

Mock Trial Matters

Calendar

- Please note: this year's NNSMTC is **NOT** on Mother's Day weekend
- Albuquerque is on Mountain Daylight Time.
- **April 1**—NM National Case release date (CRIMINAL)
- **April 3**—Online practice room reservations open (first come/first served)
- **April 15**—deadline to pay NNSMTC membership fee
- **April 15**—Deadline to request tournament schedule adjustment
- **April 16**—Team registration deadline
- **April 16 (6 AM MDT)**—Hotel reservation deadline
- **April 16**—Deadline for teams to order event tickets
- **April 19**—Deadline to submit all case and rules questions
- **April 23**—Final case/rules Q&A report posted online
- **April 23**—ALL payments must be received by this date
- **April 25**—Updated case materials posted online
- **May 2-3**—Practice rooms available at hotel
- **May 3**—State Coordinator's "Round Table"; State Coordinator's Meeting; Timekeeper Orientation; Tournament Orientation; Opening Team Reception & Pin Exchange (Students/Coaches Only)
- **May 4**—Rounds 1 & 2; Judging Panel Reception; Team Karaoke Night
- **May 5**—Rounds 3 & 4; National Championship Rd; Awards Event; Dance
- **May 6**—Ballots available for State Coordinator pick-up



NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

¡Bienvenidos a Albuquerque, Nuevo Mexico!

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

The Center for Civic Values ("CCV") eagerly anticipates hosting the 2012 National Championship in Albuquerque on May 3 - 6. CCV's partners for this outstanding event are the State Bar of New Mexico, National High School Mock Trial, Inc., the Bernalillo County, Metropolitan, and United States District Courts, the American Board of Trial Advocates ("ABOTA") Foundation and the UNM School of Law. In addition, law firms, attorneys and other friends of the mock trial program have pledged their financial support. Complete information about the tournament including registration materials for teams and judges is online at 2012nationalmocktrial.org.

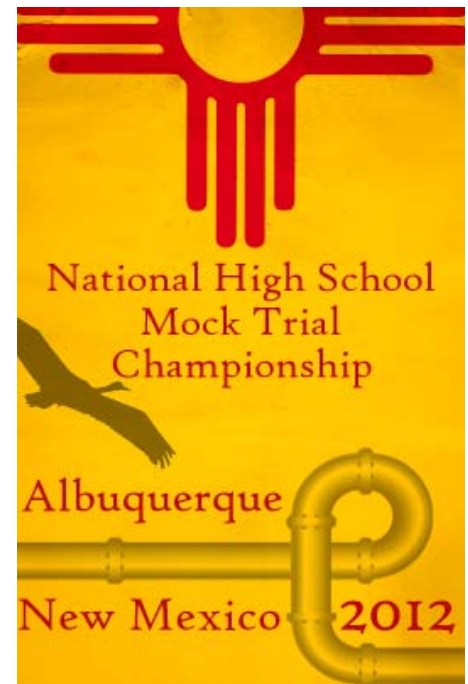
The case for the 2012 tournament is going to be a lot of fun to try - interesting witnesses and legal issues. It will be released at 12:01 AM on Sunday, April 1. Case and rules questions may be submitted as soon as the case is released, but answers will be provided once per week only. The New Mexico Host Committee extends its sincere gratitude to Jon Grode, Esq., and Paul Kaufman, Esq. for their authorship of the case materials and to the national board's case committee, chaired by Dewain Fox, for its thoughtful and timely reviews of the materials.

The 2012 Nationals will be headquartered at the recently-remodeled Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Albuquerque. Rooms at the Hyatt are for competing team only. Parents, judges, and others will be housed at the also recently-renovated DoubleTree hotel, which is about two blocks from the Hyatt and an equal distance to the Courthouses. The downtown area is easily accessible from the Albuquerque International Support by shuttle, taxi or rental car.

The Hyatt's group rate is \$110 per night, plus tax for a net rate of about \$125 per night for up to 4 people per room. The DoubleTree's group rate is \$129 per night, plus tax for a net rate of \$146. Both of these rates, inclusive of tax, are considerably lower than those offered at the past few national championships. The cut-off for making group reservations is 6:00 AM Mountain Daylight Time on April 16, 2012.

The scheduling calendar for reserving practice rooms and photo shoot times will be online on April 3, 2012, at 12:00 noon MDT.

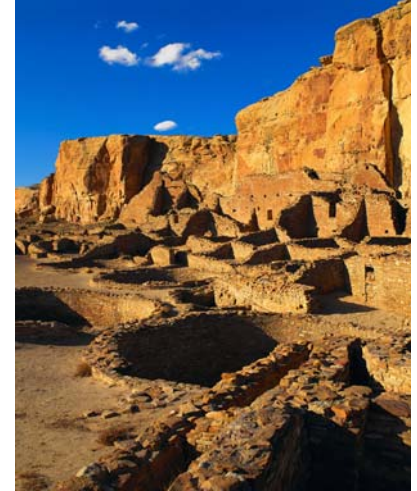
The first formal event of the 2012 Nationals will be the traditional pin exchange on the evening of Thursday, May 3, 2012. This New Mexican-themed event will be held at the Hyatt, and will include food and beverages. Complimentary tickets will be provided to all official team members; additional students and coaches may purchase tickets for \$25.



¡Bienvenidos a Albuquerque, Nuevo Mexico!

