**NORTH CAROLINA TEEN COURT ASSOCIATION**

**Mock Sentencing Competition**

**Case Scenario**

On January 11, 2025, the School Resource Officer at Dudley High School in Greensboro, NC was notified by a current student at that school of a post online that stated: “I’m going to shoot-up DHS tomorrow. Principal Matthews will be my first bullet-stopper.” The suspect made the threat anonymously through a post on an Instagram page called “SHOOTERSCONFESSION\_PART 3.” The Greensboro Police Department launched an investigation and discovered that there were multiple parties involved in the management of the Instagram account including the suspect who sent the foregoing post. The police further learned that the defendant is the actual owner of the e-mail address on which the foregoing Instagram account had been created. Because the defendant resides in the adjoining town of High Point, NC, the matter was referred to the High Point Police Department in that municipality for further handling.

The High Point Police Department investigation disclosed that the defendant is a junior at Weaver Academy. He/she moved with his/her family to High Point from California approximately 2-3 years ago when his/her parents relocated their computer software business to North Carolina. By his/her own admission, defendant is a “computer nerd” who spends 7-8 hours a day on his/her computer.

Defendant testified that he/she is a friend of the Dudley High School suspect who sent the Instagram post which is the subject of this investigation. On January 11, 2025, defendant allowed the other student to use one of defendant’s e-mail addresses. The other student did not disclose his/her intended use of the e-mail address and defendant did not inquire as to the intended use. Although the other student advised that he/she was angry at Principal Matthews of DHS, defendant did not impose any restrictions on the other student’s use of the e-mail address because defendant regards this as a “free speech” matter. The other student—without defendant’s knowledge—thereafter used defendant’s e-mail address to post the offending communication.

On January 12, 2025, the defendant was arrested by the High Point Police Department and charged with unlawful and willful communications of threats of violence in direct violation of NCGS 14-277.1. Unlawful and willful communication of threats of violence contrary to NCGS 14-277.1 is a Level 2 offense which carries constructive sentencing ranges of 11-14 hours of community service and 3-5 Teen Court jury sessions.