

# Mock Trial Matters



## NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

### Calendar

- Arizona tournament website: [www.azflse.org/mocktrial/2011](http://www.azflse.org/mocktrial/2011)
- **Mid-January**—Tournament registration information available online
- **January 14 2011**—Preliminary Interest form due (see p. 11)
- **February 1**—Justice Gene Franchini Golden Gavel Award Nominations due to Justice George Carley
- **March 15**—Deadline to submit letters for Board candidacy (May Elections)
- **March 15**—Deadline to submit items for spring newsletter to Stacy Rieke
- **April 1**—National Case release date
- **April 14 (6 AM CT)**—Hotel reservation deadline
- **April 15**—Team registration deadline
- **April 15**—Deadline to order event tickets
- **April 15**—deadline to request tournament schedule adjustment
- **May 4-8**—National Tournament in Phoenix, AZ!



By **Dewain Fox**, 2011 Arizona Host Director

The **Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education** is excited to host the 2011 National Championship in Phoenix on May 5-7, 2011. The Foundation's partners for this wonderful event are the **Phoenix School of Law**, the **United States District Court for the District of Arizona** and the **American Board of Trial Advocates** ("ABOTA"). In addition, many law firms, attorneys and friends of the mock trial program have pledged financial support.

Information about the 2011 Nationals is available on the 2011 national website – [www.azflse.org/mocktrial/2011/](http://www.azflse.org/mocktrial/2011/). Donations to support the 2011 Nationals also can be made online at the website. The website will be updated with more information as we get closer to the 2011 Nationals. State coordinators and teams participating in the 2011 Nationals are encouraged to check the website often.

The 2011 Nationals will be based at the recently-remodeled **Hyatt Regency Hotel** in downtown Phoenix. The downtown area is easily accessible from **Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport** by shuttle, taxi, light rail or rental car. Enough rooms have been blocked so that all teams and guests should be able to stay at the Hyatt. The group rate is \$152 per night plus tax for up to 4 people per room. The cut-off for making group reservations will be 6:00 a.m. Central Time on April 14, 2011. As we get closer to the 2011 Nationals, the website will be updated to include information about making hotel reservations. Teams also will be able to reserve practice rooms at the hotel for Wednesday and Thursday.

The first formal event of the 2011 Nationals will be the traditional pin exchange on the evening of Thursday, May 5, 2011. This Cinco de Mayo-themed event will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, and will include food and drinks. Complimentary tickets will be provided to all official team members.

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 three different courthouses – the **Maricopa County Superior Court**, the **United States District Court** and the **United States Bankruptcy Court**. The two rounds on Saturday all will be held at the Maricopa County Superior Court. The championship round will be held on Saturday afternoon/evening in the **Special Proceedings Courtroom** in the United States District Courthouse.

*Continued on p. 2...*

## 2011 NHSMTC in Arizona, continued...

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 coordinating committee will provide the teams and state coordinators with directions to, and security procedures in effect at, the different courthouses. In addition, more details about how the rounds will be posted – including the use of text messaging – will be forthcoming as we get closer to the 2011 Nationals. All of this information will be provided in the on-site registration materials, on the website and at the orientation meeting on Thursday afternoon. Accordingly, it is important that all teams have a representative at the orientation session.

Teams will have the opportunity to purchase box lunches in advance for Friday and Saturday. Teams will be on their own for dinner and social activities on Friday evening. The coordinating committee will provide the teams and state coordinators with suggestions for activities and nearby dinner establishments.

The Foundation encourages state coordinators to recruit judges and attorneys from their home states to volunteer as presiding and scoring judges at the 2011 Nationals. Although we expect a large turnout of Arizona judges and attorneys for this event, we would like to have diverse judging panels with representation from around the country. As we get closer to the 2011 Nationals, the website will be updated to allow volunteers to register online. Out-of-state judges and attorneys who volunteer to judge will be invited to attend a special reception held at the world-class **Heard Museum** on Friday evening. The Heard Museum provides visitors with a distinctive perspective about the art and cultures of Native people, especially those from the Southwest.

On Saturday evening, immediately following the championship round, all of the teams and guests will be invited to attend a dinner and awards banquet. The ceremony will take place in the large atrium of the United States District Court. Awards will be presented to the top ten teams and the top individual performers. Complimentary tickets for this event will be provided to the official team members. Additional tickets will be available for purchase.

