

THE EXHIBIT

Golden Gate University School of Law's Litigation Center Newsletter

2020 IN VINO VERITAS NATIONAL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION SUCCESS

By Rachel R. Brockl, Visiting Professor & Director of the Litigation Center

This past October, GGU's Litigation Center hosted the first all-virtual *In Vino Veritas* National Mock Trial Competition. We welcomed 16 law school teams from across the country to compete for the number one spot. Over the course of the weekend, advocates presented their cases in 23 trials while over 100 volunteer attorneys and judges evaluated them, and 50 student bailiffs and timekeepers kept them in order. The event included two MCLE presentations, live court reporters at the final trial who provided draft transcripts, and a virtual awards ceremony with several litigation-related raffle prizes that I provided as a fun reception activity.

I owe my deepest gratitude to the volunteers who helped make this competition happen, including the Associate Director Clodagh Mauchline, our Student Director Yzabel Tinga, the GGU National Trial Team, GGU Alumni, 1L law students, and our MCLE presenters. On the last page of this issue, you will find a full page dedicated to our amazing volunteer judges and evaluators. This competition would not have been a success without your scoring and providing feedback to the students, so I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart.



Judge Victoria Kolakowski

The final trial was presided over by the Honorable Judge Victoria Kolakowski, who made international headlines in November 2010 when she was elected as the first openly transgender trial judge in the United States. The final trial resulted in a victory for University of Denver Sturm College of Law who prevailed against Florida State University. A recording of the final trial is available for viewing on our Baxter Fellow YouTube channel. We look forward to seeing everyone next year (hopefully in person)!

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Best Opening Statement:

Holly Spease

(University of Denver)

Best Direct Examination:

Marissa Vairo

(Florida State University)

Best Cross Examination:

Elizabeth Hersey

(University of Denver)

Best Closing Argument:

Russell Monilla

(Florida State University)



1ST PLACE

University of Denver
Sturm College of Law



2ND PLACE

Florida State University
College of Law



Best Overall Advocate

Marissa Vairo
Florida State University

2020-2021 GGU NATIONAL TRIAL TEAM

Fall 2020 Competitions



King Competition:

Keenan Webb, Elias Hernandez,
Mengyu Yang, Jose Padron-Lemus



Stetson Competition:

Sadie Minjares Odom, Daniella Crisanti,
Michael Sly, Christopher Wong

**Semi-Finalists!
&
Best Advocate
Award: Chris
Wong**



All-Star National Competition:

Charles Shumake, Vidhi Bhatia, Christina
Stout, Fatima Khan, Bethany Cahill



SFTLA Competition:

Olivia Wheat, Mahtab Hajibabaei,
Dana Oviedo, Yzabel Tinga

2nd Place!

Spring 2021 Competitions

Texas Young Lawyers Association – February 2021

The Texas Young Lawyers Association hosts a National Mock Trial Competition every Spring. Over 150 law schools across the country compete for a chance to win this highly prestigious mock trial competition. If successful in the regional competition, teams will move on and compete in the national competition.

John L. Costello National Criminal Law Competition - February 4 - 7, 2021

This Competition is uniquely designed by Judge Jonathan Thacher to drip out revealing unknown facts and witnesses as the competition progresses, simulating the evolving and unexpected nature of real-life criminal trials. This dynamic design provides competitors with a realistic experience as counsel in a criminal trial and an exciting take on trial advocacy!

AAJ Student Trial Advocacy Competition - March 4 - 7, 2021

AAJ's mock trial fact patterns are civil cases and tend to deal with products liability, personal injury, or medical malpractice/negligence issues. Teams will be judged on their skills in case preparation, opening statements, use of facts, the examination of lay and expert witnesses, and closing arguments. If successful in the regional competition, teams will move on and compete in the national competition.

Capitol City Challenge - March 4 - 7, 2021

Each year, the American University Washington School of Law hosts the Capitol City Challenge. Competitors are expected to master and use Trial Director, a technology software designed to incorporate advanced evidence through technology in the courtroom. We are excited to be invited to compete in this competition again!