The four rounds of competition on Friday and Saturday will take place in courtrooms within walking distance of the hotel. The two rounds on Friday will be held in two Courthouses, which are across the street from each other: the Bernalillo County Court and the Metropolitan Court. The two rounds on Saturday all will be held at these same two buildings, with the championship round taking place on Saturday afternoon/evening in the Rio Grande Ceremonial Courtroom in the United States District Courthouse.

We anticipate that it will be somewhat of a challenge to make sure that all teams get to the correct courthouse, particularly for the Friday afternoon round, so we will need everyone's cooperation to make things go as smoothly as possible. The Tournament Information Handbook on the website provides complete directions to and security procedures in effect at the different courthouses. Entry to the buildings will be on a staggered basis. Pairings for the trial rounds will be posted **OUTSIDE** the Courthouses. In addition, those who choose to do so may sign up to receive the postings via text. More detailed information will be provided at the orientation meeting on Thursday afternoon. It is critical that all teams send a representative to the Coaches' Orientation on Thursday, May 3.



Teams may purchase breakfasts and lunches in advance for Friday and Saturday. There are not many eating establishments in the area of the Courthouse, so we have arranged with the Hyatt for teams to purchase breakfasts and lunches on Friday and Saturday. The meals will cost \$15 per person for breakfast, and \$20 per person for lunch; we are delighted that our fundraising has been successful enough that we can subsidize \$5 of the cost of each meal for all those who purchase tickets. This is the very best deal we can offer for high quality food with good proteins. Historically, teams reserve between four and six rooms; since the room rate is so low, teams will save between \$200 and \$300 per day on their hotel expense, and this savings will help to offset the cost of the meals.

On Friday evening, teams may gather after dinner on their own in the Pavilion Ballroom at the Hyatt, where there will be a karaoke machine for those who want to relax a bit. On Wednesday and Friday evenings, complimentary transportation to and from Albuquerque's Old Town will be provided to all attendees. On Thursday evening, complimentary transportation to and from Albuquerque's Old Town will be provided from the DoubleTree hotel, for adults only.

CCV encourages state coordinators to recruit judges and attorneys from their home states to volunteer as presiding and scoring judges at the 2012 Nationals. Although we expect a large turnout of New Mexico judges and attorneys for this event, we would like to have diverse judging panels with representation from around the country. Fifty-two out-of-state judges attended the 2011 Nationals in Phoenix, and we hope to have as many or more in New Mexico. Competition judges and attorneys will be hosted at an invitation-only reception in the Celebration Garden of Albuquerque BioPark. Transportation to and from the BioPark and to and from the Hyatt will be provided.

On Saturday evening, after dinner on their own and immediately following the championship round, all teams and guests will be invited to attend an Awards Gala. This event will take place in the Grand Pavilion Ballroom of the Hyatt, and awards will be presented to the top ten teams and the top individual performers. Complimentary tickets for this event, which



will include dessert and beverages, will be provided to official team members. A limited number of additional tickets will be available for purchase for \$15 per person. NO ONE may enter the Ballroom without a ticket; seating is limited and is reserved for ticketed guests. The 2012 Nationals will close with a dance for the students on Saturday night, immediately following the awards' announcement.

CCV looks forward to providing a rewarding and educational experience, while giving participants a little taste of life in the Land of Enchantment. We look forward to seeing you soon! In the meantime, if you have questions, you may contact the 2012 National Host Director, Michelle Giger, at michelle@civicvalues.org. CCV has only a two-person staff, so PLEASE review the website thoroughly before contacting us with questions. If you don't see the answers for which you are looking, then send Michelle an e-mail. You will receive an answer much more quickly than if you place a call.

New Membership Fee Required for 2012 NHSMTC

A membership fee of \$250 will be required from each participating state mock trial program starting with the 2012 NHSMTC in Albuquerque. This fee must be mailed to Dewain Fox (NHSMTC Treasurer) postmarked by April 15th. Checks must be made payable to the NHSMTC, Inc. The funds collected through this membership fee are being earmarked specifically for costs borne by NHSMTC, Inc. for hosting or aiding in the hosting of the national championship. As of the publication date of this newsletter, there is no host committee identified for 2014, so these funds are now more important than ever.

This membership fee is separate and in addition to your state champion team's \$500 tournament registration fee. The tournament registration fee must be submitted to Michelle Giger by April 23rd. All teams, however, must complete online registration by the April 16th tournament registration deadline. Both fees are required for participation in the tournament (see the updated Articles and Bylaws posted online).

Checks for the MEMBERSHIP FEE should be made payable to NHSMTC, Inc. and mailed to:
Mr. Dewain Fox—Sherman & Howard L.L.C.
201 East Washington Street; Suite 800; Phoenix, AZ 85004-2327

In addition to the 2012 team registration materials coordinators are required to submit, coordinators will also be required to submit an online program survey through Survey Monkey. More information will be forwarded to state coordinators about the survey before the 4/16 team registration deadline.



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FOUNDATION



The Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates

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Check out our Justice by the People lesson plans, created in collaboration with Scholastic, Inc. Ideal for classroom or mock trial team use.

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New this year! Teachers from around the country are participating in **ABOTA's Teachers Law Schools** where middle and high school teachers receive a crash course on the American legal system.

Call Brian Tyson, Executive Director, if you'd like to participate in a Teachers Law School near you.

*The Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)
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Indianapolis, Indiana Tournament Update (2013)



By Ann Marie Waldron, Indiana Host Board Director & Susan Roberts, Indiana State Coordinator and 2013 Host Director

Indiana kicked off 2012 to rave reviews after a sensational Super Bowl in February. Now Indiana is ready to tackle the National High School Mock Trial Championship, Inc. tournament scheduled for May 9-11, 2013 in downtown Indianapolis. The 2013 Indianapolis Host Committee's game plan is sure to score big with many hits in the Heartland of America!

