

MOCK TRIAL MATTERS

www.nationalmocktrial.org

CALENDAR

January 4— [National Registration Open](#)

January 15— [State Membership Fees Due](#)

January 16— [Preliminary Interest form](#)

April 1— [National Case Release](#)

April 15—Deadline

- 1) Team registration
- 2) Event ticket orders
- 3) Tournament schedule adjustment
- 4) Last day to update registration.
- 5) Mandatory Coordinator Survey

April 22—Deadline

Payment for registration and event tickets.

TBA—Practice Room Schedules, Photo Schedules, Rules Questions.

May 12—State Coordinators Meeting; Timekeeper Orientation; Coaches Orientation and Team Pin Exchange.

May 13-15— National Tournament, Boise, ID

May 13— Rounds 1 & 2; Judges' Reception; Alive After Court!

May 14—Rounds 3 & 4; Championship Round; Awards Gala & Dance.

May 15— Team Packet Pick-up.

* The full [schedule for the National Championship Weekend](#) can be found on the National Mock Trial website.



Boise is Waiting!

Staff and volunteers from The Idaho Law Foundation and the 2016 National Mock Trial Host Committee are hard at work putting the finishing touches on the 2016 National High School Mock Trial Championship that will be held from May 12 to 14 in Boise, Idaho. All of the logistical information you will need for the competition and social events is housed on the event website at www.2016nationalmocktrial.org. You can also get up to date information on the [Idaho Mock Trial Facebook page](#).

On the website you can find information about traveling to Boise and links to the host hotels. You can also access information about registration, events, and our courthouse where all the competition rounds will take place. The team registration page will be live in January.

In the meantime, there are a couple of things you can do to help us get ready:

- Share this website with any attorneys or judges who might be interested in coming to Boise to judge for the 2016 championship. We are especially interested in reaching out to attorneys and judges in the western states. The online volunteer form is easy to fill out and a link to the form is prominently placed on the upper left corner of the website pages.
- If you haven't yet done so, please fill out the [2016 Preliminary Interest Form](#). We've moved the form online and it takes less than a minute to complete. We need those forms submitted by January.

The Idaho Law Foundation looks forward to hosting you this coming May. 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.

See you in the City of Trees in May! If you have any questions, contact Carey Shoufler at cshoufler@isb.idaho.gov or (208) 334-4500.

HOTEL INFORMATION

The Grove Hotel



245 South Capitol Boulevard, Boise ID, 83702
Distance to Boise Centre: Adjacent
Distance to Courthouse: 0.4 miles

Price per night: \$134.00
For reservations: [Book online](#)
For questions: (208) 489-2222
Last day to book: 4/9/16

Hampton Inn & Suites



495 South Capitol Blvd, Boise, Idaho 83702
Distance to Boise Centre: Across the street
Distance to Courthouse: 0.4 miles

Price per night: \$135.00
For reservations: [Book online](#)
For questions: (208) 331-1900
Last day to book: 4/9/16

Hotel 43



981 W. Grove Street, Boise, Idaho 83702
Distance to Boise Centre: Across the street
Distance to Courthouse: 0.5 miles

Price per night: \$135.00
For reservations: [Book online](#)
For questions: (208) 342-4622
Last day to book: 4/9/16

The Safari Inn Downtown



1070 Grove St, Boise ID 83702

Distance to Boise Centre: Two blocks

Distance to Courthouse: 0.6 miles

Price per night: \$90.00

For reservations or questions: Call (208) 344-6556

Last day to book: 4/4/16

The Courtyard by Marriott



222 S Broadway Ave, Boise, ID 83702

Distance to Boise Centre: 1 mile

Distance to Courthouse: 0.4 miles

Price: \$109-\$119

For reservations: Book online

For questions: (208) 331-2700

Last day to book: 4/20/16

The TownePlace Suites Boise Downtown



1455 S. Capitol Blvd. Boise, ID 83706

Distance to Boise Centre: 1 mile

Distance to Courthouse: 1 mile

Price: \$99.00

For reservations: Book Online

For questions: (208) 429-8881

Last day to book: 4/20/16

TRANSPORTATION— Air

All teams and attendees are responsible for making their own transportation arrangements to attend the event. The newly remodeled [Boise Airport](#) (BOI) is located less than four miles from downtown Boise. For transportation from the airport many hotels offer free shuttle services. Please arrange for shuttle service directly with your hotel. Otherwise, taxi and rideshare services are available from the lower level of the airport.

JUDGING PANEL SIGN-UP AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS SIGN-UP

Judges and volunteers are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible at www.2016natioalmocktrial.org.

New information will be added to the website regularly.