The 2011 Nationals will close with a dance for the students on Saturday night. The dance will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel immediately following the awards banquet.

The Foundation looks forward to providing a rewarding, educational experience while giving participants a little taste of Arizona life. The Foundation also encourages state coordinators and teachers to visit [Justice by the People \(www.scholastic.com/americanjustice\)](http://www.scholastic.com/americanjustice) – a website sponsored by ABOTA that enables mock trial students to practice their skills and features [Make Your Case \(www.makeyourcasegame.com\)](http://www.makeyourcasegame.com), an interactive game that allows students to control the action as they experience a real courtroom setting.

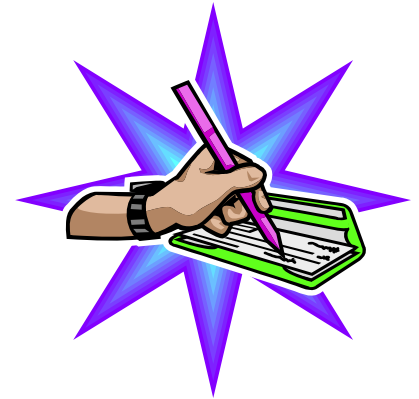
The 2011 NHSMTC (Arizona) Preliminary Interest Form is included in this newsletter on p. 11 and will be posted to the Arizona website soon. State coordinators are asked to complete this form by January 14, 2011, in order to ensure that their state is included in all communications regarding the 2011 Nationals. If you have any questions, in addition to checking the website periodically for updates, you may contact the **2011 National Host Director, Dewain Fox**, at [dfox@shermanhoward.com](mailto:dfox@shermanhoward.com). We look forward to seeing everyone in Phoenix in May 2011!

The 2011 Arizona Tournament Website is:  
<http://www.azflse.org/mocktrial/2011/>  
Bookmark It!

## Team Registration Fee Increases in 2011

During its May 2010 meeting in Philadelphia, the NHSMTC Board voted to increase the team registration fee from \$300 to **\$500**. The last time the team registration fee was increased was in 1998, when it was raised from \$125 to \$300. The fee increase is scheduled to go into effect for the 2011 NHSMTC in Phoenix, Arizona. The increase in the registration fee was announced to state coordinators during the Coordinator Meeting in Philadelphia in May 2010.

In 2011, half of the team registration fee (\$250) will go to the Arizona Host Committee to assist in covering tournament expenses, with the remainder going to the NHSMTC, Inc. to cover existing and new program-related expenses, including but not limited to the new travel stipend for new Board members, as unanimously supported by the State Coordinators at the May, 2010 meeting. In 2012, \$150 of the \$500 fee will go to the New Mexico Host Committee to assist in covering tournament expenses, with the remaining \$350 going to the NHSMTC, Inc. to cover program expenses and to begin the process of building a fund that will allow the Board to cover normal operating expenses, and also provide it with the basic resources necessary to host the tournament in years when a local host committee has not been identified. Additionally, these funds can also be used to support more local host committees in upcoming years, as the Board voted to support the New Mexico Host Committee with a separate \$25,000 grant for the 2012 tournament. While budgets are tight everywhere, this increase in the team registration fee is a positive step to secure the financial future of the NHSMTC, Inc. and will allow the organization to continue supporting the national tournament in a manner that will continue to provide an exceptional academic and competitive experience for the teams involved.



## 2012 Tournament: Albuquerque, New Mexico



By **Michelle Giger**, Executive Director for the New Mexico Center for Civic Values

¡Bienvenidos a Albuquerque, Nuevo Mexico! The 2012 National Championship will be hosted in Albuquerque by the **Center for Civic Values** with major cosponsors, the **State Bar of New Mexico** and **National High School Mock Trial Championship, Inc.** The headquarters hotel will be the **Hyatt Regency Albuquerque Downtown**, where the guaranteed rate for attendees is \$110 per night, plus tax for a net rate of about \$125 per night. Reservations at the Hyatt will be limited to teams and judges. The “overflow” hotel will be the **Albuquerque Doubletree**, which is about 2.5 blocks from the Hyatt and about the same distance to the courthouses. The property has just been renovated top to bottom and is a great facility with a guaranteed rate of \$129 per night plus tax for a net rate of \$146. Trials will take place at the **2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District, Metropolitan and U.S. District Courts**. The three buildings sit on three adjacent corners and are within easy walking distance from both the Hyatt and the Doubletree.