Circle City's state-of-the-art JW Marriott, which opened in 2011 in downtown Indianapolis and features double queen beds, will serve as our headquarters hotel. The guaranteed room rate is \$129 per night.

The hotel is conveniently located in a thriving area for students and observers to enjoy the sights and sounds of Indianapolis. Just a short walk across the street from the hotel is White River State Park where students, families, and friends can stroll along the city's beautiful downtown canal. Other exciting attractions near the hotel include Victory Field, home to the Indianapolis Indians, the Indianapolis Zoo, the NCAA Hall of Champions, the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, the Indiana State Museum with IMAX theatre and other attractions. Students will have the opportunity to visit many of these venues while in Indianapolis as part of the scheduled events or on their own.

The first four rounds of trials will be held in a single facility at the City-County Building, which is within walking distance of the hotel. The courthouse for the United States District Court, Southern District of Indiana, will serve as the site for the Championship round. This historic courthouse will provide a stately setting worthy of the high caliber of competition the National Mock Trial Championship delivers. A video feed will be provided into an overflow room to give others the opportunity to experience the Championship finals.

The Indianapolis Host Committee will feature the Indiana State Museum on Thursday night for the ever-popular pin exchange. The students will get acquainted while enjoying the museum galleries or an exciting feature at the IMAX. A judges' reception will be held Friday evening at the Indiana Historical Society, located on the scenic canal just blocks from the hotel. The teams and observers will celebrate their achievement at the awards banquet and dance on Saturday evening at the JW Marriott.

The Indianapolis Host Committee is anticipating an exciting and exceptional mock trial tournament. We look

Rules Updates and Rules/Case Questions

The 2012 Rules posted to the NHSMTC website and in the New Mexico case materials have been updated to reflect changes approved during the October 2011 NHSMTC, Inc. Board of Directors meeting. The updates are reflected in rules 4.11, 4.5, 5.6, 404(a)(2) and 803(8).

All case and rules questions must be submitted by a state coordinator (or his/her official designee) through the Trial Materials section of the 2012 National Championship website (www.2012nationalmocktrial.org) by April 19th. A running list of answers to these questions will be posted each week on Friday under the Trial Materials section of the website. The final posting of the Q&A will be made by 5 PM on April 23rd, and the release (if necessary) of a clean, updated, corrected copy of the case materials will be by April 25th.



Where to Find it in Albuquerque, New Mexico

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



Hotels

- **Hyatt Regency Albuquerque** (Coordinators, Teams & Coaches)—330 Tijeras Avenue, NW; Phone: (505) 842-1234; Fax: (505) 843 2710
- **DoubleTree Hotel Albuquerque** (Board Members, Judging Panel Volunteers, Spectators)—201 Marquette Avenue, NW; Phone: (505) 247-3344; Fax: (505) 247-7025

Transportation Options

- **Albuquerque Ride**— (505) 243-7433, City of Albuquerque bus service
- **Albuquerque Cab Company**—(505) 883-4888, Please note: taxis are scarce in Albuquerque and except at the airport and at local hotels, you will nearly always need to call in advance and make a reservation.
- **Sunport Shuttle**—Make your shared ride reservation online or call toll-free (1-866) 505-4966. One-way shared ride service between the airport and the Hyatt or DoubleTree is about \$11 for the first person and \$5 for each additional person in your party travelling on the same shuttle van. A round-trip is discounted to \$20 for the first person, \$10 for each additional person in your party up to 10 passengers. Departure pick-ups start as early as 4:00 AM from hotels, with service ending at 11:00 PM. If you need service outside these hours, please consider calling Sunport Shuttle's sister company, Albuquerque Cab Company, at (505) 883-4888.
- **New Mexico Rail Runner Express**—(505) 245-7245, Take the Rail Runner north to Santa Fe for a fun-filled day in the "City Different" Route Map
- **Sandia Shuttle**— (1-888) 775-5696, Convenient shuttle service between Santa Fe and Albuquerque International Airport with 30 trips daily to fit your travel schedule. Pick-up and drop-off at all hotels, motels, B&Bs, colleges and other locations.

Restaurant in the Hotels

- At the Hyatt - **Forque Kitchen**
- At the DoubleTree - **ICE Lounge, Onyx Café and La Oja Restaurant**

Food Choices near the Hyatt

- **Asian Noodle Bar** - Chinese/Thai - 318 Central Avenue SW; (505) 224-9119
- **Café Café** - eclectic - 200 3rd Street Northwest, First Plaza; (505) 843-6203 (tiny venue with a few tables)
- **District Bar & Grill** -115 4th Street, NW; (505) 243-0003
- **Friends Coffee & Sandwich Shop** - 200 3rd Street NW; (505) 243-4801 (tiny venue with a few tables)
- **Isabella's** - eclectic - 200 3rd Street, NW; (505) 244-9461- (serves breakfast and lunch only)
- **JC's New York Pizza Department** - 215 Central Avenue NW; (505) 766-6973
- **Keva Juice** - ice cream & juice - 201 3rd Street, NW; (505) 242-5382 (in the Hyatt lobby)
- **La Esquina Restaurante** - Mexican - 40 First Plaza Center NW # 60, First Plaza; (505) 242-3432
- **Le Quiche Parisienne Bistro** - French - 401 Copper Ave, NW; (505) 242-2808
- **Starbucks** - 201 3rd Street, NW (in the Hyatt lobby)
- **Subway** - sandwiches - 20 First Plaza Center NW # 250, First Plaza; (505) 244-9636

Where to Find it in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Old Town Albuquerque

- Find out more about “Old Town Albuquerque” at <http://www.albuquerqueoldtown.com/>. Old Town is made up of individually owned and operated businesses. Each merchant determines their own days and hours of operation. As a general rule, however, most businesses are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM and Sundays from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Most Old Town restaurants seat until 9:00 PM.
- Shuttles to Old Town will leave from the DoubleTree on Wednesday, Thursday (adults only) & Friday, 5/2, 3 & 4 from 5-9 PM each evening. There will be no shuttle service to Old Town on Saturday evening.