National Ethics Trial Competition - March 18 - 21, 2021

The National Trial Ethics Competition is hosted by the McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, California. This competition boasts an ethical component allowing students to incorporate their knowledge of professional responsibility in trial. We look forward to competing in the National Ethics Trial Competition again.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LITIGATION CENTER
Annual

Holiday Party

**FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 20
6:00 PM
ZOOM**

Email
baxterfellow@ggu.edu
to RSVP!



GGU Litigation Center Seminar Series



**LEGAL RAMIFICATIONS OF
“GHOST GUNS”**

How Home-Made Weapons Impact Law Enforcement & Litigation

How background checks, 3D Printing, and lack of serial number tracking impacts law enforcement and criminal litigation. Our distinguished panel of professionals, led by local NBC investigative reporter, Stephen Stock, will discuss all aspects of the “ghost gun” crisis. Panelists share indepth insights into navigating legislative restrictions, investigating shootings, enforcing regulations, and preparing for cutting edge legal issues.



ALEX VILLANUEVA
Sheriff, Los Angeles County



STEPHEN STOCK
Investigative Reporter, NBC Bay Area News



HANNAH SHEARER
Litigation Director, Giffords Law Center

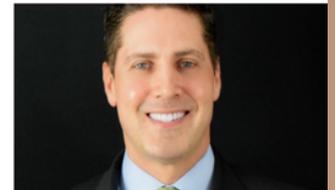


MICHAEL ZIEGLER
Public Safety Consultant

**TBD, 2021
(Zoom Panel)**

RSVP: baxterfellow@ggu.edu

**CO-SPONSORED:
SOCIETY OF LITIGATORS**



MELISSA DELVECCHIO*
Division Counsel, Bureau of (ATF)

PATRICK GORMAN*
Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of (ATF) Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives

* These agents do not recognize the term 'Ghost Gun' in reference to homemade weapons.



WHAT TO EXPECT FROM COURT REPORTERS & WHAT THEY EXPECT FROM YOU



TBD, 2021

- Event to include:
- Presentation by court reporters
 - Live mock trial demos by your colleagues
 - Attorney/judge advice about making a proper record



Hosted by GGU SALDF in
MARCH, 2021

TRUE CRIME NETFLIX SERIES: THE IMPACTS OF LITIGATION AS HOME ENTERTAINMENT



Long before entering Law School, I was a fan of the Making a Murderer series on Netflix, chronicling the story of Steven Avery and his wrongful convictions. Watching the series, even from a before-law-school perspective, it was clear to me that Steven Avery’s case was strong anecdotal evidence of a criminal justice system permeated with injustice. So how do we fix it? Jerry Buting and Dean Strang have traveled the world talking about this problem and their viewpoints on how we can fix our broken system.



Both attorneys confirmed that there are real changes that need to be made in the foyer of our criminal justice system - our police. But significant renovation is needed beyond the front door, such as the District Attorney’s office, trial courts, appellate courts, and corrections. The structural damage and longstanding impact of miscarriages of justice become worse at each successive step in that system; disparities in charging, trial outcomes, appellate outcomes, and sentencing. Each law student should be mindful of their role and appreciate the impact they have on putting “justice” back into the criminal justice system. It was inspiring to hear that Dean Strang and Jerry Buting have used their debut in the Netflix series to foster dialogue around the fair and equitable administration of justice: - Sadie Minjares Odom (2L)



One moment that stuck with me was when a student asked Mr. Buting whether Steven Avery’s case would have received as much attention if Mr. Avery was a black man. “Frankly, no,” Mr. Buting replied. He explained that because Steven Avery was a white man, it forced people who wouldn’t otherwise be aware of systematic injustice to recognize the flaws in the system. I found this troubling because it means that many people have a hard time identifying with others outside of their own race or background. Steven Avery’s case should have sparked outrage no matter what race, gender, or sexual orientation he was. It should have sparked outrage simply because he is a human being.