Planned activities for the New Mexico tournament include practice rooms on Wednesday and Thursday; a coordinators’ roundtable and business meeting, as well as a coaches’ orientation on Thursday; an accommodation round (if necessary) and team pin exchange/dinner Thursday evening; a judges’ reception at a local museum near Albuquerque’s Old Town on Friday; an awards ceremony/dance, with a dessert bar and a hospitality suite for teachers, attorney coaches, coordinators and judges on Saturday. (If our fundraising is successful, we plan to make the hospitality suite available on Thursday and Friday nights, too!)

The 2012 championship will be the first “scaled back” event with fewer bells and whistles than we have seen at past tournaments. For instance, there will be fees for team breakfasts and lunches, as well as for the awards ceremony and dance. Economic issues simply make it impossible to host without making these changes. Still, Nationals is about the competition and we are confident that all of the participants – students and adults alike – will find their visit to New Mexico to be rewarding and memorable. We expect it to be an outstanding event and we look forward to seeing all of you in Albuquerque!

## A Word From Our Chair

It's raining.

Literally, it's a cold, gloomy, rainy day here in Des Moines. Figuratively, it's also raining. Not hard mind you. No torrential downpours. No prediction of monsoons, hurricanes, floods or anything biblical – yet. But it is raining.

You will notice sprinkled throughout this edition of *Mock Trial Matters* mention of downsizing, notice of a fee increase, and discussion of efforts to generate additional funds to support the “rainy day fund.” All of us involved in mock trial – and law-related education generally – are faced with the same situation and the same decisions. We are being asked to do more (or at least the same) with fewer resources. And in all of our situations, we are loathe to cut back on programming. We know from our own experiences that the content of what we do really matters, and that any reduction of service may result in fewer opportunities for students, a reduction in student understanding, and a lessening in student skill development. And so we try to make cuts and stretch funds to weather the storm.

At my state level, I've had two recent “justify your existence” meetings where each LRE program has been scrutinized – not for the value of the program itself, but on the basis of cost-effectiveness. (Don't get me started!!) Interestingly, the mock trial programs (which cost the most) were the easiest sell! I think Bar Associations “get it” that mock trial is great publicity for the organization and is a tremendous way to get members involved in a community volunteer project. (But here I'm preaching to the choir!)

On the national level, we are fortunate to have a number of people to help who have either ridden out similar storms in the past or who are willing to do whatever is necessary to make sure that even in the midst of rising water, we stay relatively dry. Each of the NHSMTTC Board members contributes greatly to the planning, programming and smooth running of the organization. There are a couple of committees that over the past 12 months have really stepped in to try to keep us above the rising tide.

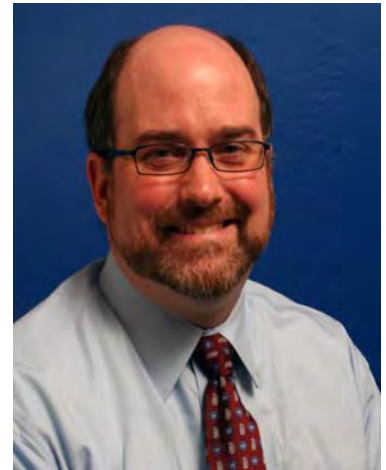
The Long Range Planning Committee has taken on the unenviable task of trying to formulate contingency plans. Many email exchanges, a few telephonic conversations, and a special meeting in Minneapolis in June resulted in a variety of options and priorities for consideration. In October, the full Board discussed these alternatives at length and approved a number of initiatives both for short-term and long-range solutions. We have begun the process of identifying possible locations for a NHSMTTC-led national competition when necessary, the key jobs that will need to be filled, and the funding needed to accomplish even a bare-bones event.

The Site Selection Committee has similarly been hard at work trying to identify, encourage, and guide potential interested hosts. This committee has also discussed some possible alternatives and is actively pursuing ideas and leads. Site Selection is ready, willing and able to meet with any interested parties to fashion creative approaches to hosting future competitions.