Local Copy Center

- FedEx Office Print & Ship Center - 2706 Central Avenue, SE; (505) 255-9673; Fax: (505) 260-1339

Local Pharmacy & Convenience Store

- Lovelace Pharmacy: Graham Jean A - 500 Walter St NE # 202; (505) 727-2900
- 7-Eleven - 401 Copper Ave NW # D; (505) 247-9843

Local Medical Facility

Should an emergency arise, call 911.

- Presbyterian Hospital - 1100 Central, SE; (505) 841-1234



Albuquerque Isotopes Minor League Baseball Games



At Isotope Park

1601 Avenida Cesar Chavez, SE

- 5/1 – against Oklahoma City RedHawks; start time 6:35 PM
- 5/2 – against Oklahoma City RedHawks; start time 6:35 PM
- 5/3 – against Oklahoma City RedHawks; start time 6:35 PM
- 5/4 – against Nashville Sounds; start time 7:05 PM
- 5/5 – against Nashville Sounds; start time 7:05 PM
- 5/6 – against Nashville Sounds; start time 1:35 PM

Single Game tickets: http://www.milb.com/tickets/page.jsp?ymd=20090114&content_id=495493&vkey=tickets_t342&fext=.jsp&sid=t342

Group tickets: http://www.milb.com/tickets/page.jsp?ymd=20090112&content_id=494808&vkey=tickets_t342&fext=.jsp&sid=t342

2012 Spring Board Election

A scheduled election will be held during the State Coordinators' meeting on May 3rd in Albuquerque. There are **2 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, 2012. 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 NHSMT, Inc. Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, 5/3/12. 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 NHSMT, Inc. By-Laws Article IV, Section 2).



There are four candidates who have indicated their intention to run for these two positions, as of the publication date of this newsletter, and they are: **Larry Bakko** (WI), the **Honorable Daman Cantrell** (OK), Administrative Law **Judge Jacob Rambo** (CA) and **John Wheeler** (IA). Statements from each of the candidates will be emailed all state coordinators in April. In addition, each candidate will have an opportunity to address coordinators during the State Coordinators' Meeting in Albuquerque. 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 NHSMT, Inc. By-Laws Article IV, Section 3 (c)).

Text Alerts During Competition Weekend



To improve communication and traffic flow at the courthouse during the competition, the NHSMT Scoring Operations Center, led by Larry Bakko (WI), will again utilize mobile messaging for the 2012 tournament in Albuquerque. The system provides round matches and courtroom assignments during the competition to team members, coaches and parents who have subscribed to receive the text alerts. The messages will be transmitted as soon as the power-matching and courtroom assignments are completed for each round. Last year, in Phoenix, the system allowed hundreds of subscribers to receive the assignments simultaneously without needing to find a hand-written posting board. The posting boards will also be used as they always have to display the assignments to teams and observers who do not subscribe.

The SMS (Short Message Service) must meet certain communication industry protocols, so after subscribing, it will send a welcome message to a new subscriber, and will also display some required information such as how to obtain HELP and how to STOP the messages. There is no cost, but message and data rates from your own carrier may apply. Subscriptions to this SMS will automatically expire on Saturday night, May 5th, so the subscribers will not need to "unsubscribe". If you subscribed last year, you must subscribe again.

Complete details are available at <http://www.nationalmocktrial.org/whatsnew.cfm> including an easy-to-use web widget, and the keywords NHSMT or NHSMT.TXT to text to the short code 33938. If you have any questions, contact Larry Bakko at larry@nationalmocktrial.org.

2012 Tournament Note on Cell Phones: NO CELL PHONES (and no cameras) WILL BE ALLOWED AT EITHER THE METROPOLITAN (Metro) OR U.S. DISTRICT COURTHOUSES AT ANY TIME. If your team is assigned to a courtroom in either of these buildings during the tournament weekend, please have all team members, coaches AND spectators leave their cell phones in a secure location at the hotel. ONE COACH per team may bring a SINGLE cell phone, if absolutely necessary (if not, please leave ALL phones at the hotel), to either of these buildings and that coach MUST leave that single cell phone with the designated New Mexico host committee volunteer outside the courthouse upon arrival. **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.** This rule is MANDATED by the court facilities, not the New Mexico host committee or the NHSMT Board, and neither the host committee nor the Board can authorize an exception to this rule. Neither court facility will authorize an exception. Please communicate this rule to all team members, coaches, spectators and judging panel volunteers from your state.

A Word From Our Chair

I'm a list maker. Each morning when I get to work, I make my long list of things I hope to accomplish – and then the shorter, more realistic list of stuff that **MUST** get done. Each week, I make the longer list of projects in process and the various things that have to get done to spin those plates. Each month, I make the really long list of projects and status of each and the steps needed to activate those. Each season... (you get the idea!)