Mr. Strang ended the afternoon discussing how it has always been outsiders to the system, such as law students and volunteers, who have paved the way for true criminal-justice reform. Commenting on the current political climate, Strang says, “Do not stop with the police.” He urges young law students to further demand accountability from prosecutors, judges, appellate courts, and within the prison system. He says that the criminal-justice system needs insiders who are committed to building a system that is fair for all. In my opinion, these words should be encouraging to any student wanting to enter the criminal-justice field. While we may be outsiders to the system right now, we will soon be the insiders. Although there is a lot of work ahead of us, we are the ones who will soon be in the position to make a difference. - Elias Hernandez (2L)



SEMINAR SERIES RAFFLE WINNERS

- Esra Coskun-Crabtree: signed copy of Illusion of Justice by Jerry Buting
Bethany Cahill: copy of Keep the Wretches in Order by Dean Strang
Amy VanMullekom: copy of Worse than the Devil by Dean Strang
Kate Rowles: \$50 donation to Crime Survivors, Inc.

Recordings of both Netflix panels can be found on the Baxter Fellow YouTube Channel. Both seminars ended with a raffle for attendees. Additionally, the Gabriel Fernandez seminar ended with a moment of silence in Gabriel's memory.

TRUE CRIME NETFLIX SERIES: THE IMPACTS OF LITIGATION AS HOME ENTERTAINMENT

Students Recap Part Two: The Trials of Gabriel Fernandez

The evening began with Mr. Hatami telling the audience about his career path leading up to the LA County District Attorney’s office. He explained that he had a troubled childhood and did not have much direction in life. But after joining the military and completing college, he decided that he wanted to help people and went to law school. He practiced as a civil attorney for a few years before moving into the DA’s office. Mr. Hatami acknowledged that many people want to stay away from child abuse and child murder cases because they can be very painful, but he wanted to help children.



Mr. Hatami spoke about his relationship with the police. He indicated that he does not support defunding the police. Instead, he advocated for other changes like; sending officers to college to get a degree in social work or mental health, making police misconduct reports more readily available to the public, and even raising the age that a person can become a police officer. He stated that the need for transparency is important and that changes need to be made. Hearing Mr. Hatami speak was truly inspirational. He is the type of advocate everyone should aspire to be, someone who fights for their client without backing down. He stated that although he is working in child abuse for the time being, he may not be there forever. Child abuse and murder cases are difficult and take a toll on a person. Listening to Mr. Hatami talk reminded me that in these dark and troubling times, that there are people who are fighting for good causes, the vulnerable, and for children. - *Vidhi Bhatia (2L)*



Mr. Hatami commented on a few reasons why this type of abuse could go on for so long. First, the LA County Department of Children & Family Services is overloaded with cases. There are too many cases and not enough social workers to adequately deal with every report that comes through the office. Second, he also talked about how the courts often favor keeping families together even when that means the child or children will be in harmful environments. I posed a question to him at the end of the seminar in regard to where he believes we would need to start in terms of changing such policies to better ensure children’s safety. His response was that it would start at the LA Board of Supervisors with a change of policy to which the Department of Children and Family Services would have to follow. Thus, hopefully making its way to the Dependency Court and the judges presiding. When both problems occur: an overload of cases and a court favoring family unity, it is easier for children and reports of abuse to fall through the cracks and get lost. - *Bethany Cahill (2L)*



DDA Hatami focused on two topics that really stuck with me: 1) Juror’s internal bias against mothers; and (2) movement lawyering. First, DDA Hatami shared that he needed to recognize that based on our society, there is an internal bias towards mothers and that flows to juries. It is important to understand that jurors put more blame on the mother than the father/male even if the mother did not commit most of the physical abuse -- which was the case with Gabriel. Second, movement lawyering is where lawyers are getting more involved in activism and the community in order to create change.



