The verdict is in! Mock Trial Team wins individual awards in competitions

Nathaniel Morgan won an Outstanding Attorney Award at the Robert Sanders Kentucky Classic Mock Trial Invitation Tournament held in Louisville. The tournament was co-sponsored by Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) and Bellarmine University. Sullivan’s Mock Trial Team was invited to participate along with 21 other college and university teams from around the nation, including UCLA, Vanderbilt, Furman and Loyola of Chicago. Sullivan’s team competed in four rounds over three days, winning three of seven ballots and tying one.

The second tournament took the team to the University of Cincinnati, winning two ballots against Xavier and losing to the University of Kentucky and Northern Kentucky University. Other teams competing included Ohio State, Dayton and EKU. Sullivan’s para-legals student Shobha Lakhiani won awards as Outstanding Defense Witness and Outstanding Plaintiff’s Attorney.

Other team members performing in these tournaments include Whitney Rogers, John Wells, Daniel Smith, Jessica Vickers, Laura Hacker and Barbara Chastain, who was competing for the first time. Mike Wilson, Professor of Legal Studies, coaches the team.

Mock trial competitions are open to the public and some fans of Sullivan’s team even travelled to the tournament in Cincinnati to provide support. This year’s competition involves a wrongful death action by the widow of a drowned scuba diver blaming the scuba company’s recklessness for causing her husband’s death.

Sullivan’s next scheduled tournament is at Ohio Northern University. Good luck!

Sullivan’s Advisories Boards play vital role

Sullivan University Advisory Boards are an essential component to academic programs, and provide valuable insight to the Lexington campus. Members can consist of administration, faculty, academic advisors, alumni, students, and industry-related members. The boards are instrumental in assessing curriculum and programs, and making recommendations that line up with market demands in Sullivan’s academic program areas. The members are dedicated, providing students with the best possible education input to meet the demands in today’s job market. Different academic program boards are aware of accreditation specific standards and assess not only annual reviews of curriculum, but also evaluate the need for additional requirements as it relates to making programs stronger and more competitive. Boards are also active in projects such as discussing and reviewing library resources and holdings, discussing equipment and needed soft skills, along with academic knowledge for our students. Sullivan University has six Advisory Boards which help direct and assess program outcomes.

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Noted guest speaker at campus event

Judge Gary D. Payne was this year’s selected guest speaker on Constitution & Citizen Day. Judge Payne, who received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Pepperdine University and his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Kentucky, has maintained Senior Status since January 2007 as Circuit Court Judge. Judge Gary D. Payne also has an impressive military resume with more than 30 years of military service, current rank of Colonel, and one year of active duty in Bosnia in 2004. Judge Payne highlighted details about the formation and signing of the Constitution, and related current events that challenge and provide discussion in today’s world. Following the presentation and a question and answer session from students, ice cream was provided in celebration of the day on the front lawn of Sullivan’s campus.

Ph.D. student’s paper selected for conference

Harika Suklun (left) visits with Marika Adams, Graduate School Admissions Officer, during her campus visit.

A paper submitted by a second-year Ph.D. student, Harika Suklun, was selected from numerous entries for presentation at the prestigious 2012 Midwest Academy of Management Conference. The event, “Leadership and the Dawn of the New Economy,” was held in Chicago. The selection committee accepted Suklun’s paper titled, “Is It Time to Go Home? Brain Gain to Brain Drain: Immigrant-Driven Diversity,” which examined issues related to the immigration of professionals and the latest issues in immigrant-driven diversity.

“I was thrilled to represent Sullivan University among the other prestigious universities in attendance,” Suklun said. The Midwest Academy of Management claims many universities with excellent management programs like the University of Illinois, University of Chicago, Northwestern University, Washington University, among many others. Sullivan University was proud to not only have representation at the conference, but also on the program agenda.