

Memorandum

Date: October 18, 2005

To: All Chicago-Kent students

From: Justice David A. Erickson
Justice Warren D. Wolfson

Re: TRIAL TEAM OPEN TRYOUTS

Tryouts for the 2005-2006 Chicago-Kent National Trial Advocacy Team will be held on Tuesday, November 1, 2005. All interested students should be in the Marovitz Courtroom, located at Chicago-Kent (first floor), at 6:00 p.m. The only requirement is that you are a full-time Kent student. 1L's may try out. (See below for additional details about the tryouts.)

This will be an open competition; we will pick 4-6 students to participate. Both regional competitions will be held the second or third week in February. The Regionals for the National Trial Competition will be held in Champaign and the Regionals for ATLA will be held in Chicago. The winners of the Regionals will proceed to the Nationals in March of 2006.

We have assembled three excellent coaching faculties. The National Trial Competition is the largest trial competition for law schools in the country. It begins with more than 200 teams throughout the nation. Over the last 24 years, Chicago-Kent has been one of the most successful programs in the country. Kent has been regional champion 16 of the last 24 years. The national competition is sponsored by the ABA, the American College of Trial Lawyers, and the Texas Young Lawyers Association.

The ATLA Competition is the largest specialized bar association competition in the country. It is also national in scope. Our goal as a faculty will be to provide the students on both teams with the highest caliber of instruction possible. Those who are chosen will begin practicing in December. If you are selected for a team, you will be asked to commit a substantial part of your time to practice. Our purpose is to turn you into trial lawyers.

Additionally, this year, Kent will be entering a team in the Thurgood Marshall Trial Competition. This competition is national in scope. We will be selecting four students for the "Marshall" team. The details of where and when are not yet finalized.

During the tryouts, you will be asked to present up to 3 to 5 minutes of an OPENING STATEMENT, CLOSING ARGUMENT, and a DIRECT and CROSS EXAMINATION. We will be using the State vs. Fletcher & Morris case file in Mauet and Wolfson, *Materials in Trial Advocacy*. The witnesses will be Richard Edwards and Samuel Green. Please prepare an

opening statement and a closing argument for one side, not both sides. When you come into the room you will be asked which side you are doing the opening statement and closing argument for, as well as being asked which witness you wish to direct and cross. (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.) We will announce the winners on the night of the tryouts, so please be prepared to wait until the decisions have been made by the coaching faculty as to all the positions. (This process usually takes the entire evening, so be prepared.)