

First Annual Evan A. Evans Moot Court Tournament

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BY LISA KAISER

Despite a three-day snowstorm that prevented one of the expected teams from arriving, the first Evan A. Evans Moot Court Tournament was a resounding success thanks to the top-notch competitors, prestigious judges and a challenging constitutional law problem.

William Boulware and Gerald Fox of the University of Wisconsin Law School captured the prize for Best Oral Argument edging out the team from San Joaquin University School of Law in the final round held at the Wisconsin Supreme Court Chambers. Boulware and Fox also won the award for the Best Brief.

Ann Whalen of the University of Dayton School of Law won Best Oralist and Oscar Herasme and Dixon Gahnz of the UW Law School won third place in oral arguments.

The UW Law School placed two teams in the competition, as did the University of Dayton. George Mason University School of Law, John Marshall School of Law and San Joaquin University School of Law each sent one team.

The team from Vanderbilt University School of Law was unable to reach Madison in the cross-country snow storm that forced the San Joaquin team to spend an unexpected night in Cincinnati and arrive in Madison a day later than planned.

The final round of competition was judged by four Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices: Chief Justice Nathan Heffernan, and Justices Roland Day, Janine Geske and Jon Wilcox. The justices grilled the UW team of Boulware and Fox along with their competitors from San Joaquin, Steve Els-

berg and Mark Pasculli.

"You could tell that the justices were prepared for the competition because they knew the problem inside and out and asked us good questions during the arguments," said Fox. "It showed a high level of commitment on their part."

The justices invited the finalists into their chambers after the round to discuss their arguments and presentations.

"They were warm, humorous and generous," said Elsberg about the time spent with the justices. Being able to argue in front of the justices was the reason why the San Joaquin team decided to enter the Evans competition and Elsberg said that it was an honor to be a part of the finals.

Boulware said that he learned from their comments, "Their critiques were really constructive without being degrading."

The justices were not the only judges involved in the competition, however. Judges of the preliminary rounds included: Senior Circuit Judge of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals Thomas Fairchild; Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Richard Cudahy; Dane County Circuit Court Judges Jack Aulik, Richard Callaway, Moria Krueger and George Northrup; U.S. Magistrate Judge Stephen Crocker; Wisconsin



Court of Appeals Judges Daniel Anderson, Daniel La Rocque and Charles Dykman; and Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Laurence Gram, Jr.

Prominent attorneys from Madison and Milwaukee also judged preliminary rounds, including Walt Zimmerman, now with Foley & Lardner in Milwaukee, who conceived the idea of honoring Evans with a moot court competition a few years ago. Pat

Roggensack of DeWitt Ross & Stevens, a moot court alumna who helped set up the tournament also judged one of the early rounds.

The awards were presented by Evans Vice President Maureen Boyle at a banquet following final arguments. Moot Court President Lisa Judson said that Boyle's efforts resulted in a great start for the annual tournament.

"We were extremely happy with Evans," Judson said. "We got lots of compliments from all the participants, they thought it was really well done and well organized and had an interesting problem. Our goal was just to get through it in the first year and work out the kinks next year, but we actually did well. I think we exceeded our expectations."