona. Lance, who always was a natural in the courtroom, is developing into a first-rate trial lawyer. Lance and Tiffany also are regional coordinators with me for the Arizona High School Mock Trial Program.

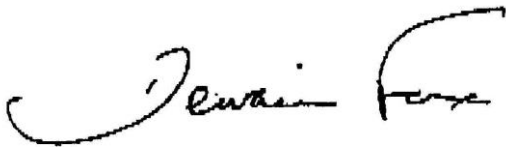
Also attending our mini-reunion was Bill Gates (not *that* Bill Gates) with his wife Pam and their two daughters. Bill was the leader of the first mock trial team I coached to advance to the National Championship--more than 25 years ago. Even as a high school student, it was obvious that Bill was destined to accomplish great things. Bill continued with mock trial in college in Iowa, where he met Pam. Bill and Pam relocated back to Arizona after Bill graduated from Harvard Law School and Pam graduated from law school at the University of Iowa. When I retired from coaching high school mock trial in 1997, Bill and Pam took over--and coached the team (which included Megan and Lance) to victory at the 1997 National Championship. After Bill and Pam retired from coaching, they served for many years as regional coordinators for the Arizona High

School Mock Trial Program. Bill now serves on the Phoenix City Council (in addition to practicing law in-house), and Pam is a judge on the Maricopa County Superior Court.

So, why am I telling you about my get-together with these three wonderful families? First, I like to celebrate former mock trial students who have achieved professional and personal success. Second, and more importantly, it amazes me how mock trial creates life-changing relationships that last lifetimes. In short, Mock Trial Matters.

I know that, through mock trial, most of you also have formed long-term relationships with other state coordinators, with teacher and attorney coaches in your program, and even with former mock trial students. As we gather in Raleigh in just over a month for the 2015 National Championship, I hope that you will take the opportunity to renew your old relationships and build some new lasting relationships.

Kim and I look forward to seeing all of you in Raleigh. Safe travels!

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 flourish at the end.

Dewain Fox, Board Chair

**For more information about the
2015 NHSMTTC Tournament, visit
our [2015 NHSMTTC Website](#)**

2016 National Host

National Mock Trial Comes to Boise, Idaho

By Carey Shoufler, Idaho
2016 Host Director



The host organization for the 2016 National High School Mock Trial Championship is the Idaho Law Foundation, coordinated by its Law Related Education Program. Law Related Education oversees many civic education activities, including Idaho's High School Mock Trial Program.

The hub for the competition will be the Boise Centre on the Grove, centrally located in Downtown Boise. Our registration and information desk will be at the Centre. The Centre will also have rooms for practice sessions and will likely host team meals on Fridays and Saturdays.

Boise is home to the gorgeous Ada County Courthouse, which has committed to the use of up to 27 courtrooms during the first four rounds of the competition on Friday and Saturday. Saturday's championship round will be held in the main hearing room at the newly renovated Idaho Statehouse.

The main hotel for the event will be The Grove Hotel, but to cover the number of rooms we will need, the National Host Committee has also booked blocks of rooms at other hotels in the downtown corridor. All hotels offer free shuttle service from the Boise Airport.

Boise's mock trial event will provide fun activities for teams and volunteers. The Pin Exchange will be held on Thursday evening on the Basque Block, which includes the Basque Museum. Basque food will be served and we are working to get some Basque dancers to come and perform that evening. Thursday night's Judges'

Reception will be held at Holland & Hart, a northwest regional law firm with offices in Boise that has just opened up new offices with a spectacular view of the foothills surrounding Boise. And finally, the Awards Gala will be hosted Saturday evening at the Boise Centre on the Grove. We have planned a dessert bar before the awards ceremony and a dance for teams after the ceremony.

Our case committee has been working hard on developing the 2016 mock trial case. The case will include lots of rich Idaho history and culture.

The Idaho Law Foundation looks forward to hosting the 2016 National High School Mock Trial Championship. We are excited to share our Boise community with the mock trial nation, highlighting our courts and our beautiful state as we plan a memorable event for teams, their families, state coordinators, and the many volunteers who will visit us.

We anticipate having our 2016 national mock trial website up and running by this coming September. In the meantime, we will be posting updates on our [Idaho Mock Trial Facebook page](#). Feel free to like our page if you want to be kept in the loop.

See you in the City of Trees in 2016!

