



STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN

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PRESS RELEASE

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Xavier High School of Appleton Mock Trial Team advances to national tournament

March 15, 2011 – A team of 11 students from Xavier High School in Appleton finished first in the 2011 Wisconsin [High School Mock Trial Tournament](#) on Monday, March 14 and will go on to represent Wisconsin at the [National Mock Trial Championship](#) in Phoenix on May 7 to 9.

Scores of teams met at locations statewide on Saturday, February 12 in regional competitions and twelve regional and wildcard winners advanced to semi-finals held at the Dane County Courthouse in Madison on Sunday, March 13. The Xavier and Rhinelander High School teams qualified for the final round of competition, held before the state Supreme Court on Monday.

Members of the Xavier High School Mock Trial Team are: Meggie Christopher, Kassandra DiPietro, Sarah Dremel, Grace Flaherty, Joe Flaherty, Alex Gregorski, Morgan Krause, Sarah Metropulos, Hannah Thiry, Eric Wert and Sam Zlevor. The team is coached by both teachers and local attorneys. The teacher coaches are Kelli McGreevey and Thrish Birr-Zimmer; the attorney coaches are Attys. Kevin Lonergan and Daniel Flaherty.

Mock trials, which follow the rules and structure of a real court trial, offer teams of six to twelve high-school students the opportunity to argue a case before a three-person panel of judges, composed of volunteer attorneys and jurists, except for the final round, which is presented to justices serving on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The tournament is sponsored by the State Bar of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Law Foundation, the charitable arm of the State Bar.

“This is an outstanding program that offers high school students the opportunity to develop critical thinking, public speaking, teamwork and other life skills while also gaining a deeper understanding of our justice system and the rule of law,” explains Atty. Kevin Palmersheim, chair of the State Bar’s Public Education Committee. Palmersheim also thanked the hundreds of volunteer lawyers, judges and teachers in communities across the state who help make the tournament possible.

Additional information about the Mock Trial program and other law-related education activities sponsored by the State Bar of Wisconsin can be found on the [State Bar’s website](#).

The State Bar of Wisconsin is the mandatory professional association, created by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, for attorneys who hold a Wisconsin law license. With more than 23,000 members, the State Bar aids the courts in improving the administration of justice, provides continuing legal education for its members to help them maintain their expertise, and assists Wisconsin lawyers in carrying out community service initiatives to educate the public about the legal system and the value of lawyers. For more information, visit www.wisbar.org.

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