

**For Immediate Release**

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**Harris-Stowe Students Compete in Their First Mock Trial Competition**

St. Louis, MO (February 24, 2010) – Under the leadership and mentorship of Dr. Johndavid Kerr, assistant professor of Business Administration, the Harris-Stowe State University Mock Trial team competed in the American Mock Trial Association’s (AMTA) Regional competition held at the University of Missouri (MU), February 19-20, 2010. Twenty-one teams, including Colorado, Creighton, Washington University and Saint Louis University, competed for the coveted eight-team spots, ensuring bids for the national competition to be held in St. Louis in March of this year.

A historical first in the school’s more than 150-year history, this is the first time Harris-Stowe has formed and entered a mock trial team in a formally recognized and sanctioned professional mock trial competition. The seven-member team consisted of Richard Jerelds, Jordan Fowlkes, Carynne Steptoe, Anthony Daniels, Shonda Davis, Taron Wesley and Daniel Adams. These students represented both the Anheuser-Busch School of Business and the Department of Urban Specialization’s Criminal Justice program. In addition to Dr. Kerr, local attorneys Stormy White, Alexandra Johnson and Wesley Bell helped prepare the team for the competition.

Barry Langford, MU’s host for the AMTA contest, enthusiastically invited the team back for future events. He said that the AMTA and the visiting teams were very impressed that was Harris-Stowe’s first competition. Many of the judges — local practicing attorneys — remarked that the team is on the “right track” and definitely has the “requisite trial advocacy skills” to do very well in the future.

In affirmation, one of the team’s members, Anthony Daniels, was recognized by AMTA’s board as an “Outstanding Witness” and was honored with a commemorative plaque during the competition’s award ceremony on Saturday. This accomplishment is further noteworthy when compared to the formal preparation and trial advocacy course work in which many of the teams regularly participate to prepare for such a competitive environment.

At present, Harris-Stowe does not have a formal preparation and trial advocacy course, but Dr. Kerr expressed the potential of developing such a program based upon student demand and resource management. “These students did an outstanding job of competing against teams whose resources are much deeper than ours and went toe-to-toe with 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 cross examinations and witnesses. I’m very proud of this team and look forward to coaching future teams.”

Harris-Stowe competed against William Woods on defense, the University of Colorado on prosecution, Team A of Quincy University on prosecution and Team B of Quincy University on defense. Assistant Professor of Health Care Management Linda Bandaret assisted Dr. Kerr in supervising the team during the event. Please see the attached for photos from the competition.

Harris-Stowe State University, located in midtown St. Louis, is a four-year institution that offers 12 degree programs in the areas of Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Middle School/Junior High Education, Secondary Education, Business Administration, Information Sciences and Computer Technology, Health Care Management, Hospitality and Tourism Management, Accounting, Criminal Justice, Professional Interdisciplinary Studies and Urban Education. 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 baccalaureate in the metropolitan area.

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