Required Tournament Meetings

State Coordinators' Business Meeting

Thursday, May 14 (1:30-3:30 PM Marriott, Congressional A)

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 14 (4:00-5:00 PM Marriott, Chancellor Room)

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 14 (4:00-5:00 PM Marriott, Congressional B)

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.

Coordinators' Round Table Discussion

The 2015 Coordinator's Round Table Discussion will be held on May 14th at the Marriott Hotel from 12:30-1:30 pm in Congressional A. 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

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: NHSMTC2015@gmail.com A running list of answers to submitted questions will be posted weekly on every Friday afternoon thru April 24 at: <https://www.ncmocktrial.org/nationals2015/case> The final version of the 2015 case materials will be posted online on April 30th.

2015 Spring Board Election



A scheduled election will be held during the State Coordinators' meeting on May 14th in Raleigh. There are four seats open for election this year. According to the by-laws, interested candidates were to submit their letter of intent to run to the Board Chair (Dewain Fox) no later than March 15, 2015. 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 14, 2015. 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).

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

NHSMTC Committee Work Summary

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

The governing body of the NHSMTC, Inc. is the Board of Directors of the NHSMTC. The 2014-2015 Chair of the Board is Dewain Fox (AZ), the Vice Chair is Emily Reilly (IL), the Treasurer is Paul Kaufman (PA) 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 is responsible for collecting and maintaining paper and electronic documents and items relevant to the history of the NHSMTC, Inc. Additionally, paper and/or electronic copies of NHSMTC team registration materials, pre and post host reports and other such items as the committee deems appropriate are collected annually. This committee meets as needed and is chaired by Ms. Wilcox (WI).

Articles & By-Laws Committee—This committee reviews and develops the by-laws that govern the NHSMTC, Inc. and meets as needed and is chaired by David Berlin (NM).

Awards Committee—This committee is responsible for soliciting and considering nominations for the Gene Franchini Golden Gavel Award. The committee makes recommendations to the Board for the recipient of this award and determines its presentation. Cynthia Cothran (SC) serves as chair.

Case Committee—This committee has the authority to give final approval to a host committee's case materials. The committee reviews drafts of case materials to ensure suitability and compliance with National policies, rules and guidelines. The committee has also been tasked with preparing and having ready in reserve one problem for use at the NHSMTC, in the event the case prepared by the host committee is deemed unusable or in the event no host state is identified in a given year. This committee meets as needed and currently Paul Kaufman (PA) serves as chair. Coaches may not serve as members of this committee.

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

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

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 Emily Reilly (WI) serves as chair. The committee is responsible for establishing the technological requirements for the competition and 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 2014-15 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 (WI) serves as chair.

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.

Nominating Committee—This committee is responsible for encouraging submission of nominations for Board membership and recommending a slate of officers to the Board. It is also responsible for the training and education of new Board members. The committee meets as needed. Currently David Berlin (NM) serves as chair.

Policy Committee—This committee sets policies regarding the conduct of NHSMTC business and the role of Board members and member organizations. This committee meets as needed and currently Paul Kaufman (PA) serves as chair.

Publicity/Public Relations Committee—This committee is responsible for promoting mock trial and encouraging greater involvement in the NHSMTC. It also maintains a relationship with media providers and develops guidelines regarding that relationship. This committee meets as needed and currently is chaired by Carey Shoufler (ID).

Rules Committee—This committee reviews the current competition rules and the modified Rules of Evidence used in the NHSMTC and makes recommendations for modification. This committee meets as needed and currently Pete Jones (DE) serves as chair.

Site Selection Committee—This committee works with prospective host organizations to put together bid packages. The committee reviews host proposals and makes recommendations to the full Board of Directors about those proposals. This committee meets as needed and currently Gordon Widenhouse (NC) serves as chair.

News and Notes From Around the Nation

Arizona
By Susan Nusall



Former Mock Trial Student gives back to mock trial coach.

John Cosden, a Valley mock trial teacher, so inspired his students, that one student came back to “Pay it Forward” to her coach’s family in their time of need. Five years ago, John noticed his wife of 50 years, Judy, leaving

Post-it notes everywhere to remind her of simple tasks. Her symptoms couldn't be ignored after one night she got lost in her own neighborhood driving home. That's when John discovered that Judy had Alzheimer's and needed more care than her husband could provide on his teacher's salary.