[NHSMTC 2016](#)

Nationals 2017 Host Connecticut

By Beth DeLuco, Host Director



**MAY 2017 NATIONAL
HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL
IS COMING TO HARTFORD, CT!**

Civics First, Inc. is so excited and honored to host the 2017 National High School Mock Trial Competition in Connecticut! 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 can't wait to show everyone our beautiful and historic city of Hartford. Points of interest will include the Connecticut Convention Center, the State Capitol, the Connecticut Science Museum, Adrienne's Landing, The Old State House, Bushnell Park and our many historic court buildings including the impressive Supreme Court pictured above.

Civics First staff, board of directors and volunteers are hard at work drafting the case, creating the theme and logo, raising funding and planning events! See you all in Hartford on May 11-13, 2017!

Nationals 2018 Host Nevada

By Don Christensen, Host Director

The Nevada Bar Foundation to Host 2018 National Mock Trial Championship

The Nevada Bar Foundation is the charitable arm of the State Bar of Nevada. The Foundation was organized to support charitable giving related to access to justice and legal education programs. The Foundation is excited to host the 2018 National High School Mock Trial Competition in Reno, Nevada. Coincidentally, the Competition will mark the twentieth anniversary of Nevada's participation in the Competition.

Reno is known as "The Biggest Little City in the World" and is home to the University of Nevada, Reno. Reno is the most populous Nevada city outside of the Las Vegas metropolitan area with a current estimated population of 237,000. Reno is situated just east of the Sierra Nevada at an elevation of about 4,500 feet above sea level. Reno is located approximately an hour's drive from the world famous Lake Tahoe and historic Virginia City.

The host hotel for the Competition will be the Silver Legacy. The Silver Legacy is part of the Tri-Property Complex which includes Circus Circus, Silver Legacy and Eldorado Resorts. The three properties are connected by sky-bridges and extend over a three block area. The Tri-Property Complex includes some 20 restaurants under one roof. The Silver Legacy is in easy walking distance of the courthouses which will be used for the competition.

We have received tremendous support from our local courts for providing the necessary courtroom facilities for the Competition. The local judiciary and members of the Nevada Bar are looking forward to hosting this exciting and prestigious event.

A Message From Our Chair

By Judge Dewain Fox



Here are a few thoughts as we get ready for the holidays and embark on a new mock trial season:

Host Committee has done a remarkable job of preparing to host the National Championship in May. The Board had a wonderful time in Boise, and I am confident that all of the teams competing in the 2016 National Championship will experience the same warm hospitality the Board experienced.

One week after returning from Boise, I celebrated my investiture. Although I was formally sworn in before I started on the bench in May, the investiture is a ceremonial swearing in attended by friends and family. Most importantly, the investiture was a time for me to publicly thank those who played a role in my appointment to the best and most rewarding job in my legal career. It was a good opportunity for me to reflect on what a difference my own participation in mock trial as a student has made in my life. I never would have pursued a legal career, let alone a judgeship, if my high school government teacher and mock trial coach

Kathy Hedges had not pestered me--I mean doggedly recruited me--to participate in mock trial. I was honored to have Kathy attend my investiture, so that I could thank her publicly for the difference she made in my life. For those mock trial coaches who do not receive the public acknowledgement that you deserve for all of the hard work and time that you devote to your students, please know that you are making a difference in your students' lives and you never know in the moment how your involvement ultimately will change someone's life.

During the October Board meeting, the Board briefly discussed long-range planning for NHSMTC. This discussion arose out of comments and questions from State Coordinators at the State Coordinators meeting in May. In order to devote the time necessary for this important topic, the Board decided it was best to have a special board meeting devoted solely to long-range planning. Specifically, the Board will be addressing how best to use NHSMTC's resources to accomplish NHSMTC's mission in the long term (see the last page of the newsletter for NHSMTC's mission statement). The special board meeting will take place on Wednesday of the National Championship week in Boise. It is important that State Coordinators have a voice in the long-range planning of this organization. If you have any thoughts that you want to share with the Board before the meeting, please feel free to send me an e-mail or contact any of the Board members.

Kim and I hope that all of you have a wonderful holiday season and enjoy some time off before the mock trial season starts to consume all of your free time. We look forward to seeing everyone in Boise!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dewain Fox". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dewain Fox, Board Chair

Committee Reports

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 NHSMTTC. The governing body of the NHSMTTC, Inc. is the Board of Directors of the NHSMTTC. The 2015-2016 Chair of the Board is Dewain Fox (AZ), Vice Chair is Emily Lindsey (WI), Treasurer is Paul Kaufman (PA) and Secretary is Laura Wesley (CA).