We all have massive “to do” lists for work. Most of it involves the daily grind of program maintenance. The result is that we rarely get an opportunity to think about the big picture. What programs do we WANT? We programs do we NEED? What programs would be FUN? EDUCATIONAL? REWARDING? MEANINGFUL?

So it finally dawned on me, in one of those 3 AM moments, that we all might have some of the same programmatic dreams. Moreover, there might be others who have already tried some of the “dreamy” projects – either with great success or with miserable failure. (We learn both by example and non-example as one of my grad professors constantly reminded me!).

So let's share. If there are a few of us who have similar program ideas, let's plan and work together. If someone wants to relate a success story – please do! If someone wants to deliver a cautionary tale – give us fair warning! The project ideas can be mock trial related (after all we are a National Mock Trial group), law-related, civics-related, or any other field that I suspect we all work in.

We can do this project sharing on-line using the State Coordinators email list. Or we can create a Google group (or something similar). But we can also share ideas in person next month while in Albuquerque. (And also coordinate how the rest of the sharing might take place.) There is a Coordinators Roundtable scheduled for Thursday afternoon – prior to the State Coordinators Annual Meeting – where we can potentially start the mock trial-related list. But there may be other informal opportunities to get together and swap ideas.

They say that many hands lighten the load. A corollary to that is that many creative brains come up with great ideas. Let's get those brains working and see what we can dream! As a first step, let me invite each of you to email me (jwheeler@iowabar.org) with your own answers to the following questions:

- What is your **MOST SUCCESSFUL** project?
- What is tops on your **MOST NEEDED** project list?
- What project did you try that **SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA** but never really worked as you had hoped?
- If you had unlimited time and resources, what project would you **MOST LIKE TO IMPLEMENT**?

You don't need to provide any specifics – project titles or a one sentence description works. I'll make a list of all responses that I receive to distribute at the Roundtable meeting in New Mexico. That should give us plenty to mull over and start the brainstorm.

Help me with MY list by sharing your own. Let's see if we can work together to lighten the load!

See you soon in the Land of Enchantment!



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



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

News and Notes From Around the Nation



Arkansas (*Crystal Newton, State Coordinator*) - The Arkansas Bar Association hosted four Mock Trial regional competitions in Conway, Fort Smith, Jonesboro, and Pine Bluff on February 25, 2012 with a total of 18 teams. The top two teams from each region went on to compete at the Arkansas State Mock Trial Competition on March 3, 2012 in Little Rock. Students from Little Rock Central High School prevailed as the winners of the competition in a final match over last year's champions, Jonesboro High School.



La Reina HS Mock Trial Team (California)

California (*Laura Wesley, State Coordinator*) - The Constitutional Rights Foundation just ended its 31st Annual Mock Trial season! This year's finals took place in Sacramento and involved 32 teams and over 1,200 students, teachers, coaches and parents. The final two teams in the state are actually neighbors! First place went to La Reina's Mock Trial Team from Ventura County and second place went to their neighbor, Dos Pueblos High School from Santa Barbara. La Reina is looking forward to another shot at the National Mock Trial title after winning the 2011 World Championship at the Empire City Mock Trial Invitational Tournament in New York City. We are proud of all 450 teams and 8,000 students that participate annually in CRF's Mock Trial Program!

Colorado (*Carolyn Gravit - State Coordinator*) - The Colorado Bar Association registered 103 teams across the state for the 2012 Colorado Mock Trial Program. Twenty-four teams advanced from nine different regions to the Boulder County Justice Center for the 27th annual Colorado state competition, held on March 9 and 10. Each team had been preparing since November 1st when the case was released. This year's case was borrowed from South Carolina which was edited to fit the state of Colorado. It was a criminal murder case, *The State of Colorado v. Sam Seaside*, where there was no body and no weapon found, and the characters names in the case were influenced by the popular MTV show, "Jersey Shore". Rock Canyon High School located in Highlands Ranch, CO will be advancing to the National Mock Trial Tournament May 3 to 6 in Albuquerque.



Rock Canyon HS Mock Trial Team
(Colorado)

Georgia (*Stacy Rieke, State Coordinator*) - The 24th season of the Georgia High School Mock Trial Competition, which is a project of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia, concluded with an exciting championship round on March 18th. Grady High School (Atlanta) took on the team from the Atlanta International School (Atlanta) and won their fourth straight state title and their sixth state title overall. This was the first time that the team from the Atlanta International School had advanced to the state finals as a regional champion and the first time the

team had participated in the championship round. The 2012 State Finals Professionalism Award, which is sponsored each year by the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, was presented to the team from the Middle Georgia Christian Homeschool Association in Macon on March 17th. The state champion in the Craig Harding Memorial Court Artist contest this year is Keller Pyle of Woodland High School in Cartersville and, through a generous donation from the Savannah College of Art and Design, Keller will accompany the Georgia team to nationals and

News and Notes From Around the Nation



Georgia, cont. (Stacy Rieke, State Coordinator) – draw the team in action during the competition rounds in May.

