

For Immediate Release

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HSSU Scholar Christopher Miller Receives Outstanding Witness Award at Regional Mock Trial Competition

ST. LOUIS, MO (March 11, 2013) –The Harris-Stowe State University Pre-Law/Mock Trial Association (PLMTA), consisting of eight students, recently competed in the 2013 American Mock Trial Association's (AMTA) regional competition at University of Missouri-Kansas City.

The two-day competition of 22 teams, included other local universities Washington University, University of Missouri-Columbia and St. Louis University for one of the coveted seven team spots; ensuring bids for the national competition to be held this month.

HSSU's appearance in the AMTA regional competition represented the fourth time the PLMTA has entered into a formally recognized professional mock trial challenge. The PLMTA members Michael Tabb, Frederick Brown, Freddie Brown, Christopher Miller, Josh Johnson, Jonathan Henderson, Jaymie Conley and Dale McClure, represented both the Anheuser-Busch School of Business (ABSB) and the College of Arts and Sciences Criminal Justice program.

Dr. Johndavid Kerr, founder and faculty advisor to the PLMTA, prepared the team for this competition as the attorney coach, and sponsored and accompanied the students for the competition. The team had to learn a 128-page case and master attorney and witness roles during six months of rehearsals from September 2012 to February 2013. In addition, the team was assisted in their preparations by Linda Banderet, adjunct professor at the ABSB, who also accompanied the team and helped manage their performance.

In recognition for his excellent performance, Urban Affairs major Christopher Miller, won an Outstanding Defense Witness Award. Additionally, outstanding performance honorable mentions were presented to Michael Tabb for prosecution and defense attorney; Frederick Brown for prosecution and defense attorney; Dale McClure for prosecution witness; Jaymie Conley for prosecution witness and Joshua Johnson-Allen for prosecution and defense witness.

“All of our students did an outstanding job of competing against teams with 10 to 15 years of experience, and went against some of the region's best teams, earning commendations from their peers, the AMTA representatives and sitting judges,” said Dr. Kerr. “The team received high praise from the judges as to its direct and cross-examinations and witness portrayals.. I'm very proud of this team and look forward to building a strong, competitive record with subsequent teams in this area of high-level academic competition.”

Harris-Stowe State University, located in midtown St. Louis, is a four-year institution that offers 14 degree programs in the areas of Accounting, Business Administration, Biology, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Health Care Management, Hospitality and Tourism Management, Information Sciences and Computer Technology, Mathematics, Middle School Education, Professional Interdisciplinary Studies, Secondary Education and Urban Affairs. Ranked by *U.S. News* as one of America's Best Colleges in the Midwest, the university, which has been in existence for more than 150 years, offers the most affordable bachelor's degree in the metropolitan area.

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