

Stetson University College of Law Wins Loyola Law School Los Angeles' 8th Annual National Civil Trial Competition

Los Angeles, CA (November 16, 2008) - Stetson University College of Law

was announced as the champion of Loyola Law School, Los Angeles' 8th annual National Civil Trial Competition on Saturday, November 14, 2009 at an awards banquet held at the Omni Los Angeles Hotel at California Plaza in Los Angeles, CA. The winning members of the Stetson team included Derrick Connell, Allana Forte, Katelyn Knaak and Olesea Tran. The "Best Advocate/Final Rounds" award and the "Best Advocate/Preliminary Rounds" award both went to Derrick Connell from Stetson.

The National Civil Trial Competition is "by invitation only" and was started in 2002 by Loyola Law School Prof. Susan Poehls (<<http://www.lls.edu>> www.lls.edu). Since its inception, the NCTC has been sponsored exclusively by the Santa Monica, CA. law firm of Greene Broillet & Wheeler (<<http://www.greene-broillet.com>> www.greene-broillet.com).

"The National Civil Trial Competition strives to bring a realistic courtroom environment for the students to experience as we believe that it inspires them to bring their best advocacy skills to the table," stated Prof. Susan Poehls, "and this year was exceptional. The students' attention to detail was reflected in the quality of their presentations and in the legal arguments that they made. Although only one team can win, all of these students are winners in my book."

Prof. Poehls added: "The Los Angeles legal community plays an important role in the success of the NCTC. With local judges and attorneys actively judging the various rounds, their participation imbues the competition with an added level of realism. We appreciate their level of commitment and dedication to the NCTC program."

"Loyola Law School's National Civil Trial Competition is a concept that Greene Broillet & Wheeler supports in theory and in execution," stated Timothy J. Wheeler, managing partner of Greene Broillet & Wheeler and a Member of Loyola Law School's Class of 1978, "because it gives law students an encapsulated taste of what it is really like to practice law. Such early exposure helps students in defining their expectations as future lawyers and will serve to make them better lawyers."

More than 35 law schools from all across the country vied to participate in the NCTC, which is universally regarded as one of the top-tier law school trial advocacy competitions in the United States. Each school will send a four-member team and is required to argue both sides of the case. The three-day tournament began on November 12, 2009 with early elimination rounds held inside the actual courtrooms at the US District Court in Los Angeles. Each school sent a four-member team, with students required to argue both sides of a hypothetical civil suit with its facts based on a real life case in which a law school student sued his law school for misrepresenting its accreditation status.

On November 14, 2009, the semi-final and final rounds were argued on

campus at Loyola's contemporary Albert H. Girardi Advocacy Center. The four law schools in contention for the championship were: Stetson University College of Law, Georgetown University Law Center, McGeorge Law School, and University of Houston Law Center. Stetson beat Georgetown University Law Center in the semi-finals to advance to the finals, and the University of Houston Law Center beat McGeorge Law School to also advance to the finals.

More than 100 members of the greater Los Angeles legal community volunteered as tournament judges. The "Final Rounds" of the National Civil Trial Competition were presided over by U.S. Magistrate judge Stephen Hillman. Also judging these rounds were Alan Van Gelder with Greene Broillet & Wheeler, Thomas Mesereau, Jr. and Susan C. Yu with Mesereau & Yu and Thomas Girardi with Girardi & Keese. The "Semi-Final Rounds" were presided over by Los Angeles Superior Court judges Michael Latin and Elizabeth Allen White. Also judging these rounds were Scott Carr with Greene Broillet & Wheeler, Jeffrey Dasteel and Jonathan Fairtlough with the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, Margaret Stevens with Stevens Law, David Berger with the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, Sean Kennedy with the Central District Federal Public Defender's Office and drafter of the tournament case file, and Roxanna Manuel with Quinn Emanuel.

The 16 law schools competing this year included: California Western School of Law, Cumberland School of Law, Georgetown University Law Center, Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, University of Maryland School of Law, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, South Texas College of Law, Stetson University College of Law, Suffolk University Law School, St. Johns University School of Law, Syracuse University College of Law, University of Akron School of Law, University of Alabama School of Law, University of Buffalo Law School, and University of Houston Law Center.