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Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives

Loyola University Chicago School of Law Takes Third Place in International Mediation Competition

CHICAGO, March 28, 2011 – Loyola University Chicago is pleased to announce that its law school mediation team placed third for mediation skills among 34 teams from four continents at the International Academy of Dispute Resolution competition held in London last week. The competition was held in conjunction with mediation advocacy training sessions at BPP Law School in London.

Teams from India, Germany, Scotland, England, Australia and Canada, as well as several teams from the U.S, participated in the competition, held just blocks away from the Royal Courts of Justice and the famous Inns of Court.

“This was an excellent learning experience for all concerned,” said Teresa Frisbie, Loyola’s coach and director of the Dispute Resolution Program, part of the Dan K. Webb Center for Advocacy at Loyola. Frisbie, a Chicago mediator who also presented at the training portion of the event, said “Participating in simulated mediations with student mediators and advocates from a variety of legal, cultural and mediation style backgrounds is an invaluable experience for law students. It is also a great experience for the professionals who teach and mediate, because we benefit from new approaches and experiences.”

The INADR competition, in which each student must play the roles of advocate, client and mediator, was enhanced by being located in Holborn, the legal heart of London. “The competition experience encompassed modern legal London, with violent protests about proposed budget cuts to legal aid taking place on the second day of the competition, as well as historical legal London, with a walking tour to the Old Bailey and lunch for the students and coaches at the Inner Temple, where Chaucer was a member, and the Middle Temple, where Queen Elizabeth I and Sir Frances Drake dined,” said Frisbie.

“We are very proud of our team and applaud their ability to use problem-solving skills,” said David N. Yellen, dean of the School of Law. “Given the growing need for advocates to apply their skills in alternative dispute resolution settings such as mediation, we are expanding dispute resolution learning opportunities for our students, and this includes new initiatives such as increasing curricular and co-curricular opportunities and the new LLM degree in advocacy with a focus on dispute resolution.”

Loyola also hosted the INADR international competition in 2010 and the regional INADR competition in February 2011, taking both the first and second place team awards for mediation skills. In addition, Loyola hosts a regional international commercial arbitration competition each spring for students to get ready for the Vis competitions in Vienna and Hong Kong.

The competition took place March 24-26, 2011 and the Loyola team consisted of Melissa Bocker, Jeffrey McDonald and Kate McMahon, with Bocker taking the role of mediator in the final round.

“I was thrilled that our team performed so well, but perhaps the best part of the competition was seeing future lawyers -- and perhaps some future politicians -- from around the globe learning to advocate for their clients’ interests while also looking at the other sides’ interests and trying to solve the dispute in a creative way,” said Frisbie.

About Loyola University Chicago

Committed to preparing people to lead extraordinary lives, Loyola University Chicago, founded in 1870, is the nation's largest Jesuit, Catholic university. Enrollment is nearly 16,000 students, which includes more than 10,000 undergraduates hailing from all 50 states and 82 countries. The University has four campuses: three in the greater Chicago area and one in Rome, Italy. Loyola also serves as the U.S. host university to The Beijing Center for Chinese Studies in Beijing, China. Loyola's 10 schools and colleges include arts and sciences, business administration, communication, education, graduate studies, law, medicine, nursing, continuing and professional studies, and social work. Loyola offers 71 undergraduate majors, 71 undergraduate minors, 85 master's degrees, and 31 doctoral degrees. Loyola is consistently ranked among the "top national universities" by *U.S. News & World Report*, and the University is among a select group of universities recognized for community service and engagement by prestigious national organizations, such as the Carnegie Foundation and the Corporation for National and Community Service. For more information about Loyola, please visit LUC.edu.

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