



# National Trial Competition in Tucson

By Brian Chase

For the first time ever, the University of Arizona played host on February 14-17, 2013 to the Southwest Regional of the National Trial Competition. This is a law school level mock trial competition co-sponsored by the Texas Young Lawyers Association and the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Twenty-four teams from twelve different schools came to Tucson for a chance to earn a spot at the national competition in Texas. In order to advance out of the region, the teams had to win five trials over the course of four days, in this single elimination style tournament.

The University of Arizona Law School fielded two teams comprising of John Lierman (3L), Robson Hauser (2L), Jennifer Bonham (3L), Andrew Floyd (3L), Tracy Miller (2L), and Julia Palfreyman (2L). These students worked tirelessly for months preparing for this grueling competition. Despite a strong showing by both teams, UA was ultimately defeated by teams that went on to compete in the final four. Nonetheless, judges complimented the UA teams as some of the best students at the competition.

This year's champions were Loyola Law School and Thomas Jefferson School of Law. Thomas Jefferson was coached by Lilys McCoy, a University of Arizona Law School alumnus (Class of '91). This was Lilys first year coaching and she did a truly amazing job. Both Loyola and Thomas Jefferson were not only articulate advocates in the courtroom, but they were also all around professionals.

Loyola had a student take ill during the competition. As he was contagious, he was unable to return to compete. When Thomas Jefferson faced Loyola, they agreed to try a different side of the case so that they would not force Loyola into competing without their sick member. In exchange, Loyola agreed to give Thomas Jefferson an extra fifteen minutes to prepare for that trial.

These schools showed true class. Small acts like these are often over-looked at these competitions. These sub-stories deserve recognition just as much as the results of the competition. Ultimately, the tournament champions this weekend were also model members of the legal community and deserve our deepest congratulations.

In that spirit, we wish to thank everyone who helped make this tournament a success. Nearly 100 attorneys from Tucson and Phoenix volunteered their time to judge this event. Hundreds of students from the University of Arizona and Pima Community College volunteered to serve as witnesses. Thanks to the all of these volunteers, this tournament was widely regarded as one of the best in our region's history.

Thank you to everyone and we hope you will continue to support the Trial Team at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law.

If you wish to become more involved in the Trial Team program, please contact me: [brianmchase@gmail.com](mailto:brianmchase@gmail.com). We are always looking for support.



*Left to right: Mock Trial Champions, Lea Fields-Bernard, Robert Sagerian, Joscelyn "Jay B" Campbell, Michael Fabinski, and Lilys McCoy, first-time coach.*

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