

Memorandum

To: All Chicago-Kent students

From: Judge David A. Erickson
Coach and Coordinator of Trial Teams

Date: August 30, 2004

Re: TRIAL TEAM TRYOUTS – NATIONAL TRIAL ADVOCACY TEAM AND ATLA TRIAL TEAM

Tryouts for the 2004-2005 Chicago-Kent National Trial Advocacy Team will be held on Thursday, September 9, 2004. All interested students should be in the **Marovitz Courtroom**, located at Chicago-Kent, at **5:00 p.m.** on that date. This will be an open competition; we will pick 3-4 students.

Both regional competitions will be held in February and March of 2005 in Chicago. The winners of the Regionals of the National Trial Competition will proceed on to the National Finals in San Antonio, Texas, in March. The winners of the Regionals of the ATLA Competition will proceed on to the National Finals in New Orleans, LA, also to be held in March.

The National Competition is sponsored by the American Bar Association, American College of Trial Lawyers, Texas Young Lawyers Association and West Publishing. This competition is the largest National Trial Competition for law schools in the country. The competition begins with more than 245 teams throughout the nation. Over the last 22 years, Chicago-Kent has been one of the most successful Trial Advocacy Programs in the country in this competition. Chicago-Kent has won the title of Regional Champion 16 of the last 22 years.

The ATLA Competition is the largest specialized bar association competition of its kind in the country. It is also national in scope, in that teams from across the country will compete against each other in all 11 federal regions. Over 200 teams from 100 law schools will be competing.

Our goal as a coaching faculty will be to provide the students on both teams with the highest caliber of instruction possible. If you are selected for the team, you will be asked to commit a substantial amount of your time to preparing for the competitions. Our purpose is to turn you into trial lawyers.

During the tryouts, you will be asked to present up to 3 to 5 minutes of an OPENING STATEMENT, CLOSING ARGUMENT, DIRECT EXAMINATION AND CROSS EXAMINATION. We will be using the State vs. Fletcher & Morris case located in the Mauet and Wolfson Trial Advocacy Problems Book. The witnesses will be Richard Edwards and

Samuel Green. Please prepare an opening statement and a closing argument for one side, not both sides. On the day of the tryouts, you will be asked which side you are doing the opening statement and closing argument for, as well as being asked which witnesses you wish to cross examine and direct examine. In other words, you will be asked to do part of an opening statement, part of a closing argument, part of one direct examination and part of one cross examination. After completion of the tryouts, we will announce the winners, so please be prepared to wait until the decisions have been made by the coaching faculty as to all the positions. The decision making process usually takes the entire evening, so be prepared.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL JUDGE DAVID A. ERICKSON AT (312) 433-7969.