Awards Committee

Cynthia Cothran, Committee Chair

Nominate Someone Outstanding for the 2016 Justice Gene Franchini Golden Gavel Award

It is that time of year again to consider nominating someone in your state that has demonstrated exemplary dedication and commitment to the goals and ideals of the National High School Mock Trial program. It is real easy to nominate someone in 500 words or less describing why you feel your nominee should be considered for the 2016 Justice Gene Franchini Golden Gavel Award. Things to consider when making the nomination include the nominee's qualifications such as length of service/participation in the National High School Mock Trial championships; the extent of that participation; the importance or significance of the nominee's contributions; and how these qualifications help to further the goals and mission of the NHSMTTC. Up to five letters of recommendation may also be included in the nomination packet. All nominations are due by March 1, 2016. . If you have any questions, contact Cynthia H. Cothran at ccothran@scbar.org.

[Click Here to Download a Nomination Packet](#)

Nominating Committee David Berlin, Committee Chair

A scheduled election will be held during the State Coordinators' meeting on May 12th in Boise. There are 4 at-large Board positions up for election this year. According to the by-laws, interested candidates are to submit their letter of intent to run to the Nomination Committee Chair (David Berlin) no later than March 14, 2016. Submissions can be emailed to demberl@duhigglaw.com.

Site Selection Committee Gordon Widenhouse, Committee Chair

The committee reported that State Bar of Nevada and the Nevada Bar Foundation will host the 2018 National Championship in Reno, Nevada May 10-13, 2018. The State Bar of Georgia will host the 2019 National Championship in Athens Georgia, May 16-18, 2019.

NHSMTTC. is soliciting bids to host the 2020 National Championship. If your organization is interested in hosting the 2018 National Championship, please see the Bid Submission and Selection Process for information on submitting a bid site in 2020 or beyond! For more information contact Gordon Widenhouse at mgwidenhouse@yahoo.com.

Long-Range Planning Committee Emily Lindsey, Committee Chair

The Committee considered decreasing the NHSMTC membership fee and concluded that the membership fee should continue and for the foreseeable future at the same amount. Reasons included: 1) future competitions rely upon the membership fee for a start to fundraising efforts. 2) this seed money for fundraising encourages states to host. 3) The membership fee as seed money for fundraising assists in spreading the costs for the competition out to all states instead of just the host state. The Committee encouraged the board to consider decreasing the membership fee in the future as the organization and host states become more financially stable.

Policy Committee Cynthia Cothran, Committee Chair

The Policy Committee recommended a change to allow the board host director to be able to seek reimbursement, if needed, to attend NHSMTC board meetings.

Rules Committee Pete Jones, Committee Chair

The National Board adopted the following rule changes (the underlined part is new material):

Rule 4.17. Objections During Opening Statement/Closing Statement

No objections may be raised during opening statements or during closing arguments. If a team believes an objection would have been proper during the opposing team's opening statement or closing argument, one of its attorney may, following the opening statement or following the closing argument, stand and object and give a reason. The opposing team is allowed a rebuttal. The presiding judge will not rule on this "objection". Presiding and scoring judges will weigh the "objection" individually.

FRE 803(8), as amended:

(8) Public Records. A recorded statement of a public office if:

(A) it sets out:

- (i) the offices activities;
- (ii) a matter observed while under a legal duty to report, but not including, in a criminal case, a matter observed by law enforcement personal; or
- (iii) in a civil case or against the government in a criminal case, factual findings from a legally authorized investigation; and

(B) the opponent does not show that the source of information or other circumstances indicate a lack of trustworthiness.

FRE 803(6), as amended:

(6) Records of Regularly Conducted Activity. A record of an act, event, condition, opinion, or diagnosis if:

- (A) the record was made at or near the time by – or from information transmitted by – someone with knowledge;
- (B) the record was kept in the course of a regularly conducted activity of a business, organization, occupation, or calling, whether or not for profit;
- (C) making the record was a regular practice of that activity;

(D) all these conditions are shown by the testimony of the custodian or another qualified witness, or by a certification that complies with Rule 902(11) or (12) or with a statute permitting certification; and

(E) the opponent does not show that the source of information or the method or circumstances of preparation indicate a lack of trustworthiness.

FRE 803(7), as amended:

(7) Absence of Regularly Conducted Activity. Evidence that a matter is not included in a record described in paragraph (6) if:

(A) the evidence is admitted to prove that the matter did not occur or exist;

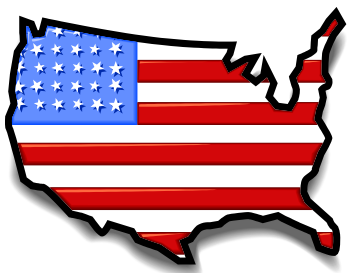
(B) a record was regularly kept for a matter of that kind; and

(C) the opponent does not show that the possible source of information or other indicated a lack of trustworthiness.