This is a year of transition for the Georgia mock trial program. In May, Presiding Justice George Carley will ascend to the position of “Chief Justice” of the Georgia Supreme Court, just two months before he retires from the Court in July. Justice Carley’s 24+ years of dedicated service to the Georgia



Justice George Carley (middle), Stephanie Kirijan (left, GA YLD President) and Jon Setzer (right, GHSMTTC Chair) after the gavel rededication on 3/18/12.

mock trial program was honored during the state tournament in March and the State Champion gavel was re-named and re-dedicated in his honor. The giant gavel, which travels from state champion team to state champion team each year, will henceforth be known as “The Chief Justice George H. Carley State Champion Gavel”. Additionally, Peggy Caldwell retired from the Georgia program on March 29th after over 25 years of commitment to the committee as a teacher coach, a regional coordinator, state scoring coordinator and the assistant mock trial coordinator. Finally, Stacy Rieke, after serving 11 years as state coordinator, has decided to transition back into the classroom beginning with the 2012-13

school year. The Georgia HSMT Committee leadership conducted a statewide search for a new coordinator this spring and we look forward to welcoming that person as a member of the Georgia delegation to the NHSMTTC in Albuquerque in May. The Georgia program has a lot to look forward to and we can’t wait to greet everyone in Albuquerque in just a few short weeks!

Indiana (Susan Roberts, State Coordinator): John Adams High School from South Bend Indiana will be returning to the National High School Mock Trial Championship for its twelfth consecutive year. John Adams High School’s first appearance at the National level was in Albuquerque in 1998, so this will be a reunion of sorts with the Land of Enchantment. This year, the students unraveled an 8 year old cold case involving the mysterious deaths of a family of four which involved drug smuggling on the high seas of Lake Michigan, and record-high seiches (lake-effect tsunamis). The cold case was resurrected after a child’s repressed memory was recovered through hypnotism. In other news in Indiana, we implemented new policies for the recruitment of attorneys and judges to volunteer to judge our regional and state competitions which will strengthen our base of judges when Indiana hosts the 2013 National High School Mock Trial Championship in Indianapolis. Finally, we’ve redesigned our website completely. So come take a look, if you haven’t already! www.inmocktrial.org.

Kentucky (Billy Stover, State Coordinator) - For the second consecutive year, a Montgomery County High School mock trial team has won the state title in the [Kentucky High School Mock Trial Tournament](#). Montgomery County High School from Mount Sterling squared off with duPont Manual High School from Louisville for the championship March 18. The tournament took place March 16-18 at the Jefferson County Judicial Center in Louisville. The win qualifies the Montgomery County team to compete in the National High School Mock Trial Tournament that will take place May 3-6 in Albuquerque. Thirty-two teams representing 27 Kentucky high schools competed in the state tournament.

Students argued the case of *Commonwealth v. Morgan Smith* for the competition. In the fictional case, retired Robbinsville police officer Morgan Smith is on trial for the murder of Christy Rose, who was a dispatcher for the police department when Smith was an officer. District Judge Earl-Ray Neal, who serves Clark and Madison

News and Notes From Around the Nation



Kentucky, cont. (*Billy Stover, State Coordinator*) - counties wrote the competition case. All of the teams participated in four rounds of competition and the two highest scoring teams, Montgomery County High School and duPont Manual High School, moved on to the championship round. Schools with teams that ranked in the top 10 at the tournament are, by rank:

1. Kentucky STATE CHAMPION– Montgomery County High School (Red Team), Mount Sterling
2. RUNNER-UP – duPont Manual High School (Red Team), Louisville
3. Louisville Collegiate School, Louisville
4. Eastern High School, Louisville
5. Madison Central High School, Richmond
6. Saint Xavier High School, Louisville
7. Montgomery County High School (Blue Team), Mount Sterling
8. Dixie Heights High School, Fort Mitchell (first time tournament participant)
9. Model Laboratory School, Richmond
10. Newport Central Catholic High School, Newport

Nebraska (*Doris Huffman, State Coordinator*) - The “Green” team from V.J. and Angela Skutt Catholic High School, Omaha, won the Nebraska High School State Mock Trial title for 2011. This Skutt team defeated the Ogallala High School team in final round competition on Wednesday, December 7, in Papillion. Judge Lyle Strom, Federal District Court for the District of Nebraska, presided over the competition at the Sarpy County Courthouse.

The Skutt team, which presented the plaintiff’s side of a civil libel lawsuit, has won the privilege to represent Nebraska at the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Albuquerque, New Mexico, May 3-6, 2012. A team from Skutt High School also won the state competition and competed at the national level in 2008 and 2011. The Nebraska Council of School Attorneys helps defray the students’ travel expenses by annually awarding a gift of \$1,000 to the Bar Foundation. The Skutt team’s teacher coach is Mary Meyers. Patrick Borchers and Judy Borchers are the attorney coaches. Daryl Hansen, Dean of Business, Metropolitan Community College, awarded scholarships to members of the winning and runner-up teams. Skutt students will receive 12 hours of credit from the College, and the Ogallala team members will receive 6 hours of credit. On the evening of December 6, Creighton University sponsored a banquet at the Embassy Suites – La Vista for the Mock Trial students. To view photos of the event, go to <http://www.nebarfnd.org/mock-trial>.

Nevada (*Kathleen Dickinson, State Coordinator*) – It has been an exciting season of mock trial in Nevada. We adapted a New Mexico case, renamed *Nevada v. Megan Barry*, and it was released on October 10, 2011. We had at least three new schools participating this year and at least one school we haven’t seen in a few years coming back for a total of ten high schools in Southern Nevada and seven high schools in Northern Nevada. The Southern Nevada Competition was held on January 14, 2012 at the Regional Justice Center in Las Vegas. The Northern Nevada Competition was held on February 24th 2012 at the Federal Courthouse in Reno. The State Competition was held on March 9th and 10th at the Regional Justice Center in Las Vegas. Galena High School from Reno competed in the final round of the state competition on 3/10 and won against Bishop Gorman High School.

