



Nation's Top Trial Advocates Faceoff in Los Angeles for National Civil Trial Competition

LOS ANGELES — Law students from 18 of the nation's leading law schools will participate in the 17th-annual National Civil Trial Competition, co-sponsored by Loyola Law School, Los Angeles and the Santa Monica law firm Greene Broillet & Wheeler, LLP. The three-day competition begins Friday, Nov. 9 at the Santa Monica Courthouse and concludes Sunday, Nov. 11, 2018 at Loyola Law School.

The teams are from American University Washington College of Law; Baylor Law School; Campbell University School of Law; Chicago-Kent College of Law; Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law; Fordham University School of Law; Georgetown University Law Center; McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific; Samford University Cumberland School of Law; South Texas College of Law, Houston; St. Mary's University School of Law; Stetson University College of Law; Temple University Beasley School of Law; University of California, Berkeley School of Law; UC Hastings College of the Law; University of Akron School of Law; University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law; and University of San Diego School of Law. The competition involves 72 law student litigants representing their schools on teams of four.

The subject of this year's civil case involves a college student who suffers from paranoid schizophrenia who, without provocation, violently attacked a classmate on campus. In the fictitious trial, *JP Marone v. University of Pacifica*, the injured student is suing the university for negligence. The plaintiff claims that prior to the attack, the University of Pacifica knew or should have known the perpetrator suffered from a serious medical condition and was a potential risk of harm to himself and/or other people. The plaintiff will argue that the school received threats of violence from the mentally ill student and failed to take appropriate steps to warn or protect others from injury.

The University of Pacifica denies the plaintiff's claims and argues it did not know or have reason to know the attacker posted a credible threat of harm to himself or other students. While the university admits, it was aware of the student's mental illness, it denies it received any credible threats of violence towards the plaintiff. The university alleges it reasonably relied on medical professionals who concluded the student did not pose an unreasonable risk of danger to himself or others.

The students will act as advocates/witnesses to perform opening statements, conduct direct- and cross-examination of expert and lay witnesses, make closing arguments and argue objections based on the Federal Rules of Evidence. Each team will argue their case in front of a panel of judges consisting of prestigious members of the Southern California bar.

“This event gets more exciting every year as rising stars in the litigation world take on one of the most interesting legal cases of the year,” said Mark Quigley, a partner at Greene Broillet & Wheeler, LLP and a member of the judges’ panel. “I look forward to watching the courtroom battle.”

“It’s such an honor for Loyola Law School to host this thrilling event, which showcases young talent in the legal community,” said Professor Susan Poehls, Director of Trial Advocacy Programs at Loyola. “We’re very lucky to have the support and involvement of veteran litigators to judge the competition.”

Greene Broillet & Wheeler, LLP is one of the country's top plaintiffs’ injury law firms, specializing in wrongful death, catastrophic injury, legal malpractice and product defect cases.

Learn more about the 2018 National Civil Trial Competition at www.lls.edu/nctc.

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