The Board as a whole has been working to increase the visibility of the organization and to expand the competition to reinvigorate past participating states, to bring in new state programs, and to seek out additional international partners. The growth of the organization will lead to a growth in status and visibility and will undoubtedly help to shore up the levees.

We've got our umbrellas out and our foul weather gear at the ready. You can help lend a hand in the preparations for inclement weather. Consider serving on one of the many existing committees or on the newly formed Development Committee – tasked with identifying more solid sources of funding long-term. If we all prepare for the coming storm, we will surely be able to ride it out.

It's raining. But here in Iowa, we're glass half full kind of folks. At least it's not snowing!



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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Wheeler". The signature is stylized and fluid.

## Rules Changes for 2011 Tournament

At its recent pre-tournament meeting in Phoenix, the Board approved changes to the following Rules of the Competition: **4.8, 4.21, 5.3, 5.4 and 5.6**. Additionally, changes have been made to the following Rules of Evidence: **404(b), 611(e) and 702**.

All rules changes will be reflected in the copy of the rules posted on the NHSMTC website ([www.nationalmocktrial.org](http://www.nationalmocktrial.org)) by the case release date. Rules questions should be directed to **Pete Jones** (NHSMTC Rules Committee Chair) until the case release date (April 1). After April 1 and until the tournament weekend is complete, all rules questions should be directed to Arizona Host Director **Dewain Fox**.

## Revisions to NHSMTC, Inc. Articles & By-Laws

During its recent pre-tournament meeting in Phoenix, the Board approved changes to the NHSMTC, Inc. Articles and By-laws. The approved changes include a limit of two at-large and/or host director positions from a single state, but no term limits for at-large, elected positions. A fund was created to provide a travel stipend for new Board members. The fund provides a maximum per year limit of \$2,000, with a maximum per applicant cap of \$500. Monies from this fund may only be used for travel to the October Board meeting and would only apply to Board members appointed or elected after 4 May 2011.

Additionally, amendments were made to Article VII, Section 1 regarding appointment to the Case Committee, Article VI, Section 11 regarding proxy votes, and Article VI, Section 12 regarding Board votes via electronic means. Further, a **\$250 membership fee** (in addition to the tournament registration fee) was approved by the Board and that fee has been waived for the 2011 competition season (Arizona), but will be instituted during the 2012 season (New Mexico). More details will be forthcoming over the next several months regarding the new membership fee.

A new appointed Board position, "Board Host Director", was created and will be filled beginning 9 May 2011 by **Stacy Rieke** (GA). This position has a 3 year term and will expire in May 2014. The Board Host Director will assume Host Director duties should a local host committee remain unidentified 30 months before a scheduled tournament date. Under these emergency circumstances, the NHSMTC Board will host the tournament in a city identified by the Board.

An updated copy of the Articles and Bylaws will be available by the case release date on the NHSMTC website under the "About the Competition" and the "Board of Directors" sections. The Articles and By-laws Committee, chaired by **Jane Meyer** (PA) will continue their review of the A&B and may make further recommendations for amendments during the May 2011 meeting.

## Spring Board Elections

A scheduled election will be held during the State Coordinators' meeting in Phoenix in May 2011. There are **four at-large** Board positions up for election this year. The at-large positions expiring in May 2011 are currently held by **Aric Fujii** (Hawaii), **Jane Meyer** (Pennsylvania), **Bob Noel** (Louisiana) and **Michael White** (Alaska). **Stacy Rieke's** (Georgia) position as 2009 Host Director expires in May 2011. This position will be filled with the Host Director for the 2013 tournament, however the identity of that person has yet to be determined. The 2012 Host Director position has been filled by **David Berlin** (New Mexico). The 2012 HD position will expire in May 2014. The archivist position, currently held by **Dee Runaas**, is an appointed position that the Board reviews and renews on a yearly basis. Board members are required to attend (in person) the two regularly scheduled board meetings in October and May each year.

According to the by-laws, interested candidates must submit their letter of intent to run to the Board Chair (**John Wheeler**; [jwheeler@iowabar.org](mailto:jwheeler@iowabar.org)) no later than **March 15, 2011**. If this deadline is missed, but a person still wishes to be nominated for one of the Board positions, that individual must communicate this intention to the Board Chair by the end of the May Board meeting. 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 in May. (See *NHSMTC, Inc. By-Laws Article IV, Section 2*)

## The NHSMTC Is NOT a Spectator Sport!

By **Dee Runaas**, Site Selection Committee Chair

Let's face it. The National High School Mock Trial Championship could not exist without the efforts of each and every state mock trial coordinator and their state mock trial programs. It is because of your efforts, and those of the coordinators who went before you, that the National program even exists.

