

SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE OF LAW NAMED CHAMPION OF LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL'S THIRD ANNUAL NATIONAL CIVIL TRIAL COMPETITION

Los Angeles, CA (November 23, 2004) - South Texas College of Law was named champion of Loyola Law School's third annual National Civil Trial Competition at an awards banquet held Saturday, November 20, 2004 at the Wilshire Grand Hotel Los Angeles. The winning team included Teresa Carter, Daniel Dutko, Samuel Shabot, and Katherine Taylor. They were awarded a permanent trophy for their school, as well as a traveling trophy which will be passed on to future champions. In first-ever ties, Daniel Dutkow and Katherine Taylor from South Texas College of Law were voted Best Advocates, Final Rounds; and Eric Faulkner from the University of Akron School of Law and Venus Johnson from McGeorge School of Law were voted Best Advocates, Preliminary Rounds.

The National Civil Trial Competition was created in 2002 by Loyola to give second and third year law students an opportunity to develop and display the skills of a successful civil litigator. The program is directed by Loyola Law School Prof. Susan Poehls. From its inception, the competition has been sponsored by the Santa Monica, CA. law firm of Greene, Broillet, Panish & Wheeler, LLP. Sixteen ABA accredited law schools participated in this year's competition, which ran November 18-20, 2004. Each school sent a four-person team and argued a hypothetical case "ripped from the headlines" involving a lawsuit against a church, with all students required to argue both sides of the case, and to role-play as parties and witnesses.

The elimination rounds took place at the US District Courthouse in Los Angeles, with Loyola Law School Los Angeles, South Texas College of Law, State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo, and Washington University St. Louis School of Law all qualifying for the semi-finals. The final round found South Texas College of Law teaming up against SUNY at Buffalo, and was argued at Loyola's Albert H. Girardi Advocacy Center. SUNY at Buffalo received the Finalist trophy, and Semi-Finalist trophies were awarded to Washington University St. Louis School of Law and Loyola Law School Los Angeles.

Over 120 trial lawyers participated as tournament judges, including many Loyola Law School alumni and partners from some of Los Angeles' top litigation firms. Federal District Court Judge Tevrizian served as presiding justice for the finals rounds, which were also judged by Bruce A. Broillet, Christine Spagnoli, Tom Girardi, Suzanne Tracy, and Michael Avenatti. Also participating as judges in earlier rounds from Greene, Broillet, Panish & Wheeler, LLP were Mark Quigley, Geoff Wells, Rob Jarchi and Kevin Boyle.

"The rounds were lively and very competitive," said Prof. Poehls, "with the students' passion for trial advocacy revealed by the caliber of their presentations throughout the

tournament. In three short years, the National Civil Trial Competition has become one of the most respected contests of its kind among our country's law schools, and we look forward to building a continued tradition of competitive excellence. We appreciate the role that our sponsor Greene, Broillet, Panish & Wheeler has played in helping to establish the competition, and in making it a success in the legal community.

“Loyola’s National Civil Trial Competition enables students who dream of becoming litigators an opportunity to experience first hand exactly what the job is like,” said Timothy J. Wheeler, managing partner of Greene, Broillet, Panish & Wheeler, LLP. “We believe that early exposure to the rigors of the profession is critical to a good legal education, and that’s why we are honored to sponsor the NCTC. It’s great to see students and the legal community come together in a way that makes the trial experience as realistic as it is exciting. This year’s competition was quite dynamic, and all the students who competed have the qualities that will distinguish them as they join the next generation of trial attorneys. We are definitely looking forward to next year.”

#

PRESS CONTACTS

Kathy Pinckert for Greene, Broillet, Panish & Wheeler, LLP
Tel: 310.562.0691; Email: Kpinckert@gbpwlaw.com

Kira Poplowski for Loyola Law School
Tel: 213.736.1445
Email: Kira.Poplowski@lls.edu

EDITOR’S NOTE

Photographs are available. Please contact Ms. Poplowski