

TOP LAW SCHOOLS TO COMPETE IN LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL'S 4TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CIVIL TRIAL COMPETITION

November 9, 2005. Los Angeles, CA—Sixteen of the nation's top law schools will compete in Loyola Law School's 4th annual National Civil Trial Competition, including Georgetown University Law Center, Harvard Law School and Northwestern University. The competition will be held Thursday, November 17th through Saturday, November 19th at the US Federal Courthouse in Los Angeles (preliminary rounds) and at Loyola (semi-final and final rounds). The National Civil Trial Competition gives second and third year law students an opportunity to develop and display the skills of a successful civil litigator. Since its inception in 2002, the program has been run by Professor Susan Poehls and sponsored by the Santa Monica law firm of Greene Broillet & Wheeler.

Over 40 law schools applied to participate this year, with the University of Akron School of Law, University of Buffalo Law School, University of Denver College of Law, University of Houston Law Center, Loyola Law School Los Angeles, University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law, Pepperdine Law School, South Texas College of Law, Stetson University College of Law, St. John's University, Syracuse University College of Law, Temple University Beasley School of Law and Washington University in St. Louis all selected as competitors. Each school will send a four-member team and is required to argue both sides of the case, and to role-play as parties and witnesses.

The students will argue a legal malpractice case in which a former criminal defendant convicted of a crime sues the public defender who represented him (and their office) because the PD failed to argue that the police "planted a gun" on the defendant. The plaintiff's (former criminal defendant) conviction was overturned when the officer was arrested and later confessed to planting the gun. Judges and lawyers from the greater Los Angeles legal community are encouraged to volunteer their time to help judge the National Civil Trial Competition.

"When we created the National Civil Trial Competition, our goal was to create a nationally recognized program that would be known for testing the mettle of students who want to become civil litigators," explained Professor Susan Poehls. "We've accomplished this in record time and are proud that Loyola's NCTC has joined the ranks of major law school advocacy competitions."

"Under Professor Susan Poehls' direction," stated Timothy J. Wheeler, managing partner of Greene Broillet & Wheeler and a member of Loyola Law School's Class of 1978, "Loyola's NCTC has become one of the 'must attend' competitions among the nation's leading law schools. We applaud her vision, and are proud to stand behind a program that delivers such a positive experience for law students."

VOLUNTEER AND EVENT INFORMATION:

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