We are all facing difficult economic times and the economy is forcing mock trial programs everywhere to trim their budgets. The National Championship is no different and the Board understands that this new reality limits some programs' ability to consider hosting the tournament. But with creative thinking, this doesn't have to be the case. The National Board is willing and able to work with states interested in hosting the NHSMTC in the future to ensure that program integrity is maintained while adjusting for the economic reality we are all facing. In short, we are able and willing to negotiate, within reason, in order to line up future host committees. The Board has previously advised coordinators that it would welcome bids that do not contain all of the bells and whistles that have accompanied some of the past championships. The Site Selection Committee is also researching possible alternatives for future host sites.

The NHSMTC can no longer afford to have so many spectators on the sidelines, while so few players are on the field. We need team players to help secure the future of this competition. Ask yourself what you and your organization are willing and able to do to see the NHSMTC steps boldly into the future. Can you step up and host? Can you help find sustainable funding for the NHSMTC? There are many needs and you and/or your organization may be able to help. Our most pressing need, however, is to identify host sites for 2013 and beyond.

Please step up and be one of the players on the field! The Site Selection Committee needs your help to ensure the longevity of this program. We welcome your ideas, creativity and commitment and look forward to hearing from you soon. Contact **Dee Runaas** at [runaas@crfc.org](mailto:runaas@crfc.org) with comments, concerns and ideas.

## Long Range Planning Recommendations Implemented

By **Emily Reilly**, Long Range Planning Committee Chair

At the Board's October meeting in Phoenix, we covered much ground in the area of Long-Range Planning. A majority of the recommendations put forth from the Long-Range Planning Committee retreat held in Minneapolis in June were reviewed, debated and voted upon. In the course of those debates, any feedback I received from State Coordinators was reviewed. You have seen a smattering of recommendations throughout this newsletter. The board voted to establish priorities to fulfill NHSMTC mission and vision as put forth in the Long-Range Planning Report. Recommendations through page 10 were debated and passed as recommended. The board did not vote on recommendations G (National office/staff) and H (Expansion of Program offerings...). If you would like to review the LRP Report and individual recommendations, please contact me at [ereilly@statebar.gen.mn.us](mailto:ereilly@statebar.gen.mn.us) or (612) 278-6306.

### Nominations for the Justice Gene Franchini Golden Gavel Award are due Tuesday, February 1, 2011.

Consider nominating an outstanding supporter of the NHSMTC for this prestigious award!

*Nomination details may be found on p. 8 of this newsletter and on the NHSMTC website.*

## Mock Trial News and Notes



### Georgia (Stacy Rieke, Coordinator)

This fall, the Georgia High School Mock Trial Competition registered a record 132 teams for the 2011 competition season. Of that number, we are excited to welcome 19 brand new mock trial teams to the program! We'll host 17 regional competitions statewide in February, with 17 regional champion and 2 wildcard teams advancing to our state finals tournament in March. In November we hosted our 12<sup>th</sup> annual **Law Academy** at the **University of Georgia Law School** in Athens. We had 28 student team leaders in attendance and it was a great experience for faculty, staff and students alike. Special thanks to **Emily Reilly (MN)** for great ideas from the Minnesota program that we were able to incorporate into this year's Academy, including a character development/improv exercise session and a law career exploration breakfast. This year's Georgia problem is a 42 USC § 1983 action brought by Detective Rook E. Greenwood against

Chief Billie Durden of the Miltonville Police Department. Greenwood claims that Durden violated his/her civil rights by terminating him/her based on a statement s/he made through a posting on a social networking site. Chief Durden disputes that the statement in question had anything to do with Greenwood's firing, and instead claims to have terminated Greenwood "for good cause" due to citizen complaints. It's a timely topic and the first time in 17 years that the Georgia Problem Subcommittee has set a mock trial case in U.S. District Court. We're looking forward to an exciting year of mock trial in Georgia and look forward to an exceptional national tournament in Phoenix in May!

