

# Trial Lawyers Section Sponsors New York Regional Round of the National Trial Competition

Each year, the Trial Lawyers Section of the New York State Bar Association has the privilege of sponsoring the New York Regional Round of the National Trial Competition, the oldest and most prestigious law school mock trial competition in the United States.

The National Trial Competition was established to encourage and strengthen student advocacy skills through quality competition and valuable interaction with members of the bench and bar. Two teams are crowned co-champions of each region and go on to compete in the National Finals held in Texas each year.

Unlike most traditional moot court competitions, in which an appeal or motion is argued before a panel of judges, law school students competing in the NTC must try an entire case from start to finish, including motions *in limine*, opening statements, direct and cross-examination of multiple witnesses, introduction of evidence, post-trial motions and closing arguments. Incredibly, they must try their entire case in less than two hours. Each team of students must also try both the plaintiff's case and the defendant's case in alternating rounds.

This year, the New York Regional Round of the NTC was held from February 6 through February 9, 2014. Pace Law School was the host school and the competition was held in the courtrooms of the Westchester County Supreme Court.

We are very proud that this year twenty-two teams from eleven different law schools in New York State competed in the New York Regional Round of the NTC. First-year teams from Touro and NYU joined veteran teams from Brooklyn Law, Cardozo, Buffalo, Syracuse, Hofstra, Pace, Cornell, St. John's and Fordham.

After the completion of three trials in the preliminary rounds of the competition, eight teams representing seven different law schools advanced to the Semi-Final round. Four teams then advanced to the Finals: two teams from Syracuse Law, one team from Hofstra Law and one team from St. John's Law.

In the Final Round, Syracuse Law Team S defeated Hofstra Team J in a trial that went to tie-breakers to de-

cide; and St. John's Team V defeated Syracuse Team T in a split decision.

Syracuse Law and St. John's Law, as Co-Champions of the New York Region, went on to represent the Trial Lawyer's Section and the State of New York in the National Finals that were held the last week of March. Both teams performed extremely well and the team from Syracuse advanced as far as the National Quarter-Finals.

It is therefore the pleasure of the Trial Lawyers Section to award to Syracuse School of Law the Trial Lawyer's Cup for 2014.

In addition to team honors, the Trial Lawyers Section also recognizes several individual awards for students competing in the NTC. The award winners for 2014 are:

**The Travis H.D. Lewin Coaching Award:**

The Coaches of Syracuse Law School

**The Anthony J. Demarco Award for Best Advocate:**

Morgan C. McKinney, Syracuse Law

**Best Opening Argument:**

Joseph Nicastro, Buffalo Law

**Best Direct Examination:**

Amy Cassidy, Cardozo Law

**Best Cross Examination:**

Aaron Spurlock, Hofstra Law

**Best Closing Argument:**

Eleni Aristodemou, Hofstra Law

**Best Overall Advocate Through Preliminary Rounds:**

Prescott Loveland, Fordham Law

Next year, the New York Regional Round of the NTC will be held in Syracuse in February 2015. We invite all members of the Trial Lawyers Section to participate in the competition as evaluators and judges. It is a very rewarding experience to work with such wonderfully talented law school students.