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Winter Newsletter

Georgetown University Mock Trial Team

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Georgetown Wins the Steel City Invitational

The Steel City invitational, hosted by the University of Pittsburgh, was the final tournament Georgetown participated in for the fall semester. The tournament was held December 1-2 and proved to be a huge success for the Georgetown Mock Trial Team.

Georgetown team 921, captained by Dan Shindle and Will Dreher, took first place in the tournament with a score of seven wins and one loss. This was the first time a Georgetown team had won an invitational tournament in the past

three years. Georgetown team 920, captained by Kathy Barash and Ariel Martinez, took fourth place with six wins and two losses. Additionally, attorney Ryan Guptill received an Outstanding Attorney Award at the awards ceremony.

This was the first year that Georgetown attended the Steel City Invitational, and both teams were impressed by the manner in which the tournament was conducted. Again, the field of teams participating in the tournament was incredibly strong, and a number of nationally recognized teams

were present. Georgetown team 921 suffered their only loss to Bowling Green University, losing the second ballot by eight points. Georgetown team 920 received their rank by winning five ballots, tying one ballot with Richmond University, tying a second ballot with Eastern Kentucky University, and losing a ballot to Michigan University.

Both Georgetown teams were grateful for the opportunity to participate in a challenging competition, and are looking forward to attending the Steel Classic next year.

2008 Regional Tournaments Approaching

This year the regional tournaments that Georgetown University will attend are being held in Baltimore and Washington D.C. on February 16-17th and 23-24th, respectively. A new rule from the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA), put into effect this year, requires universities with more than two teams to send their teams to separate regional tournaments. This new rule allows each regional to have a diverse group of schools, while maintaining the same level of competition at each regional. AMTA has asked each university to make a

good faith effort to designate their teams, based on skill, as team A, team B, team C, and team D.

This process proved difficult for the Georgetown University Mock Trial Captains, as each team has been extremely successful this season. Furthermore, only two teams from each university are allowed to accept bids to compete in either the Silver National Tournament or the Gold National Tournament. Last year two teams from Georgetown University went on to compete in the Silver National tournament, which was

held at Hamline University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. One team continued on to the Gold National Tournament at Stetson Law School in Tampa, Florida. This year we are hoping to continue our success and send two teams to post-season tournaments. For this reason, the regional tournaments will be especially important in determining which of Georgetown's teams will be allowed to continue competing. All of the captains are hopeful that their team will be the one to represent Georgetown in the post-season tournaments.

What is Mock Trial?

Mock Trial is an extracurricular activity in which students prepare and try a certain case competitively against other schools' teams.

During each year, the Mock Trial team is given a case by the American Mock Trial Association, which governs collegiate Mock Trial competitions. A team of six to ten members then practices presenting the case, both as the prosecution or plaintiff and as the

defense, since teams alternate the side they represent in the competitions.

There are three student lawyers on each team's defense team, and three student lawyers on the prosecution or plaintiff team. These lawyers give opening and closing statements, call and direct examine their own witnesses, and cross-examine the opposing team's witnesses.

Each side is allowed to call three witnesses, which are also played by students. Witness lineups are not determined until the time of the trial, adding an element of unpredictability to each case.

During the course of the year, the Georgetown Mock Trial team travels to practice tournaments, known as invitational tournaments, to prepare.



From left:
Christina Catapang,
Alisha Crovetto, Kathy Barasch,
Jeffrey Long, Ariel Martinez,
Lauren Calvello

American Mock Trial Association 2007-2008 Case

A brief case summary:
On November 30, 2006, social worker Don/Dawn Francis was stabbed with an HIV- infected needle while attempting to retrieve and take custody of Max Campbell from the home of Bobbi Campbell. Bobbi Campbell, who stabbed Francis, has pled guilty to Assault in the Second Degree. Thus, our trial this year is the sentencing phase of this case.

Aggravating factors, or those factors that make Campbell's actions worse, are weighed against mitigating factors, those factors that lessen the severity of the crime.

The prosecution will argue that Bobbi Campbell has injured Francis physically, psychologically, and economically. The prosecution can present evidence such as the

status of Francis' health and the ways in which Francis' life has been limited by her HIV infection. The prosecution will also try to prove that Bobbi Campbell is likely to re- offend. In order to prove this element the prosecution can provide evidence about Bobbi's past drug use and criminal record.

Though there are eight possible witnesses, each side will only be allowed to present three witnesses in order to meet their burden. The prosecution must call the victim, Don/Dawn Francis, per an AMTA requirement. Other popular witnesses for the prosecution are Sal Dritz, Campbell's previous probation officer, Billy Kraus, Campbell's significant other, and Lynn Montana, Francis' treating physician and a HIV/AIDS specialist.

