Tryout Schedule

Tryouts for the 2013-14 Trial Team at Washington University School of Law will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2013 as well as Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5, 2013 in Room 309. The informational meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 in Room 309.

Copies of the tryout problem and the sign-up sheet are now available in Room 541-B. The sign-up deadlines are as follows: if you wish to tryout on April 13, the deadline to sign-up is April 12; if you wish to tryout on May 4 or 5, the deadline to sign-up is May 3.

About the Trial and Advocacy Team

Depending on the strength of the competitors, the 2013-14 Trial Team will consist of 10-14 students. The selected students will compete in four competitions during the year. During the Fall 2013 semester, four students will compete in the Tournament of Champions Competition (TOC) and four students will compete in the National Civil Trial Competition (NCTC). During the Spring 2014 semester, up to four students will compete in the regional National Trial Competition (NTC), and up to eight students will compete in the regional AAJ Student Trial Advocacy Competition. The Trial Team winners of the regional NTC will advance to the Championship Rounds of the NTC. The Trial Team winners of the regional AAJ Competition will advance to the AAJ National Competition.

The Trial Team is coached by Judge David C. Mason, former National Trial Team winner, and Attorney Mark Rudder, Stahluth and Rudder. In addition, several prominent trial lawyers and judges in the St. Louis Metropolitan area provide assistance throughout the year.

Expectations for Students on the Trial and Advocacy Team

Students participating on the Trial Team may receive up to two credits each year, with credits posted at the end of the Spring 2014 semester. The Trial Team involves intense training in trial advocacy and evidence law. There is also substantive work in all aspects of torts and criminal law rotating year to year. Students are expected to do substantive legal research as part of their case preparation.

During the year, the Trial Team practices at least three times per week until competitions are concluded. Practices are normally held on Saturdays, Sundays, and at least one night per week. As competitions approach, there may be as many as four or five practices per week. During the Fall 2013 semester, competitions end by mid to late November. During the Spring 2014 semester, the regional competitions end by late February to early March, and the National competitions end by late March to early April. Thus, the time commitment for members of the Trial Team (even for those students advancing to the National level) ends more than a month before the start of exams.