Ohio (*Todd Burch, State Coordinator*) - Another successful season for the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education’s High School Mock Trial program concluded on March 10 when Indian Hill High School from Cincinnati claimed the State Championship by defeating Archbishop Hoban High School from Akron. The season began with 350 teams from 182 schools participating in the program. Indian Hill advanced through three levels of competition and won nine consecutive trials to win the championship. The competition utilized an original case written by a volunteer committee of attorneys dealing primarily with a 4th Amendment issue.

News and Notes From Around the Nation



Tennessee (Stacey Schrader, State Coordinator) - McCallie School of Chattanooga claimed the Tennessee State High School Mock Trial Championship title March 17th, defeating rival school Chattanooga Southeast Tennessee Home Education Association, in the 32nd annual Tennessee State High School Mock Trial Competition. The McCallie team now will represent Tennessee at NMSMTC in Albuquerque in May. St. Mary's Episcopal School of Memphis won the Team Sportsmanship Award based on the votes of fellow teams and the presiding judges.

Tennessee teams put their skills to the test arguing the fictitious case of *Mid-South Insurance Liability Company, Inc. v. Denim N²More, Inc.*, - a civil case involving a struggling textile manufacturing business that is destroyed in a late night fire. Allegations of arson lead the insurer to deny any claims, while the owner denies any knowledge of or involvement in the incident. As always, the case involved its share of characters, including a secretary making \$8,300 a month and a disgruntled employee who moonlights as a speed metal-bluegrass fusion musician, as well as a few clever "red herrings".

The two-day state competition, which took place Friday and Saturday, 3/16-17, involved 13 teams and 200 volunteers, including lawyers, law students and paralegals. In addition, sitting judges in the state presided over the trial rounds at the Metro Davidson County Courthouse in downtown Nashville. Tennessee Supreme Court Justice Gary Wade presided over the championship match Saturday evening. Get full Tennessee state competition results at <http://www.tba.org/info/2012-mock-trial-results>.

Wisconsin (Marsha Varvil-Weld, State Coordinator) - Wisconsin concluded its 29th year of Mock Trial sponsored by the State Bar of Wisconsin in March. There were over 100 teams registered this year, with several hundred attorneys and judges volunteering their time, and over 1,000 high school students. The Mock Trial case this year was an adverse possession case and involved a property dispute. The final round of the competition was held in the Supreme Court Hearing Room in front of 6 of the 7 Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices. Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson noted that she has judged all 29 years of the mock trial competitions in Wisconsin! Xavier High School and Shorewood High School were the top two contenders, with Xavier winning the final round. Both teams were very impressive. Xavier will be returning to the National Competition for the 3rd time in 4 years. We're looking forward to seeing everyone in Albuquerque!

Looking for Something to Talk About!!

The 2012 Coordinator's Round Table Discussion will be led by René Garner (Mississippi) on **Thursday, May 3rd** from 1-2 PM in the Sendero I Room at the Hyatt. The Round Table was created to provide coordinators with the opportunity to discuss topics important to mock trial programs around the nation. Those who attend this meeting can find out what works (and what doesn't) in other programs and can share their own successes and challenges with colleagues. It's a great opportunity to ask questions and get exceptional support from mock trial professionals around the country.

Are you interested in getting the conversation started?

Contact René at rgarner@msbar.org before **April 20** to share discussion topic suggestions.

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 2011-2012 Chair of the Board is John Wheeler (IA), the Vice Chair is Emily Reilly (WI), the Treasurer is Dewain Fox (AZ) and the Secretary is Susan Roberts (IN). This Board is charged with the following responsibilities:

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

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

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. This committee maintains an electronic case library that includes a copy of all past NHSMTC cases and state cases submitted for inclusion in the library each season. Those state cases submitted for the 2011-12 academic year have been summarized and placed into the case library. 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 Larry Bakko (WI). This committee was tasked during the 2011 October meeting of the NHSMTC Board with 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.

Articles & By-Laws Committee—This committee reviews and develops the by-laws that govern the NHSMTC, Inc. It meets as needed and currently Jane Meyer (PA) serves as chair. The Articles and By-laws of the NHSMTC, Inc., underwent an extensive review process before the October 2011 pre-tournament meeting in Albuquerque. During the meeting, the Board reviewed the recommended changes and updates and approved changes and updates to language in the following areas of the Articles and By-laws: Article III, Sects. 1-5 and 7-9; Article IV, Sects. 1-8; Article V, Sect. 3; Article VI, Sect. 2; Article VII, Sect. 1(b)(1) and Article VIII, Sects. 1 and 7. The Articles and By-laws are available to state coordinators on the NHSMTC website.

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. All past recipients of the award compose this committee and meet as needed. Judy Yarbro (TX) serves as chair. The committee reviewed nominations for the 2012 Gene Franchini Golden Gavel award in February, and, if a recipient was selected, will present the award during the NHSMTC Awards Ceremony on Saturday, May 5th in Albuquerque.

Case Committee—This committee has the authority to give final approval to a host committee's case materials. The committee reviews drafts of case materials to ensure suitability and compliance with National policies, rules and guidelines. The committee has also been tasked with preparing and having ready in reserve one problem for use at the NHSMTC, in the event the case prepared by the host committee is deemed unusable or in the event no host state is identified in a given year. This committee meets as needed and currently Dewain Fox (AZ) serves as chair. Coaches may not serve as members of this committee. The committee has completed its collaboration with the New Mexico (2012) case writers, is continuing collaboration with the Indiana (2013) case writers and will approve the case topic for the 2014 NHSMTC as soon as a host for that tournament has been identified.