### Indiana (Susan Roberts, Coordinator)

Indiana released its High School mock trial case on November 8, 2010. This year's case is a civil matter involving negligence and defamation claims. The plaintiff, a once rising star as a news anchor, will attempt to show that s/he suffered bed bug bites after staying at the defendant's hotel. The plaintiff also intends to prove that s/he lost the opportunity for career advancement as a global broadcast cable network host because of defamatory comments made by the hotel's manager. The defense will attempt to show that the hotel, a prestigious and well-established boutique hotel in Indiana, was not negligent and no defamatory comments were made. The hotel has filed a cross-claim for its damages of the loss of business claiming that the plaintiff and the news station defamed the hotel and planted the bed bugs in the hotel room to fabricate a news story. The students are "itching" to compete in the February regional competitions. Indiana is also continuing to develop its middle school mock trial program, headed by **Ann Marie Waldron**. The middle school students are working on the Lincoln conspiracy trial case of Dr. Mudd. We now have a Facebook page and we are Tweeting to keep the communications timely to teams.

### Kentucky (Billy Stover, Coordinator)

I am excited to say that this year's Kentucky mock trial case is written by someone who is no stranger to the mock trial program. **Honorable Earl-Ray Neal** wrote the Kentucky case this year. Judge Neal participated in the mock trial program as a student participant. While in high school, he led his team to a state championship and competed at the NHSMT. After graduating high school, Judge Neal attended Eastern Kentucky University and then went on to law school and became an attorney. During his years as an attorney, he was the attorney coach for Model Lab's high school mock trial team and played a key role as one of the coaches that helped lead Model to many trips to the national competition. He now is a district judge for Clark and Madison counties and travels anywhere and everywhere as a judge for the mock trial program. Judge Neal has also attended the last 3 Nationals with the Kentucky team. This year's case is about a grandparent who is charged with Reckless Homicide. The grandparent is raising two granddaughters. The youngest granddaughter, who was two years old, was given some cough medicine that belonged to the older granddaughter and the two-year old dies. There are many twists and turns in this case, and the teams really seem to enjoy the balance of this case. Needless to say, Judge Neal has a heart for mock trial and continues to give his support and his time to this worthwhile program! Kentucky's mock trial state competition will be held in Louisville the weekend of March 18-20, 2011. Approximately 36 teams will compete in 4 rounds of competition and the top two teams will compete in a 5<sup>th</sup> round for the state championship. Good luck to all the teams!

### Minnesota (Emily Reilly, Coordinator)

August kicked off our 25<sup>th</sup> year of MSBA-sponsored mock trial in Minnesota. 20 students attended our first-ever **Mock Trial Summer Skills Camp**. Students prepared their case for Harry Potter, Book One in 24 hours with teammates they'd never met before. In addition to the trial prep, campers practiced improvisational games, visited the state judicial center and did some legal career exploration. Minnesota teams are currently working on their arguments for this year's criminal case: *State of Minnesota v. Robin Caldwell*. This case is based on the real-life murder of Duluth, MN native, 83-year-old Elisabeth Congdon, in 1977. Teams will have their first practice invitational tournament in early December.

## Mock Trial News and Notes, continued...



### Nebraska (Doris Huffman, Coordinator)

The **Nebraska State Bar Foundation** has registered 130 teams representing 65 schools for its 2010 Mock Trial regional competition. The students are studying and presenting the case of *State of Nebraska vs. Alex B. Toakliss*, which was inspired by the **South Carolina Bar Association's** 2007 Mock Trial case, *State of South Carolina vs. Lane Miles*. It involves a manslaughter charge against a college student following the death of a fellow student at a Halloween party. Winners of the 12 regional contests will compete at the State Tournament in Lincoln on December 6 and 7. An interview of **Chief Justice Michael G. Heavican, Nebraska Supreme Court**, will highlight the annual Mock Trial Banquet on the evening of December 6. **Senior Judge Lyle E. Strom, United States District Court for the District of Nebraska**, will preside over the championship round of competition on December 7.