That's where John's former mock trial student and mock trial coach, Shelby Clark, comes in. "He's just a really caring man and that's a tough situation for anybody," Clark said. "Clark said she hoped by writing a letter to CBS 5 explaining John's story, she could ease his burden." Clark said. "I've never met a person so willing to donate their time, money and kindness as genuinely and generously as he does." Shelby presented a \$500 check to the couple. "Thank you very much," John Cosden said. "Wow, Shelby, thank you." John is too humble to enjoy being the center of attention. In fact, he said he plans to put the money right back into his students and his mock trial team.

California
By Lourdes Morales



Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) concluded its 34th Annual California Mock

Trial Finals in Riverside. With the support from Riverside County Superior Court, Riverside Bar Association, and Riverside Office of Education, this year's competition was a great success. The state finals



involved 34 teams and over 1,200 students, teachers, attorneys, judges, and parents. The championship trial was presided over by Justice Miguel Marquez from the California Court of Appeal. The state title went to Redlands High School from San Bernardino County, after a tough championship trial against Central Union High School from Imperial County. Redlands High School advances to Nationals. We are proud of all 450 teams and 8,000 students that participate annually in CRF's Mock Trial Program! For more information about the Mock Trial Program, visit our website at www.crf-usa.org.

Connecticut

By Beth Deluco



Connecticut's High School Mock Trial Program, began in 1976 sponsored by Civics First. Throughout its history, thousands of students and their teachers have participated in the program. Year after year the program includes over 700 students from more than 50 Connecticut high schools. We are excited to host the 2017 NHSMTTC!!

Georgia

By Michel Nixon



The 27th season of the Georgia Mock Trial Competition concluded its three levels of competition in mid-March. Everything started off with another outstanding Law Academy weekend in mid-September, where 24 students from across the state came to Atlanta for a long weekend of small- and large-group sessions, aiming to hone their mock trial skills. The season's civil case was again an original case written by the Georgia committee. An elderly mall walker-patron of The Mall at Carley Corners sued the mall for negligent hiring and negligent retention of the new head of mall security, Lt. Jessep, after Lt. Jessep used a TASER-like weapon on the walker, breaking his/her hip. The Lt. testified on behalf of the

plaintiff, creating a hostile witness scenario, claiming that s/he was just doing what the mall hired him/her to do. The case was released October 3 with the Regional Competitions taking place January 31 and February 8.

The program's second season with the District Competitions is proving to be a success. 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. Many teams who have never advanced beyond the Regional Competition before had a chance to compete again and gain more experience in the competition. While some traditional State Finals teams were knocked out at the District level, the level of competition across the program was remarkable.

The eight District Champions advanced to the State Finals Competition on Saturday, March 14. The team from Northview High School came out as the 2015 season's State Champion, defeating Jonesboro High School in the second round and Atlanta International School in the Finals. Earlier, at their District Competition, Northview defeated Grady High School in the District Championship. The Georgia program is set up where each team fields a plaintiff and defense squad simultaneously each Round. Due to a Northview witness on the plaintiff's squad falling ill the week before State, one of their students, Harsha Sridhar, played two witness roles, one in each courtroom. For the Final Round at State, Harsha was recognized as the Outstanding Witness in both courtrooms. Needless to say, that was a first for the State Finals competition! The team is very excited to have the chance to experience the National Championships in Raleigh for the first time.

As in past years, the Georgia delegation will be bringing the State Champion of the Craig Harding Memorial Court Artist Contest to Raleigh as well, to draw the Georgia team in action. Christina Voss was selected as the State Champion from 21 entrants from 10 Regions across the State. View photos of the winning entries of the Court Artist Contest on the Georgia Mock Trial website on the Competition Information page at www.georgiamocktrial.org.

Idaho **By Carey Shoufler**

The Idaho Law Foundation's Law Related Education Program just finished its 2015 season with our state competition in Boise on March 18 to 20. The Logos School from Moscow, Idaho won after a hard fought finals battle against St. Ambrose School from Boise, in a finals round presided by Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Randy Smith.



Logos is looking forward to representing Idaho in Raleigh.

This year, Idaho also hosted a school in our competition from Helena, Montana, since Montana does not currently have a mock trial program. During our state competition, we were finally able to launch our [Idaho Mock Trial Facebook page](#). Following Mississippi's lead, we had our team members post mock trial selfies, using #ilovemocktrial. The students seemed to have a lot of fun with the hashtag and their photos and it was great to develop some local buzz around our program. Like Idaho Mock Trial on Facebook and we will like you back!

