

Memorandum

To: All full-time Chicago-Kent students

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

Date: 9/4/03

Re: TRIAL TEAM OPEN TRYOUTS

Fall tryouts for the 2003-2004 Trial Advocacy teams will be held on Thursday, September 25. All interested students should meet in the Marovitz Courtroom (Chicago-Kent College of Law – 1st floor) from 5:00-9:00 pm. The **ONLY** requirement is that you are a full-time Kent student. **1L's may try out!**

We will select 4-6 students who will become members of one of our three Fall teams traveling to Los Angeles, Atlanta, and Washington, D.C. Additionally, these students will form the core of our National Team and our ATLA team. The ATLA and National Regionals will be held in Chicago. The Finals will be in New Orleans and Austin, Texas, respectively, in March of 2004.

This year, Chicago-Kent has been selected as the Regional host for the National Trial Competition – the first time a law school has hosted in over ten years!

We have assembled two excellent coaching faculties. Judge Erickson will be the head coach for the National Team and Ms. Patti Sudendorf will serve as head coach for the ATLA team. The coaching faculties for our Fall competitions will be a combination of the two coaching staffs.

If selected, you will compete in one Fall competition (L.A., Atlanta, or D.C.) and one National competition. We are expecting a commitment from September through February or April 2004.

The National 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 21 years, Chicago-Kent has been one of the most successful programs in the country. Kent has been the regional champion 14 of the last 21 years. The national competition is sponsored by the ABA, the American College of Trial Lawyers, NITA, 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. Kent is a relatively new participant, but we have already won our first regional title. Our goal as a faculty will be to provide the students on both teams with the highest caliber of instruction possible.

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 **State vs. Fletcher & Morris**, case file 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. 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 cross and direct (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 of the positions. This process usually takes the entire evening, so please be prepared.