Rule 4.11. Supplemental Material: Accents, Costuming, Exhibits

Teams may refer only to materials included in the trial packet. No illustrative aids of any kind may be used, unless provided in the case packet. No enlargements of the case materials will be permitted. Absolutely no props or costumes are permitted unless authorized specifically in the case materials. Costuming is defined as hairstyles, clothing, accessories, and make up which are case specific. An accent is not considered costuming.

The student playing the witness is allowed to act as though she/he is afflicted with any condition, deformity, or disability described in the affidavits. Under no circumstances is the opposing team permitted to question the existence of such conditions based on the fact that the student playing the witness does not actually have them. While the opposing team may cross examine the witness on the extent of the condition based on information provided in the affidavits, the opposing team may not challenge the witness to prove the existence of the condition by asking him/her to show it to the jury.



News and Notes From Around the Nation

California

By Lourdes Morales, Constitutional Rights Foundation



Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) just concluded its 38th Annual Los Angeles County competition. This year we had 94 high school teams and 52 middle schools teams compete. Thanks to Jean Wentz, a former mock trial attorney coach, for putting together and presenting the webinar “How to Prepare a Team for Mock Trial.” This great webinar is now available on our webpage, see link below.

<http://crf-usa.org/mock-trial-program/starting-a-mock-trial-program.html>

CRF is excited to host its 35th Annual California Mock Trial State Finals in Sacramento, March 18-20, 2016. The program currently involves 36 California counties and over 8,000 students. This year's case, *People v. Hayes*, is the trial of Jamie Hayes, a college student, accused of killing Lee Valdez, a campus security guard. The pretrial argument involves the Fifth Amendment, protection against self-incrimination.

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

Colorado

By Timothy Rastello

A Championship-Caliber Mock Trial Team

Resilient. Perhaps no other word more aptly describes the members of Kent Denver's High School Mock Trial A- Team. Comprising seven high school seniors and two juniors, Kent's A-Team members collectively have amassed twenty-six years of experience in the CBA's highly regarded Mock Trial Program.

During the past four years, Kent's A-Team has won three Arapahoe County regional tournaments, and finished second this



year—losing by one point to their understudies on Kent’s B-Team. During the 2012, 2013, and 2014 state tournaments, Kent’s A- Team finished fifth, sixth, and fourth, respectively. The 2014 fourth-place finish was especially disappointing because the A- Team earned the presiding judge’s award as the Best Performing Team in the state tournament, but missed advancing to the 2014 state championship finals. The “Group of Nine” A-Team was therefore determined to win the state championship in 2015. The student members steadfastly practiced from the first day the CBA case plan was issued last November.

Exemplary Work Ethic Toward an Extracurricular Activity

Kent’s Mock Trial Program is an extracurricular activity; no course or Colorado High School Activities Association credit is provided for participation. It is a completely volunteer activity that is supported by the desire and commitment of the students and volunteer coaches (many of whom are CBA members), as well as by many teachers and parents. The Group of Nine formally met and practiced every Sunday and Wednesday evening from November until the state tournament in late March. Informally, the team frequently met to practice and scrimmage in the early morning hours before classes and during the weekends. They collectively invested more than 1,000 hours preparing for the state tournament.

Best-Laid Plans Sometimes Go Awry

The Group of Nine advanced to the CBA’s 30th Annual State Tournament in late March. The team worked hard to accomplish its aspiration of bringing home the 2015 championship trophy. Unfortunately, the team was mistakenly disqualified before the tournament and was removed to the consolation bracket for rounds three and four. This meant it would be precluded from competing for the championship and individual awards. Even so, at the end of the second round of the competition, the Group of Nine was one of only five undefeated teams, ranked first in total points and second in both ballots won and point differential.

Taking the High Road. A True Measure of Professionalism

Resilient. Rather than challenge the tournament’s final results, Kent’s championship-caliber team met with CBA Mock Trial Committee members for an explanation of what had occurred. Discussion included a possible change of rules and procedures to prevent future mistaken disqualifications.

Georgia

By Michael Nixon, State Bar of Georgia

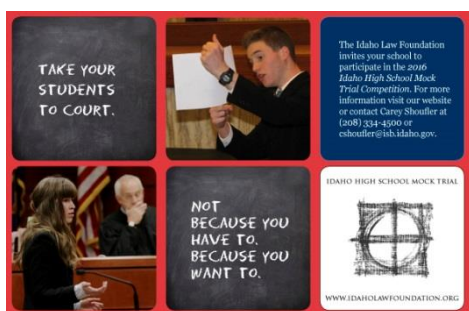
The Georgia High School Mock Trial Competition is in its 28th season with 133 teams registered for the competition. The Regional Competitions will take place in 16 locations around the state the weekend of January 30, with 48 teams advancing to the District Competitions on February 27. From there, the 8 District Champions will meet for the State Finals Competition March 19 to determine which team will be representing Georgia in Boise.