Indiana

By Marilyn J. Smith



This year, the Indiana Bar Foundation (IBF) took over as state coordinator for the High School Mock Trial Competition. With the generous support and guidance of Susan Roberts, Ann Marie Waldron, Scott Barnhart, Janice Houghton and Steve Hope, the IBF learned about the

administration, scoring, judging and other aspects of this exciting competition. Indiana had 48 teams from 19 schools competing in this year's program. There were three regional competitions held in Indianapolis (at the City-County Building on Feb. 14), Hammond (at the Federal Courthouse on Feb. 14) and South Bend (at Penn High School on Feb. 21). The State Finals had 22 teams competing from 11 schools. This competition was held March 7-8 at the City-County Building in Indianapolis.

The Championship Round, between two teams from John Adams High School (South Bend) was conducted at the Supreme Court Chambers and presided over by Supreme Court Justice Steven David, U.S. District Court Judge Larry McKinney, Court of Appeals Judge Patricia Riley and Indiana Bar Foundation Board President Don Lundberg.

The Indiana State Champion team is No Regrets from John Adams High School, coached by Katelyn Doyle, a South Bend deputy prosecutor.

Kanas

By Shawn P. Yancy



This year, Kansas's program featured an original products liability case that was published to students in December, 2014. The case, being original, is sourced in Kansas law and features character names based upon notable Kansans over the years, including a United States Vice

President, a famous pilot, an actor, an athlete, an artist, and a Kansas Territorial Governor. The case was designed to be equally educational and engaging, and we think we accomplished that with this case.

Regional competitions were held in two locations on February 28, 2015, featuring more than 20 teams from more than 12 different schools. Students argued the merits of Crawford v. Rot Wylar, Inc., et al. After just three rounds of competition in each location, courtesy of mother nature yet again this year, six teams advanced to the State Competition which will be held on March 27-28, 2015, in Topeka, Kansas. Kansas High School Mock Trial congratulates all participants, and welcomes those who advanced to State to Topeka: Washburn Rural High School (Topeka, KS), Shawnee Mission Northwest (Greater Kansas City, KS), Shawnee Mission East High School (Greater Kansas City, KS), Blue Valley Northwest High School (Greater Kansas City, KS), The Independent School (Wichita, KS), and Sunrise Christian Academy (Bel Aire, KS).

Michigan By Linda Start



MICHIGAN
CENTER FOR
CIVIC EDUCATION

Michigan Center for Civic Education has conducted the Michigan High School Mock Trial Tournament.

We are indebted to Michigan's legal community for providing funding support and volunteers. The 2015

Tournament is supported by the State Bar of Michigan; Litigation Section, State Bar of Michigan; Oakland County Bar Foundation; and the Macomb County Bar Foundation. Mock Trial season kicked off with a Clinic for students at the Michigan Hall of Justice. In addition to a tour of the Michigan Supreme Court Chambers, students visited the Supreme Court Learning Center.

Regional Tournaments were held beginning on February 28 and ended on March 14, with the selection of ten finalists who will compete in the State Finals on March 28 at Veteran's Courthouse in Lansing, our State Capitol. Sixty teams from across Michigan competed in one four Regional Tournaments.

Teams will be vying for the chance to compete in the National Mock Trial Championship, and unseat last year's winner Ann Arbor Community High School.

This year's case is a civil case, Jami Smith v. Lakeshore Computers, Inc. We extend our sincere thanks to the Iowa State Bar Association Center for Law & Civic Education for



granting us permission to adapt this case for use in our competition.

For more information about the Michigan High School Mock Trial Tournament and other programs of the Michigan Center for Civic Education, please visit our website at www.miciviced.org.

Nevada

By Kathleen Dickinson



Faith Lutheran High School

The Nevada state finals had 8 teams compete at the State Competition held in the Bruce Thompson Federal Courthouse March 6th and March 7th 2015 in Reno, Nevada. The teams were:

1. Faith Lutheran High School
2. Elko High School
3. A-Tech Academy
4. Reno High School
5. Bishop Gorman High School

6. McQueen Silver High School
7. McQueen Blue High School
8. Clark High School

There were a total of four rounds plus the Championship round. Elko High School came in a close second to Faith Lutheran High School. Faith Lutheran High School will be representing Nevada at the National Mock Trial Competition in May in North Carolina.