### Nevada (Kathleen Dickinson, Coordinator)

Our 2010-2011 case has just been distributed. We are using *State of Nevada vs. Parker Plunkett*. This is an original case written by: **Lance R. Broberg, Esq.** from **Tiffany & Bosco, PA** and **Tiffany F. Broberg, Esq.** from **Ridenour, Hinton & Lewis, PLLC**. It has been previously used in Arizona in 2009. Our Nevada Mock Trial Committee members **Andrew Craner** and **Lori Plater** edited it for Nevada's use. The Regional Competition in Southern Nevada will take place January 22, 2011 and the Regional Competition in Northern Nevada will take place February 11, 2011. The State Competition will take place in Reno February 22, 2011.

### South Carolina (Cynthia Cothran, Coordinator)

South Carolina's High School Mock Trial program recently added a courtroom sketch artist and courtroom journalist competition component to the regional and state competitions. In addition, with funding getting tighter and costs continuing to rise, the **SC Bar's LRE Division** was recently approved to sell souvenir items at the Middle and High School Mock Trial State Competitions to include such items as pad portfolios, souvenir cups, lanyards, and car magnets. In addition, a pilot Middle School Mock Trial Summer Day camp will be provided in summer 2011. All profits from both new efforts will be applied to the following year's mock trial program. Wish us luck!

## Justice Gene Franchini Golden Gavel Award Nominations

The **Golden Gavel Award** was renamed in May 2010 in memory of the Hon. Gene Franchini of New Mexico and is now known as the **Justice Gene Franchini Golden Gavel Award**. Justice Franchini served as both a trial and an appellate judge over a career spanning decades, and earned a reputation among his peers as a highly-principled man, who truly loved the law. His un-failing passion for helping young people learn about his favorite subject led him to serve each year as a judge in regional, state and national mock trial competitions, and the admiration and respect he garnered from the students whose lives he touched cannot be overstated. This award recognizes any adult individual who has demonstrated this type of exemplary dedication and commitment to the goals and ideals of the National High School Mock Trial Championship.



**The Hon. Gene Franchini (1935-2009) served on the New Mexico Supreme Court from 1990 until his retirement in 2002.**

To nominate someone for this prestigious award, complete the nomination form found online (Newsletters & Forms section) and submit it along with at least two letters of support for the nomination by the published deadline. The nomination should include the nominee's qualifications such as length of service/participation in the NHSMTC, 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 NHSMTC. It is helpful to the committee if letters of support are provided by a variety of sources, including members of the local and state mock trial committee with which the nominee works.

Nominations are due each year by **February 1st** to the Chair of the Awards Committee. In 2011, nominations should be sent to **Justice George Carley** by fax at 404/657-7576 or by mail to 536 State Judicial Building; 40 Capitol Square, SW; Atlanta, GA 30334. Questions may also be directed to Justice Carley at 404/656-3471.

## Mock Trial Resources

### DVD's of Past National Championship Rounds:

**2007**—(Dallas, TX—civil case)—Order the '07 championship round DVD online at: <http://www.dallasbar.org/thsmtc/info.asp?id=9>; The cost is **\$20/copy**. Contact **Amy Smith** at the **Texas Mock Trial Office** with questions about the DVD ([asmith@dallasbar.org](mailto:asmith@dallasbar.org) or 214/220-7484 )

**2009**—(Atlanta, GA—criminal case)—Contact **Stacy Rieke** at the **Georgia Mock Trial Office** ([StacyR@gabar.org](mailto:StacyR@gabar.org) or 404/527-8779) for an order form or for questions about the DVD. The cost of the '09 championship round DVD is **\$18/copy**.

**2010**—(Philadelphia, PA—criminal case)—The order form for the '10 championship round DVD may be found online at <http://www.2010nationalmocktrial.com/>. The cost is **\$20/copy**. Questions about the DVD may be directed to **Pam Kance** at the **Pennsylvania Bar Association** ([Pam.Kance@pabar.org](mailto:Pam.Kance@pabar.org)).



### Printed Materials:

The Georgia HSMTTC uses the book **Mock Trials: Preparing, Presenting and Winning Your Case** by Steven Lubet and Jill Trumbull Harris as the textbook for our Law Academy each year. While this publication was written with undergraduate college mock trial teams in mind, we find it to be a solid resource for our high school teams, as well. Copies may be purchased online at <http://www.lexisnexis.com/store/search/search-results.jsp?requestid=17828>.