The season started with our 18th annual Law Academy in Atlanta over the weekend of September 24-27. Thirty seven students spent the weekend honing their trial preparation and practice skills with attorneys and judges in the program, finishing with the Student Bar Exam.

The 2016 case is a continuation of the 2009 National High School Mock Trial Championship case, hosted in Atlanta. In 2009, Ashley Dougherty was tried for the murder of Philip Newton at the New Echota Museum of Art. Talbot Berrien, Ashley’s friend and second in command, testified on Ashley’s behalf. Fast-forward to 2015 and Ashley, being just released from prison for Philip’s murder, locates Talbot, who is now curator at the George and Sandra Carley Museum of Art in Miltonville. Talbot has arranged for another exhibition of the centerpiece painting

from 2009, *The Cherokee Rose*. Ashley decides to use the opportunity to steal The Cherokee Rose as a way to exact revenge on the painting that ruined his/her life. Ashley gets the help of a high-society art thief, Sacha Bateman, to steal the painting. The night of the theft, Sacha is caught loading the painting in the back of the car and ultimately points the finger at Talbot, claiming Talbot gave Ashley and Sacha inside access and knowledge to pull off the heist. With Talbot on trial now, Ashley takes the stand to say his/her friend had nothing to do with the heist and was an unwittingly patsy in the caper.

Finally, Georgia is excited to have been awarded the bid to host the 2019 National High School Mock Trial Championship in Athens, GA! The weekend will be hosted by the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia and will be working in partnership with the University of Georgia and its School of Law. Though it is several years away, we are looking forward to bringing everyone back to Georgia and having a wonderful national competition.



Idaho

By Carey Shoufler, Idaho Law Foundation

The Idaho Law Foundation’s Law Related Education Program is getting ready for the upcoming 2016 Idaho High School Mock Trial Competition. Three regional tournaments will be hosted in different parts of the state on in late February and early March. 12 teams will advance from the regionals to the state competition to be hosted in Boise on March 16 to 18.

This year’s mock trial case is a civil case with an allegation of securities fraud. The case background is as follows: In the fall of 2013, a high school sophomore began developing an app with the stated purpose to serve as a study aid for students. The app, named Teacher’s Pet, was developed as part of a computer science class taught. After the class ended, the student continued to develop the app and began offering a small version of it for use by other students at the high school. By the student’s senior year, an investment firm decided to invest money in the Teacher’s Pet app to help bring it to market. As the app was in the final stages of development, preparing for its big launch on iTunes, rumors began to swirl that the app was being used to help students cheat. Because of these rumors, the iTunes App Store pulled Teacher’s Pet from its site. With the app off the market, the investment company lost money on their investment and is suing the student for securities fraud.

For the second year we sent a marketing postcard to all secondary schools in Idaho, hoping to recruit new teams to participate. We have had four new schools express interest in participating, with two of those teams already registering for the competition. In addition to our Idaho teams, Idaho will once again be hosting a team from Montana, since Montana does not currently have a high school mock trial program.

And finally, for the first time, Idaho will be holding a pilot coaches’ college in early January. The course will be held in four one hour sessions, offered through webinar to accommodate coaches from all parts of our state.

ILLINOIS

By Katy Karayannis, Illinois State Bar Association

The 2015 ISBA High School Mock Trial Invitational was held on March 14 and 15, 2015, at the University of Illinois’ College of Law in Champaign. Forty-two schools from across Illinois participated in the event. The

winning team was Hinsdale Central High School, which went on to place nineteenth in the National High School Mock Trials in Raleigh, North Carolina.

This was the second year the event was hosted by the College of Law. The location was well-received by participants and volunteers. Moreover, the College of Law welcomed the event, recognizing that hosting the program and establishing a cooperative relationship could mutually benefit everyone involved.

The 2015 Invitational was successful due to the hard work of the ISBA's Standing Committee on Law-Related Education, Mock Trial Coordinator, Aleksandra Ostojic, and the many judges, attorneys, law students, undergraduate students, and others who generously volunteered their time to assist with the program. The program was also made possible by the sponsorship of the ISBA, Illinois LEARN, the Illinois Trial Team, and the Diversity Scholarship Foundation of Chicago, and by the generous support of many others. The ISBA's Standing Committee on Law-Related Education appreciates all of these supporters and invites any attorney, judges, or other legal professionals to join us next year for the 2016 ISBA High School Mock Trial Invitational at the University of Illinois' College of Law in Champaign on April 2 and 3, 2016.

