



TJSL EPSTEN, GRINNELL & HOWELL TRIAL TEAM

Dedication | Trust | Teamwork | Passion

Coaches as Mentors

Coaches Mark Cumba, Joshua Jones, Joshua Brisbane '16 and Alex Lorens '17 are to be commended for their outstanding work in preparing our teams for their outstanding performances.

"I'm incredibly proud of the accomplishments of this TYLA squad. All four of them put in countless hours in preparation. Being a part of the TJSL Trial Team is a tremendous commitment. All the coaches and team members are a part of this success because we all hold each other accountable for competing at the highest level. I've seen advocacy at the highest levels, both in competition and in the real world, and our students are capable of competing with anyone. They all have a heck of a lot to be proud of. And we're not done yet."

- Coach Joshua Jones, San Diego Federal Defenders

Contenders of TYLA's Region 14

TYLA's Region 14 included schools from Nevada, Southern California, and Hawaii. In addition to those already mentioned, the following schools also competed: University of California at Los Angeles, Pepperdine University, Western State, UNLV, and the University of Hawaii.



TJSL Trial Team Emerges Victorious at TYLA Regional Competition

TJSL Trial Team members Sofia Flores and Tyler Barclay were the victors besting the trial team of the University of San Diego School of Law in the final round of the Region 14 Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) National Trial Competition. TJSL sent two teams to TYLA's Region 14 Tournament and they did not disappoint. Led by team members Bethany Nduka (2L), Jordan Robertson (3L), Tyler Barclay (2L), and Sofia Flores (2L), both teams reached the Semifinals. Barclay and Flores advanced to the final round beating the University of San Diego after a close, hard-fought win against Loyola Marymount University.

TYLA Semi-finalists Bethany Nduka and Jordan Robertson were on fire through their four rounds. They swept LaVerne School of Law Team 1 on Thursday night and then swept LaVerne's second team on Friday night. They then advanced to the QuarterFinals on Saturday morning where they faced one of USD's teams. Trying the plaintiff's side of the case, they beat USD to advance to the Semi-Finals. Because of the rankings, Nduka and Robertson met the opposite side of the USD team in the Semi-Final round. Though Nduka and Robertson turned in a solid performance, the USD team advanced.



Texas Young Lawyers Association National Trial Competition

The National Trial Competition was established in 1975 to encourage and strengthen students' advocacy skills through quality competition and valuable interaction with members of the bench and bar.

The program is co-sponsored by the American College of Trial Lawyers and is designed to expose law students to the nature of trial practice and to serve as a supplement to their education. It is the Texas Young Lawyers Association intent to provide a meaningful contribution to the development of future trial lawyers.

The Texas Young Lawyers Association presents the competition, which attracts teams from more than 140 law schools and involves more than 1,000 law students each year.



Barclay and Flores' path was similar. Their first round was against the University of Southern California. Barclay and Flores swept USC, taking all three ballots. They then lost a close second round to California Western School of Law on Friday night, but earned enough points to advance to the quarterfinals on Saturday morning where they swept Chapman. They then hit Loyola Marymount

University in the semi-finals round. The judges all commented that the round was more like a final round and that the winning team prevailed by one point. That winning team was Barclay and Flores and they moved on to the actual final round on Sunday morning.

"From a small seed a mighty trunk may grow." -Aeschylus

There was little surprise that TJSL's four TYLA competitors would do well. Robertson, Nduka, and Barclay were part of the two teams that dominated the 2017

San Diego Defense Lawyers (SDDL) Competition, held during the Fall semester. TJSL was the only school to have both of their teams advance to the final four and Robertson, Nduka, and Barclay's team, rounded out by



second year Laura Palacios, advanced to

the final round against the University of North Carolina. The UNC team ultimately prevailed, but only by one ballot. The other TJSL team to advance to the semi-finals at SDDL was composed of veterans Jonathan Valmeo and Jonathan Ford, as well as first-time competitors Marissa Jimenez and Katie Sarpy.