The Georgia HSMTTC has produced a video/print guide resource for high school mock trial teams titled **May It Please the Court**. An order form may be found on the NHSMTTC website under the "About the Competition" section. The cost is **\$40/copy**.

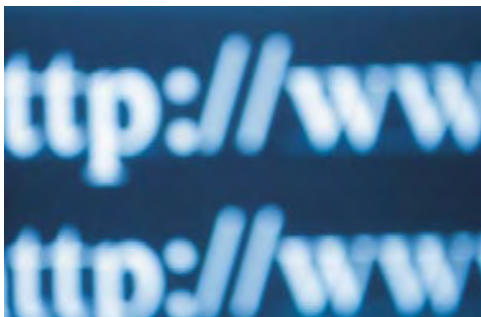
### NHSMTTC Case Library:

The National High School Mock Trial Championship, Inc., is pleased to provide a library of mock trial cases online under the Sample Case Database section of the website. The mock trial cases on the website are available to state coordinators interested in using these materials. Those non-coordinators interested in obtaining an electronic version of the materials in the library should contact their state coordinator with the case number and name. The coordinator will then be able to request the case and forward it to the interested party. Access to the case library requires a coordinator to log-in. To get the log-in information or update a program's coordinator contact information, the state coordinator should contact **Larry Bakko** at [larry@nationalmocktrial.org](mailto:larry@nationalmocktrial.org). All questions about the case library should be directed to Larry, as well.



### Web Resource:

The **Great Rivers Technologies National Mock Trial Practicum** web resource provides an exceptional opportunity for coaches to supplement the mock trial resources available to teams participating in mock trial programs throughout the nation. It is a general information, interactive website whose purpose is to enhance the Mock Trial experience for students, teachers, coaches, and judges, to provide an interactive area that will help students better understand how to give a statement, ask questions, control a difficult witness, and make timely objections. It also allows coaches to run a strong Mock Trial program even if they are new to the activity, don't have access to an attorney coach, or would just like to better understand the process and involvement. Contact **Tim Shade** at [tshade@greatrivertech.net](http://tshade@greatrivertech.net) for more information or to place an order for this resource.



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

John Wheeler, NHSMTC Board Chair  
625 East Court Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50309

Phone: (515) 243-3179

E-mail: [jwheeler@iowabar.org](mailto:jwheeler@iowabar.org)

**We're on the Web!**

[www.nationalmocktrial.org](http://www.nationalmocktrial.org)

**Mock Trial Matters Newsletter**

To submit items for the spring issue  
contact: **Stacy Rieke**

(404) 527-8779 or [stacyr@gabar.org](mailto:stacyr@gabar.org)

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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.**

*This new mission statement was adopted by the NHSMTC, Inc. Board of Directors on October 9, 2010.*

**Judging Panel Volunteers Needed  
for the 2011 National Tournament  
in Phoenix!**

The volunteer form will soon be available online at  
[www.azflse.org/mocktrial/2011](http://www.azflse.org/mocktrial/2011)

For more information on judging panel service, contact **Judge Danelle Liwski** at [Danelle.Liwski@pcjcc.pima.gov](mailto:Danelle.Liwski@pcjcc.pima.gov) or by phone at (520) 740-4416 ; fax (520) 879-9773



**Have a  
Wonderful,  
Safe and  
Healthy  
Winter  
Semester!**

# PRELIMINARY INTEREST FORM

Due by 14 January 2011



State: \_\_\_\_\_ State Coordinator Name (or official designee): \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS:** To indicate your intent to send your state championship team to Nationals in Phoenix, Arizona and to be listed on the 2011 National Mock Trial mailing list, (if you haven't already done so) please complete this form and return it **by 14 January 2011** to:

**2011 National Mock Trial Championship (Phoenix, AZ)**  
Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education, Host  
4201 N. 24 Street, Suite 210  
Phoenix, AZ 85016  
FAX # (602)773-3105

***YES!! My state will be represented at Nationals in 2011!***

*Please print or type:*

Coordinator Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Coordinator's Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suite or Floor: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Coordinator Work Phone (with area code): \_\_\_\_\_

Coordinator Cell Phone (with area code): \_\_\_\_\_

Coordinator Fax (with area code): \_\_\_\_\_

Coordinator E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

***DUE BY 14 JANUARY 2011.***  
***THANK YOU FOR YOUR PROMPT ATTENTION!***