

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Law School Prepares for Teen Court Competition

FORT WORTH, Texas – On March 1, Texas Wesleyan University School of Law, in partnership with North Texas Teen Courts, will host the second annual Teen Court Competition.

This collaborative effort provides a unique opportunity for law students to earn *pro bono* credit by coaching area teens who are interested in a career in law the chance to experience a courtroom setting.

“Teen Court is a hands-on learning opportunity, not only for our law students, who mentor the participants, but for local teens who are interested in learning about the judicial system and participating in an actual trial,” Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Patti Gearhart Turner said. “We want our students to realize the value of giving back to the community, and this allows them to share their knowledge of the law with teens who may one day follow in their footsteps.”

The trials will be judged by practicing attorneys who have experience judging teen court cases, as well as local judges.

Participating youth volunteers from across North Texas will work as prosecuting and defense attorneys, bailiffs, clerks, jurors. Some of the defendants will be portrayed by volunteers, but others will be real defendants with Class C misdemeanor charges, offenses that commonly involve possession of tobacco, criminal mischief, and various traffic violations. These defendants have volunteered to have their cases to be tried in Teen Court and will be sentenced to community service and jury duty.

Participating courts include Collin County, Wichita County, Duncanville, Metroport, Parker County, Plano, Fort Worth, Lewisville, Keller, Haltom City, Watauga, and Hurst Euleless Bedford (H.E.B.).

Law students interested in volunteering for Teen Court are invited to attend a mandatory training on Thursday, Feb. 21, from 12 – 1 p.m. in room 107. Please e-mail Andrea Hunter at ahunter@law.txwes.edu for more information.

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