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National and Regional Moot Court Successes

FORT WORTH, Texas – The moot court teams of Texas Wesleyan University School of Law extended their string of national success at the American Bar Association’s National Appellate Advocacy Competition and the Robert F. Wagner National Labor & Employment Law Moot Court Competition, March 6-9.

The team of 2L Anna Summersett, 3L Brian Taylor, and 2L Chris Jones were crowned as one of four regional champions at the Las Vegas regional of the ABA competition, while the team of 2L Coleman Anglin, 2L Brittany Lannen, and 2L Sharon Kolbet advanced to the semi-finals of the distinguished 42-team Wagner competition in New York.

As regional champions, Summersett, Taylor, and Jones move on to the ABA national finals in Chicago, to be held April 3-5. They will compete against the nation’s 23 other regional champions for what is arguably the most prestigious moot court trophy in the country. In total, the ABA competition’s six regional competitions drew a record 179 teams from 106 law schools.

Also at the Las Vegas regional, the ABA moot court team of 3L Morgan Elliot, 2L Matthew Wright, and 2L Patrick Cannon advanced to the final round. Over the course of the weekend, the Texas Wesleyan teams in both competitions defeated teams from Northwestern, Pepperdine, Marquette, California Western, St. Thomas, UC Davis, Duke, and John Marshall Law School.

Several Texas Wesleyan law students were also individually honored at both competitions. Taylor, who along with Summersett finished third at the National Criminal Procedure Moot Court Competition in October, was named the second-best advocate at the Las Vegas regional. Wright, who was a member of Texas Wesleyan’s 2007 Texas state championship team, was named the region’s ninth-best advocate. At the Wagner competition, Kolbet won the third-best Respondent brief award.

“Our success at these competitions is really a testament to the dedication of our students and coaches,” Rob Sherwin, director of advocacy programs, said. “These students worked so hard. For these two competitions, they have been working on their briefs and arguments since early December. It’s tremendously rewarding to see their efforts pay off.”

The ABA teams were coached by Nicole Williams of Thompson & Knight in Dallas, and Jennifer Ellis '05 of Payma & Kuhnel in Dallas. The Wagner team was coached by Johannes Walker '07, currently a law clerk at the Second District Court of Appeals in Fort Worth.