On the other hand, the defense will attempt to prove that Bobbi Campbell was provoked when Francis came to take Max Campbell, Bobbi's son, into custody. Furthermore, the defense can attempt to prove that Campbell is borderline mentally retarded, and therefore incapable of reacting to provocation in a socially acceptable manner.

Popular witnesses to call for the defense are Dr. Ayre Rubenstein, Campbell's psychologist, W.P. Darrow, Campbell's friend and minister, and Micah Campbell, Bobbi's sibling. These witnesses will discuss the changes that Bobbi has undergone since his days as a criminal, and Bobbi's need for treatment not best provided by a prison setting.

Georgetown Has Strong Showing at Spider Invitational

The Third Annual Spider Invitational, held at the University of Richmond, was the first chance for the Hoya Mock Trial Teams to demonstrate their knowledge of the case this year. The trials were conducted from October 19- 21, and competitors were determined by challenge format in the first round. There were thirty- six teams present, the largest field to ever participate in the Richmond invitational.

The field of competitors at this tournament was very impressive, including

teams from University of Virginia, University of Richmond, and Washington & Lee, all of which participated in the Gold National post-season tournament. Georgetown faced the National champion University of Virginia twice, and split the ballots both times. UVA brought two teams to the Spider Invitational and their teams lost three ballots combined, two of which Georgetown won. The fierce competition between Georgetown and UVA was reflected in the results of the tournament. UVA

Team A placed first, Georgetown placed second, UVA Team B placed third, and the remaining Georgetown teams placed fourth, sixth and eighth.

Georgetown also received a number of awards at the closing ceremony. Seniors Emily Moellers, Jenn Allen, and Matthew Huppert received Best Attorney Awards. Senior Michael Ferrario was rated one of the best witnesses at the tournament, receiving a perfect score of twenty rankings by judges.

The Hoya Cup

On February 2nd and 3rd, Georgetown University will be holding the first annual Hoya Cup. Georgetown's four mock trial teams will be competing in an intra-squad tournament. On Saturday, February 2nd, each team will face off against two other Georgetown teams. On Sunday each team will compete against the team they have not yet had a trial against, and the teams with the best record will go on to compete in a final trial. We will be using standard AMTA ballots to record scores and feedback from our judges.

The Hoya Cup is a new addition to the Georgetown Mock Trial program. Fred Moore, who is also a captain, is

directing the Hoya Cup and he has worked to contact potential judges for the tournament. The goal of the Hoya Cup is not only to have an intra-squad practice, but also to simulate the level of competition that each team will eventually face at the regional tournament.

Additionally, the Hoya Cup will provide parents, sponsors, friends, and future mock trialers the opportunity to see the Georgetown Mock Trial teams in action. Unfortunately, the majority of invitational, regional, and national tournaments are held a number of hours away from Georgetown's campus. For this reason friends

and family have limited access to watch the teams at work, so the Hoya Cup will be a new experience for the entire Georgetown community.

Though the Hoya Cup will be a time- consuming weekend, each team is looking forward to the opportunity to gain valuable practice before attending the regional tournament. Our team is confident that the Hoya Cup will be a successful endeavor and we are planning on continuing intra- squad competition in future seasons.

The Hoya Cup is a new addition to the Georgetown Mock Trial Program, but after an extremely successful weekend, we are hoping to continue it in the future.

Georgetown Finishes 11th at the Downtown Invitational

The Downtown Invitational Classic, hosted by New York University and directed by Justin Matarrese, President of NYU Mock Trial, was held November 17-18. The trials were held in the



From left: Matthew Rabinowitz, Michael Ferrario, Christina Catapang, Steve DeMatteo, Matthew Huppert, Frederick Moore

United States District Courthouse of the Eastern District of New York.

The Downtown Invitational is a "Golds only" tournament, meaning only universities that send teams to the Gold National Tournament are extended an invitation. Georgetown was able to send one team, and captains Steve DeMatteo and Frederick Moore successfully navigated their team through a grueling tournament.

Georgetown faced George Washington University in the first round, where Georgetown won one ballot by a single point and tied the other ballot. In the second round Georgetown faced the University of Maryland, winning by four points on one ballot and losing by four points on the other. In

the third round Georgetown competed against Bellarmine, losing both ballots by only a few points. In the final round Georgetown won both ballots against the University of California at Irvine.

Though Steve and Fred were disappointed that they did not compete to the best of their abilities, they are grateful that their team received practice and experience in the courtroom. Overall Georgetown placed eleventh out of twenty-six teams, receiving an Honorable Mention at the awards ceremony.

Strong Finish at the Demon Deacon Invitational

After an extremely successful invitational season in 2007-2008, our team hopes to translate that success into a 1st-place finish at the Gold Championship Tournament.

