

Mock trial tournament at U.S. Courthouse

BY ALAN SALTZMAN

Rayhan Ali v. Hosmer School District and Logan Wilk, is a claim that a teacher's employment was terminated because of race. Rayhan Ali was a probationary teacher in the Hosmer School District. On the recommendation of the school principal, the district elected to not renew Ali's contract. The principal says it was because Ali was a poor teacher. Ali says it was because Ali is an Arab.

Ali v Hosmer will be tried 14 times, in the courtrooms of the U.S. District Court on Saturday, October 28, by University of Detroit Mercy law students. This is the fifth year of the Ernie Goodman Civil Rights Mock Trial Tournament, named in honor of the famous Detroit civil rights lawyer, Earnest Goodman.

The tournament gives our students the opportunity to find out what it is like to be a trial lawyer. It fits well with the law school's curriculum that aims to integrate theory, doctrine and practice and emphasizes ethics and service to others.

Being a competitor is an intense experience and a lot of work. But the students also say that it is fun, that they learn an amazing amount. Some of them are enrolled for credit and some are not.

Each of the teams of two law students will try the case twice, once as plaintiff and once as defendants. The two trials will be against different opponents and before different judges. The two best performing teams in the Saturday rounds will battle over first and second place the following Monday. Prize money for the competition was donated by Sommers Schwartz and by Joe Golden, Bill Goodman, Paul Rosen, and Jon Posner.

The presiding judges score the performances of the lawyers as

Court judges and some state trial judges have offered to preside. We hope to have an actual judge in each courtroom. If not, we will use experienced trial lawyers. We need some more trial judges and experienced trial lawyers to judge the competition.

If you would like to serve as a judge, please contact me at (313) 596-0225 or contact Sam McCrimmon at (313) 596-9819 at mccrimsa@udmercy.edu We need to use the same judges for both rounds, so judges have to be at the courthouse from 8:30 a.m. to 2 or 2:30 p.m.

I am proud to list here the names of the students who compose the 14 teams competing. By now they have read and studied the lengthy set of materials and see that their work is cut out for them. The teams are:

- Derek Russaw and Robin Dillard.
- Kelly Cumberworth and Christina Fedeckyj.
- Michelle Rabinovitz and Bhavna Bhandari.
- Jason Smalarz and Robin Dzialo.
- Brian Schmitt and Natalia Gentry.
- Tim Welch and Savannah Boone.
- Ingrid Evert and Elizabeth Noble.
- Kathryn Bruner and Andrew Goodenough.
- Jessica Jones and Timothy Chevernak.
- Monica Regan and Sarah George.
- Frederick Gerra and Nicole Corriero.
- Felice Ferri and Amit Gogna.
- Chris Walker and Ryan Sheahan.
- Scott Mitnick and Brenna Mansfield.

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