Elko High School

New Hampshire

By Kyle Skinner

Big changes are happening in little New Hampshire! As we completed our 2014-2015 season in March (after more than a month of weather-related delays) teacher coaches, attorneys, and supporters of the program gathered to plan how to best guarantee mock trial's continued work in the state. Over the summer a new state coordinator will be appointed to replace Kyle Skinner, who after many years of driving north from Connecticut to support the granite state, will be leaving the post to spend more time teaching and writing. He extends deepest, sincerest thanks to all the wonderful people he has met and worked with since he first became involved as a student, and looks forward to continuing to support the program in a more limited role. With more support from local attorneys and community stakeholders than ever, New Hampshire mock trial is well placed to continue and expand the good work it has done for years to come.

North Carolina By Sue Johnson



The 23rd annual North Carolina Advocates for Justice High School Mock Trial State Finals was hosted for the sixth time at Campbell Law School in Raleigh, NC. On March 6, 2015, our eight regional champions battled for the honor of representing North Carolina in Raleigh, NC in May. In a hard fought final round, Gaston Christian School “Red” (2012 State Champs)

emerged victorious, defeating a strong team from East Chapel Hill High School in split ballots.

Almost eighty teams competed in Regional competition at eight sites ranging from Asheville in the mountains, to Wilmington on the coast. Ten teams were brand-new to the program, including state runner-up East Chapel Hill High School! Ten 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 civil case, *Justin Burke v. ForensiTech, Inc.*, which involved a high school student injured when their group was stranded overnight on a mountain during a camp hike gone awry. We are pleased to report that the case was perfectly balanced, with each side winning exactly 50% of rounds, and 50% of ballots, across all regional competitions!

In addition to preparing to host Nationals in May, we are excited to be offering our third annual summer mock trial camp. One four-day camp will be held in Chapel Hill, NC on July 29 – Aug. 1. Combining instructional sessions with hands-on learning, the camps culminate with trial scrimmages between student teams for both Basic and Advanced levels of instruction. Students from outside of NC are welcome.

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 welcoming everyone to Raleigh in May!

Wisconsin By Katie Willcox



The National Mock Trial Championship is a tough act to follow. We at the State Bar of Wisconsin still have to remind ourselves that our 2015 Mock Trial season is relatively complete, and that we will not be hosting all of you in Madison again this year. Now that we look ahead to spring, we couldn't be more excited to watch our North Carolina colleagues put on what I know will be a successful national event.

This winter, the State Bar celebrated its 32nd year of Mock Trial. And with a little less commotion around the office, we decided to launch an online registration tool for regional coordinators, volunteers and teams. This change streamlined our registration process and made Mock Trial management far more efficient.

We had 109 teams participate in our regional tournaments, with 16 teams advancing to the semifinals. Xavier High School, located in Appleton, Wis., captured their fourth state title and will be advancing to the national championship in May.

Throughout the state, teams worked diligently to prepare for this year's problem, a tough criminal case about a law student who was charged with the murder of one of his roommates. Jamie Covington, a third year law student, shot and killed their roommate, Dallas Lawson, when Lawson was entering the apartment through a bathroom window. Did Covington shoot Lawson in self-defense or was there an ulterior motive?



For more information about Wisconsin Mock Trial, visit wisbar.org/mocktrial.

National High School Mock Trial is looking for a 2018 host!

Have you ever considered hosting? Now's your chance to be the national host in 2018! Contact Gordon Widenhouse for more information at mgwidenhouse@yahoo.com

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. [CLICK HERE](#) to complete the survey.

The funds collected through the membership fee have been earmarked specifically for costs borne by NHSMTC, Inc. for hosting or aiding in the hosting of the national championship.

NHSMTC 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 into the “[Members Area](#).”

NHSMTC Championship Round DVDs

DVD's of previous National Mock Trial Championship Trials can be found at:

- 2011 Arizona—Susan.Nusall@azflse.org
- 2012 New Mexico—mocktrial@civicvalues.org
- 2013 Indiana—msmith@inbf.org
- 2014 Wisconsin—
<http://www.wiseye.org/Programming/VideoArchive/EventDetail.aspx?evhdid=8726>



NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Dewain Fox,
NHSMTC Board Chair
Sherman & Howard L.L.C.
201 E. Washington St.
Suite 800
Phoenix, AZ 85004-2327
dfox@shermanhoward.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!**

[NHSMTC Facebook](#)

**Judging Panel Volunteers Needed
for the 2015 National Tournament
in Raleigh.**

[Volunteer Now!](#)