The Demon Deacon Invitational Tournament, hosted by Wake Forest University, was held from January 12-13. Georgetown sent one team to the tournament, which was another "Golds only" tournament. Captains Will Dreher and Dan Shindle brought their team to a 5-3 final record, which was seventh place among impressive competitors.

In the first round, Georgetown faced Yale, and split ballots with them.

Although the team won one ballot by fifteen points, they lost the second ballot by one point in what ended up as a disappointing round. Georgetown then won both ballots against the hosts, Wake Forest, before dropping two ballots to the eventual second-place team, University of California-Berkeley.

The third round was the best competition Georgetown has faced all season, and was a

glimpse into what competition at the Gold National Championship Tournament will be like. Georgetown entered the final round with a record of 3-3. There they faced a second Berkeley team, defeating them on both ballots to finish a tournament that, while somewhat disappointing, was still in many ways successful. Sophomore Ryan Guptill received an award for Best Attorney while Will Dreher received a Best Witness award at the tournament.

Senior Section

Jennifer Allen: a senior in the School of Foreign Service from Nashville, TN. She competed in mock trial all through high school and was excited to be given a spot on the Georgetown team her freshmen year. Throughout her time here at Georgetown, Jenn has played both a witness and a lawyer. She has also served as the Secretary of the Club and has been a team captain. Jenn is looking forward to attending law school next year but has also loved her time here at Georgetown and on the Mock Trial team. She is still waiting to hear back from all of the schools to which she applied, but hopes to study international law and become a lawyer specializing in international trade.

Stephen DeMatteo: a senior majoring in International Politics in the School of Foreign Service. Hailing from Greensburg, Pennsylvania, he is now involved in his eighth year of competitive mock trial. Before studying abroad last year in Lyon, France, Stephen assisted the freshmen team in preparing for what was a very successful season. This year he is co-captain of a very competitive team along with his good friend Frederick Moore. He would also like to recognize fellow seniors and good friends Michael Ferrario and Matthew Huppert for their leadership roles this year. Though he does not plan to pursue a legal career after graduation, Stephen credits mock trial with providing him many tools for success as well as countless hours of laughs with friends.

Mike Ferrario: a senior from Scranton, Pennsylvania, Mike has also been heavily involved in the team since his freshman year. He is currently the team's treasurer and is responsible for the finances of the team. He has played multiple witness roles (and won witness awards) and has also delivered an opening during his four years competing.

Matt Huppert: a senior originally from West Des Moines, IA has been competing in mock trial for eight years. He has competed as an attorney on both defense and plaintiff/prosecution and as a witness, and has delivered closings all eight years. In high school he competed in back to back state championship rounds for Valley High School. At Georgetown he has earned outstanding attorney honors in his junior and senior seasons, and his teams have earned three National tournament bids (so far).

Emily Moellers: a senior, Emily has participated in Mock Trial since her freshman year. She has often given closing statements and has been heavily involved in the running of the team, serving on the Board and as a captain. Emily has also been awarded multiple attorney awards during her time at Georgetown.

Lis Sperle: a senior from Bethesda, Maryland, Lis has been a member of the team since her sophomore year. She has closed for three years and played multiple witness roles. She has led her team to two National Championship bids and is attending Georgetown Law in the fall.

Matt Stoller: a senior, Matt competed his freshman year but took a break from Mock Trial for two years to pursue his interest in Georgetown's student government. However, Matt has returned for his senior year and is a witness on a team captained by Emily Moellers and Jennifer Allen.

Patrick Thompson: a senior from New Jersey, Patrick competed in high school mock trial and brought his experience to Georgetown. He has competed on teams receiving bids to national championships and has been recognized as an outstanding witness.



Emily Moellers

"Stephen credits mock trial with providing him many tools for success as well as countless hours of laughs with friends."

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A Thank You to Our Sponsors

Dear Sponsors,

Thank you for your generous contribution! Without your help our successful season would not have been possible. Your donation has helped us attend invitational tournaments at the University of Richmond, University of Pittsburgh, at New York University, Cornell University, and at Wake Forest University. Each tournament provided the Georgetown Mock Trial Team with an opportunity to learn about trial proceedings and participate in a scholastic competition.

The Georgetown Mock Trial Team has used these invitational tournaments as stepping-stones toward becoming serious competitors at the regional tournaments. We are confident that we will be successful in representing our school at these and at the national tournaments. In 2002, the Georgetown University Mock Trial Team placed 2nd at the national tournament, and we are hoping to bring that kind of success to the program this season. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our sponsors for making our achievements this season possible!

Sincerely,

The Georgetown University Mock Trial Executive Board

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