Advocacy program records stellar year

Georgia Law is well known for the success of its advocacy program. The excellent performance of this year’s teams added to that legacy by capturing three national titles, the most since 1996-97 when the school won four such championships. Overall, the record for this year’s season was three national crowns, one regional trophy and one state title in addition to numerous other individual and team honors.

First Amendment Moot Court Competition

Georgia Law won the 16th Annual National First Amendment Moot Court Competition beating 40 other teams from law schools across the nation.

Third-year students Michael A. Caplan and Warren J. Geller composed the winning team, which triumphed over the University of California at Davis to capture the title. Advocacy Director Kellie Casey Monk (J.D.’90) said she was especially pleased with the pair’s performance. “This tournament is always filled with extremely tough advocates. Unlike other moot court competitions, the written brief counts as 50 percent of the total score, which demonstrates what a terrific job Mike and Warren did on both the oral and written components.”

Georgia Law last won the national crown in this competition during 1997.

Marshall Mock Trial Competition

Georgia Law captured its second national advocacy title when it beat a team from the University of Kentucky to win the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition.

Third-year students Tiffany N. Carter and Carl E. Jones Jr. partnered with second-year students Kimberly R. Bourroughs and Jeffrey A. Reeves to win the national contest, organized by the National Black Law Students Association, which had 68 teams from 54 schools vying for the top trophy.

Georgia Law coach and third-year student Veronica L. Richardson said this year’s tournament was especially challenging due to the number of teams and competitors. Third-year student C. Brock Brockington also helped coach the team.

Georgia Law has competed in the national tier of this tournament three of the last four years.
Prince Moot Court Competition

Georgia Law’s advocacy program claimed its third national crown this year by winning the 21st Annual Dean Jerome Prince Memorial Evidence Moot Court Competition in April.

The team, composed of second-year students Quentasha L. Banks, Merritt E. McAlister and Andrew D. Stancil, overcame 34 teams from across the nation to finish in the top position. Additionally, McAlister received an award for best oralist, while the team was recognized for preparing the tournament’s second best brief. Third-year student J. Alexander Reed coached the team.

Georgia Law last won this tournament four years ago in 2002.

National Trial Competition

In the regional National Trial Competition, two Georgia Law teams captured first place honors in their respective contest brackets. Both Georgia teams competed against 20 other teams from the region.

Advocacy Director Kellie Casey Monk (J.D.’90) said it is rare that two teams from the same school advance to the national round as co-champions. “I could not have been more proud of both. This is a milestone for our mock trial program.”

One winning team was composed of third-year students Michael J. “M.J.” Blakely, Kimberly M. Council and Mary E. “Betsy” Pierce, with second-year students Christopher M. Gant and Erin L. Hantske serving as witnesses. Third-year students Desmond W. Dorsey and Emily A. Poe, together with second-year students Jennifer D. “J.D.” Hart and John R. Thomas Jr. serving as witnesses, comprised the second team.

Notably, Poe was named the tournament’s best advocate. Third-year student Zachary S. Shewmaker served as coach.

Intrastate Moot Court Competition

On the state level, Georgia Law took home all three of the trophies presented at the Intrastate Moot Court Competition. Every year, each law school in the state fields one or two teams in the tournament.

Second-year students Tedra C. Hobson and Glenn T. Singleton teamed up with third-year student J. Dean Taylor to beat teams from Emory, Mercer and Georgia State universities as well as John Marshall Law School, which competed in the tournament for the first time this year.

Also, the trio was presented with the Best Brief Award, and Hobson was named the competition’s best oalist. The last time Georgia Law swept this competition was in 2004.

Two Georgia Law teams were co-champions of the regional National Trial Competition. Representing the law school were: (back, l. to r.) Chris Gant, M.J. Blakely, Desmond Dorsey, (front, l. to r.), J.D. Hart, Betsy Pierce, Emily Poe, Kimberly Council and Erin Hantske. Not pictured: John Thomas and Zachary Shewmaker.