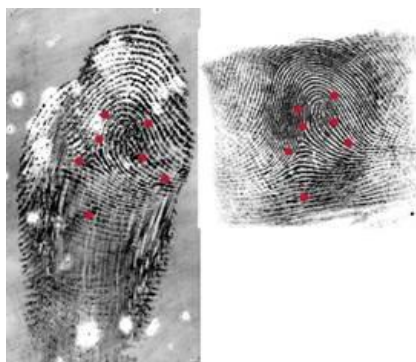
A full list of participating schools, sponsors, and volunteers, information about volunteering, and general information about the 2016 Mock Trial Invitational, as it becomes available, can be found at:

<http://www.isba.org/teachers/mocktrial>.

Minnesota

By Kim Basting, Minnesota State Bar Association

We are celebrating our 30th year this season! Our State Tournament will be held in our capitol city, St. Paul. This year's fictional Case is based on an actual crime that occurred in St. Paul. Our featured guest presenter, Paul Maccabee, whose book "John Dillinger Slept Here", helped tremendously with our research. Alvin "Creepy" Karpis, the kidnapper and bank robber whom J. Edgar Hoover anointed Public Enemy Number One, is quoted as saying "*Every criminal of any importance in the 1930s made his home at one time or another in St. Paul. If you were looking for a guy you hadn't seen for a few months, you usually thought of two places — prison or St. Paul. If he wasn't locked up in one, he was probably hanging in the other.*" St. Paul became an important location for gangsters during Prohibition. In 1928, St. Paul Police Chief John O'Connor instituted what became known as a "layover agreement" with gangsters. The agreement was simple. The gangsters could stay in St. Paul without interference from law enforcement on one condition: they had to refrain from committing their crimes within St. Paul. So as long as the gangsters and their associates did not commit their murders, kidnappings, and bank robberies in St. Paul, they had a



safe haven within the city. The layover agreement continued throughout the reign of Chief O'Connor and also under multiple successors. But in 1932, Thomas Dahill was appointed Chief of Police in St. Paul. Dahill, known as a reformer, announced the end of the layover agreement. As one would expect, the gangsters did not react positively to this news. Across the country, criminal gangs were engaged in the kidnapping of wealthy people whose families could afford large ransoms. In June 1933, with the layover agreement by the wayside, the Barker-Kipnis gang – joined by Jack Peifer – arranged for the kidnapping of William Hamm, Jr., the president of the Hamm's Brewery. The Hamm's Brewery had been faring well during Prohibition because it was allowed to lawfully sell many products. And with the end of Prohibition coming in December 1933, the Hamm

family could afford a hefty ransom. A latent fingerprint was lifted from one of the ransom notes, which analysts determined was a match for Peifer. That might seem unremarkable, but this case was among the very first in the country in which fingerprint comparison was used to obtain a criminal conviction. Though nearly everyone has unique fingerprints, the use of fingerprints as evidence under many circumstances remains somewhat controversial even today. The fingerprint evidence was allowed to be introduced at trial, and a jury convicted Peifer of kidnapping. While serving his sentence, Peifer committed suicide in his jail cell.

To view the Case, please visit our website at www.mnbar.org. We also set up a page under Café Press so that teams may purchase mugs, t-shirts, magnets, etc... at no cost to the program. To visit the site, [click here](#).

The MN State Bar Association had a database conversion last year, and with that, the Mock Trial Program was left without a database and having to use Excel spreadsheets for scheduling. This was an administrative nightmare, not to mention a waste of time. While I was at a hockey expo (this is Minnesota after all), I visited a vendor that was selling Association management software for teams. After looking into the program and costs, we thought it would be a perfect match to the Mock Trial Program. The software is called League Athletics. It is very reasonably priced and allows teams to have their own webpage, schedules, contact database, team rosters, etc. It allows us to post the schedules for trials, important FYI information, and solicit volunteer judges (who will then register and sign up for trials). Teams can also register online and pay their fees. We are also working with League Athletics on building a power matching module so that we don't need to do this manually anymore. With over 125 teams competing statewide over a course of five weeks, this will be a time saver! Did I mention that you can update anything (schedules, volunteers, scores, etc...) from your smart phone, at home, or the courthouse! If you are interested in learning more, please contact Kim Basting at kbasting@mnbar.org. To visit the new website, [click here](#).