NHSMTC Committee Work Summary, cont.



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. No new business is currently before this committee.

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. John Wheeler, NHSMTC Board Chair, chairs this committee.

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. The main focus of the LRPC this year has been the implementation of the new NHSMTC Membership Fee. The fee is \$250 and is due by April 15th each year. This membership fee is separate and in addition to a team's \$500 tournament registration fee. Both fees are required for participation in the tournament. The funds collected through this membership fee have been earmarked specifically for costs borne by NHSMTC, Inc. for hosting or aiding in the hosting of the national championship. Additionally, the LRPC is tasked with assisting the Board Host Director, Stacy Rieke, in identifying potential host sites should a traditional host committee not come forward to sponsor the 2014 NHSMTC and in assisting in the organization of a board-hosted NHSMTC. The LRPC will continue to identify issues affecting the long-term health of the organization and making improvements thereto.

Lobbying Committee—This committee was created to develop NHSMTC Board policy on lobbying for site bids and on gifts related to bids. This committee is currently inactive.

Media Communications Committee—This committee develops informational pieces 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 Bob Noel (LA) serves as chair. During the October meeting in Albuquerque, the NHSMTC, Inc. Facebook page was created and is currently administered by Emily Reilly (WI). Find and "like" the National High School Mock Trial Championship, Inc. FB page today.

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

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

Policy Committee—This committee sets policies regarding the conduct of NHSMTC business and the role of Board members and member organizations. This committee meets as needed and currently the Hon. Richard Sievers (NE) serves as chair. The NHSMTC, Inc. Policy Manual went through an extensive review process before the October 2011 pre-tournament meeting in Albuquerque. During the meeting, the Board reviewed the recommended changes and updates and approved changes and updates to language in the following NHSMTC policies: 3, 6, 10, 19, 21, 23, 28, 34 and 36. The NHSMTC, Inc. Policy Manual is available to state coordinators on the NHSMTC website.

Rules Committee—This committee reviews the current competition rules and the modified Rules of Evidence used in the NHSMTC and makes recommendations for modification. This committee meets as needed and currently Pete Jones (DE) serves as chair. During the October 2011 meeting of the NHSMTC, Inc. Board of Directors, approved updates to Rules 4.11, 4.5, 5.6, 404(a)(2) and 803(8).

NHSMTC Committee Work Summary, cont.



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 Rando Hicks (AR) serves as chair. Currently the Site Selection Committee welcomes inquiries from all interested potential hosts for the 2014 NHSMTC.

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

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

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Ad-Hoc Scoring Committee—This committee was created in 2008 to review the scoring and ranking system for the NHSMTC. This committee meets as needed and currently Larry Bakko (WI) serves as chair. No new business is currently before this committee.

Bookmark the New Mexico Tournament Website Now!!

www.2012nationalmocktrial.org

And bookmark the Indiana site for NEXT YEAR!!

<http://www.inmocktrial.org/2013Nationals.aspx>

Required Tournament Meetings

State Coordinators' Business Meeting—Thursday, May 3

2:00-4:00 PM in Sendero I (Hyatt)

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.

Hosted by John Wheeler (IA)

Timekeeper Orientation—Thursday, May 3

4:30-5:30 PM in Sendero II (Hyatt)

Attendance is required of all student timekeepers.

One coach (only) per team is welcome to attend, but coach attendance is not required.

Hosted by Stacy Rieke (GA), Susan Roberts (IN) and Laura Wesley (CA)

Tournament Orientation—Thursday, May 3

4:30-5:30 PM in Sendero III (Hyatt)

*The New Mexico Host Committee will **REQUIRE** at least one coach from each team 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.*

Hosted by Larry Bakko (WI) and Paul Kaufman (PA)

[Optional] State Coordinators' "Round Table"—Thursday, May 3

1:00-2:00 PM in Sendero I (Hyatt)

Attendance is optional for all state coordinators or a coordinator's official designee.

Hosted by René Garner (MS)

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

John Wheeler, *Board Chair*
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Civic Education
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We're on the Web!

www.nationalmocktrial.org

**FIND AND LIKE US ON
FACEBOOK!**

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

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Donald Christensen (At-large—NV)
Dewain D. Fox (HBD—AZ)
Rando Hicks (At-large—AR)
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Paul Kaufman (At-large—PA)
Jane Meyer (HBD—PA)
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Stacy Rieke (Board Host Director—GA)
Susan K. Roberts (At-large—IN)
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Laura Wesley (At-large—CA)
John Wheeler (At-large—IA)

Larry Bakko (Technical Support & Interim
Archivist—WI)

**2012 Non-Board
Committee Members**

Hon. George Carley (GA), *Case*; Cynthia
Cothran (SC), *Ad Hoc Scoring*; Anthony
Gonzales (NM), *Ad Hoc Scoring*; Doris
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Selection*; Billy Stover (KY), *Ad Hoc Scor-
ing*; Carey Shoufler (ID), *Development*;
David Trevaskis (PA), *Development*; Kathy
Vick-Martini (WI) *Awards*; Judy Yarbrow (TX),
Awards.

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



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

**Judging Panel Volunteers Needed
for the 2012 National Tournament
in Albuquerque!**

To volunteer, complete the online judging
panel form at
www.2012nationalmocktrial.org
("Volunteers" section)

Contact **Michelle Giger** at michelle@civicvalues.org
or (505) 764-9417, ext. 11 with questions regarding judging
panel service in Albuquerque.



Have a WONDERFUL Spring Semester!