

## ***The Byrne Trial Advocacy Team***

Loyola's Byrne Trial Advocacy Team, is a co-curricular program in which law students receive extensive, personalized training as they prepare to compete in a series of regional and national mock trial competitions. The faculty advisor and head coach for the program is Professor Susan Poehls, who has lead the team to ***eleven*** national championships and ***twenty five*** regional championships in her 30 years of coaching the team. Based on our record of outstanding results in these competitions, Loyola has repeatedly been **ranked by *US News and World Report* as one of the top five trial advocacy programs in the nation.**

The team is selected at the end of each spring semester based upon an intramural competition. No previous experience or pre-requisites are required and all students who have completed their first year (in the day division) or second year (in the night division) are eligible to compete for a spot on the team. Thirteen to sixteen students are chosen who then participate in a mandatory training boot camp over the summer, and then meet on Monday and Wednesday nights, as well as weekends, to prepare for their competitions. Team members receive six pass/ fail unit credits (3 per semester) for their first year on the team and four units if they return for a second year.

Each student has the opportunity for intensive, individualized training from coaches with extensive trial and competition experience. Students become outstanding advocates, with training and experience in drafting and performing opening statements, direct examinations, cross examinations and closing arguments. Students draft and argue in limine motions, and become completely familiar with the Federal Rules of Evidence. Most importantly, they get the type of experience that will put them head and shoulders above the other young lawyers graduating from law school.

Byrne Team alumni have been extremely successful in securing employment after graduation in all legal fields. We have graduates working in every major public agency (District Attorney and Public Defenders), partners and associates in large law firms, and several who have even opened their own, highly successful litigation firms, specializing in trial work and obtaining large verdicts for their clients. Their success can also be seen in the recent issue of ***Los Angeles Super Lawyers Magazine***, Rising Stars edition, where 21 alums of the program were named "***Rising Stars***" in the Los Angeles legal field.

A mandatory Informational session for those interested in trying out for next year will take place [live on Zoom on Tuesday March 24<sup>th</sup>](#). Tryouts will be held in mid April. For any other information or questions, please contact Professor Poehls at Susan.Poehls@lls.edu.