Nebraska

By Cindy Lilleoien, Nebraska State Bar Foundation

Well, the biggest news that Nebraska can possibly share is that its state championship team from Omaha's Duchesne Academy won the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Raleigh! Chief Judge Laurie Smith Camp, US District Court for the District of Nebraska, recognized current members of the team at the Bar Foundation's annual Legacy of Liberty Breakfast on October 8. Ariana Haddad shared the story of the team's victory, and attorney coach Mark Laughlin recalled the experience as both a coach and a parent of one of the team members.



Judge Laurie Smith Camp congratulates
The National High School Mock Trial
Championship team from Duchesne Academy

Annually, the Foundation recognizes the long-term service of attorney and teacher coaches who have dedicated 15 or more years to Mock Trial. This year, two attorney coaches received Freedom Throw blankets, made by the company that made blankets for Civil War soldiers. A portion of the proceeds from the blankets goes to help fund the Wounded Warriors program.

The Foundation also honored the work of the talented Mock Trial Case Committee that annually writes an original problem, alternating between civil and criminal cases. Case

Committee members also received Freedom Throw blankets.

This year's civil case seeks damages for an out-of-control drone that crashes into a "priceless" collection of garden gnomes. Damages against the estate of the deceased drone pilot are sought through the lawsuit.

Twelve regional competitions are taking place across the state between October 1 and November 25. On December 8 and 9, teams winning regional competition will travel to Omaha to participate in the Judge Lyle Strom High School Mock Trial Project Championship. The team taking the state title will represent Nebraska at the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Boise in May.



Bar Foundation President Stan Goodwin, far right, thanks Members of the Bar Foundation's Mock Trial Case Committee

Nevada

By Kathleen Dickinson, State Bar of Nevada



We have 28 teams competing in Southern Nevada February 13, 2016 and 10 teams competing in Northern Nevada February 19, 2016. Our State competition will have 8 teams competing on March 4th and 5th at the Regional Justice Center in Las Vegas, Nevada. On September 26th 2015 we held a workshop for new teachers and coaches at the State Bar of Nevada. The teachers and coaches who attended received a lot of value and had a great exchange of information with our Nevada Mock Trial Committee. On the agenda you will see the link to our Videotaped 2014 workshop that is on YouTube for everyone to use if they are interested.



Agenda for Teacher
Coach Workshop Sep

New Jersey

By Sheila Boro, New Jersey State Bar Foundation



Late at night almost a year after Super Storm Sandy, disaster again strikes a Jersey shore family when four teenage intruders break into the Abrams' beach house, leaving one dead. Was it self-defense or did homeowner Jordan Abrams shoot Chris Pavano to death for other reasons? Students in the New Jersey State Bar Foundation's Vincent J. Apruzzese High School Mock Trial Competition will tackle this original criminal case this season.

In October teacher- and lawyer-coaches attended the Foundation's annual Mock Trial Workshop to learn how to prepare for the competition now in its 34th season. Students from Holy Spirit High School of Atlantic

County and Kingsway Regional High School of Gloucester County enacted *State v. Jordan Abrams*. The Hon. Mark A. Baber, Superior Court, Hudson County, presided over the presentation.

For the first time, the Foundation is sponsoring a courtroom art contest for high school students in connection with the competition. Art students whose schools enter the Mock Trial Competition are eligible to participate. Professional courtroom artists Aggie Kenny and Elizabeth Williams attended our October workshop and sketched the trial. They also conducted a separate workshop for art teachers earlier in October.

For more information about the courtroom art contest or to access our mock trial case, visit www.njsbf.org.



New Mexico

By Kristen Leeds, Center for Civic Values

Things are heating up here in New Mexico. We currently have 22 teams signed up for our regional competition which will take place in February. 8 teams will advance to finals competition in March. We adapted a civil case from Georgia and reports say the students are enjoying it. I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone better in Boise in May.

North Carolina

By Susan H. Johnson, Program Coordinator, Carolina Center for Civic Education

Life is a bit easier in North Carolina now that we are post-hosting of Nationals! We enjoyed getting to know so many talented students and proud coaches and parents at the 2015 NHSMTTC in Raleigh in May, and we can't wait to experience the fantastic hospitality of the Idaho mock trial program in the spring.

Nearly 70 teams have registered for this year's statewide competition so far (registration closes December 11). This year's criminal case, *State of Utopia v. Grayson Zayne*, is based on the 2015 PA mock trial case. Replete with hazing incidents, forensic entomology experts, and references to local events (including Krispy Kreme donut runs and a bone marrow donor drive on behalf of national final president Hon. Carl Fox), the case is proving to be challenging and intriguing to the students. We look forward to seeing the case brought to life at our eight regional sites on February 6, 2016. Regional winners will go on to compete for the championship at state finals in Raleigh on March 11-12.



Our 2015 summer mock trial camp, held in Chapel Hill at the end of July, brought together more than 60 students and coaches from five states. Legal professionals instructed the participants on every aspect of mock trial, and college "mockers" mentored the student teams as they prepared to argue one side of the camp case in the culminating trial scrimmages. Several new schools have enrolled in our fall program as a result of the camp.

Resource Recap

- Trial Workshop (NV)—This workshop is broken into sections such as opening, closing, decorum, objections etc. You can view the workshop on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLM-Oe6kFkCe22qyoz9a03TojIxazN7ztI>
- Clerk and Bailiff webcast (CA) —<http://crf-usa.org/mock-trial-los-angeles/la-mock-trial-download-forms.html>
- Coach Workshops

- ✓ Nevada



Agenda for Teacher
Coach Workshop Sep

- ✓ California

“How to Prepare a Team for Mock Trial.” This great webinar is now available on our webpage, see link below.

<http://crf-usa.org/mock-trial-program/starting-a-mock-trial-program.html>

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. To get the log-in information or update a program’s coordinator contact information, the state coordinator should contact:

Dewain Fox at dfox.nhsmtc@cox.net or Emily Lindsey at emilyrose.lindsey@gmail.com.

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

NHSMTC Championship Round DVDs

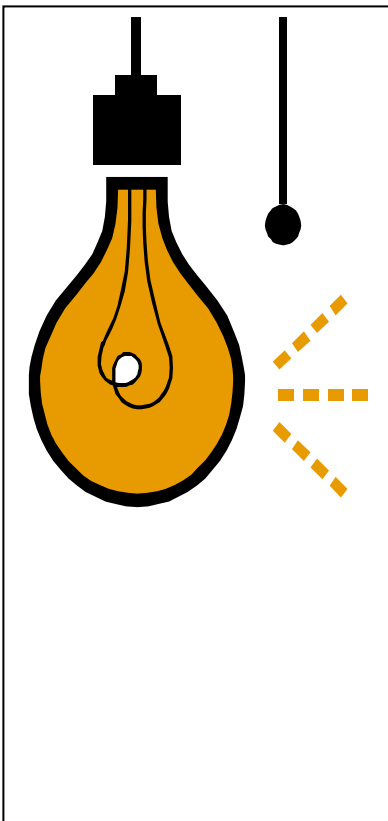
- Order the 2011 championship round DVD 2011 (AZ-Civil case) online at <http://www.azflse.org/mocktrial/2011>
- Order the 2012 championship round DVD 2012 (NM-Criminal case) by email: mocktrial@civicvalues.org
- Order the 2013 championship round DVD 2013 (IN-Civil case) by email skroberts@inmocktrial.com
- Order the 2014 championship round DVD 2014 (WI-Civil case) by email kwilcox@wisbar.org
- Order the 2015 championship round DVD 2014 (NC-Civil case) at <http://www.ncmocktrial.org/content/order-dvd-2015-national-championship-finals>

National High School Mock Trial is looking for a 2020 host!

Have you ever considered hosting? Now's your chance to be the national host in 2020!

Contact Gordon Widenhouse for more information

mgwidenhouse@yahoo.com



Mandatory State Coordinators Survey and Membership Dues

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

- 1) Complete the National Coordinator's Survey by April 15^h (The survey will be emailed to coordinators in early 2015)

and

- 2) Pay a \$250 membership fee, due January 15th. The membership fee is separate and in addition to a team's \$500 tournament fee due April 22nd.

The funds collected through the membership fee have been earmarked specifically for costs borne by NHSMTTC, Inc. for hosting or aiding in the hosting of the national championship. See Invoice at the end of the newsletter.



NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

DUES REMINDER

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

Membership dues of \$250 are due **January 15th** from each participating mock trial program. Please note the membership dues are separate and in addition to your state champion team's \$500 tournament registration fee. The tournament registration fee is due April 22nd, and made payable to The Idaho Law Foundation. Both fees are required for participation in the tournament.

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

NHSMTTC, Inc.
Paul Kaufman, Treasurer
220 E. Homestead Ave
Collingswood, NJ 08108

Email: Paul.Kaufman2@usdoj.gov

Return payment with the form below:

State/Territory/Country: _____

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

**Please note: This is your contact information that will appear in the NHSMTTC directory.*



NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Dewain Fox, NHSMTTC Board Chair
E-mail: Dewain Fox
dfox.nhsmttc@cox.net

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Rules
Carolyn Gravit

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**For a complete list of assignments, visit our website nationalmocktrial.org*

MISSION

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.

VOLUNTEER

Judging Panel Volunteers Needed for the 2016 National Tournament in Boise!

[Click here to volunteer now!](#)

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