During DDA Hatami’s talk with us, he presented in a professional, relatable, sympathetic, passionate, and strong way. These characteristics are essential in an attorney -- specifically a prosecutor who has to work emotionally challenging cases. DDA Hatami is an inspiration to me and I believe to anyone who has watched the documentary. Watching the documentary was very emotional for me and I do not know if I would have had the strength and perseverance to fight as hard as DDA Hatami did. It was an honor to attend this series and talk with DDA Hatami -- I hope to be a prosecutor like DDA Hatami one day. May you rest in power, Gabriel Fernandez. - *Alison Chan (3L)*



PUSHING BACK: USING AMERICA'S HISTORY TO CONFRONT POLICING TODAY

Presented by: Destiny Fullwood-Singh (featured left)

Students Recap the Event

Ms. Fullwood shared that her presentation, like her law career as a whole, had been informed and motivated by her commitment to prison and police abolition. America’s current system of police, she pointed out, originated along two lines: in Northern cities, police developed from informal groups of volunteer night watchmen, while in the antebellum South, they originated from more formal vigilante-style slave patrols. The racist and ad hoc qualities of both these strains continue to inflect the culture of American law enforcement.

A striking result is the comparative paucity of training requirements for U.S. cops. A worldwide survey showed the average police officer in the U.S. receives far less training than do police in any other countries (only Iraq and Afghanistan have less-trained cops.). Depending on the state, total required training may be fewer than 500 hours--and in many places, officers can work in the community for up to a year before completing even basic training.

The relevance for defense attorneys is that the police officers who are called to testify have often received scant or no training on the type of encounter they’re describing. For example, a police officer testifying about the behavior of an autistic defendant may not have been trained at all on how to communicate with nonverbal people. A skilled defense attorney might bring the officer’s credibility into question by digging into their lack of preparation for, for example, de-escalating tense situations. In cases where the officer has received relevant training, the defense should obtain the records and other documents related to that training during pretrial discovery. Then, cross-examination can focus on whether the testifying officer followed or is even able to recall the training he received. Ms. Fullwood noted that current events and social change may be causing juries to be more skeptical of police testimony. Defense attorneys’ cross-examination can capitalize on this change. - *Piper Wheeler (1L)*



Can the violence stop with time? I recently had the opportunity to attend a webinar led by Destiny Fullwood. As Ms. Fullwood would state her beliefs, backed by facts, red flags began to raise for me. One fact would send me down a path that I will further pursue. That fact is that a person trained to be a barber spends more time in training than a police officer holding a gun. It takes a person six years of formal education to handle books in a library, but a police officer only four months to handle a gun during a “routine” traffic stop. As a former-military member, I had many hours of training outside of my initial boot camp. Training was ongoing and mandatory. If we had any

deficiencies we were required to, within a certain time, rise to the standard or suffer consequences. That is not the case for police officers. With minimum training requirements, they are placed in situations that may cost them their lives. They are trained to “shoot to kill”, but somehow fire multiple shots. If a civilian shot a person multiple times, it would be considered a crime of “passion,” it is excused due to the fear for their lives. Most do not go to court, but the person who is untrained and shoots while being attacked: they are arrested, lose their job, are labeled, life disrupted. Very few police officers are even reassigned. I may not agree with Ms. Fullwood on abolishing the police force, but I do believe that reform is necessary. The key to stopping the violence is preventing the fear, which requires more time to train, more time to recertify, and more time to evolve. - *Sheronda Myers (1L)*

STUDENT RECAP ON THE EVENT ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE: A CONVERSATION WITH BLACK CRIMINAL LAWYERS & JUDGES

On November 2, 2020, I attended the "Advocating for Change" virtual event that was co-hosted by the Litigation Center and GGU's Black Law Students Association (BLSA). Professor Brockl provided the introduction, BLSA Co-Presidents Amye Osakue and Joseph Roberts moderated the event, and Graduate Baxter Fellow Clodagh Mauchline assisted with the Q&A portion at the end.



Author: Taylor Kennedy (3L)

There were four inspiring panelists: Napa County Judge Langhorne, San Diego County Judge James Simmons, Marin County Assistant District Attorney Otis Bruce, and San Francisco County Deputy Public Defender Jacque Wilson.

The first thing that drew my attention was how each panelist agreed that they had felt dissuaded or discouraged to practice law and excel in their careers at some point along their journeys. Judge Langhorne felt this when she was running for the judge position she currently holds and someone told her that she did not deserve her seat. Mr. Bruce grew up in the south and felt real racism for most of his life. All of the black lawyers and judges on the panel had faced adversity simply because of their race. However, while they all faced challenges in getting to where they are, they indicated that pride in being a black lawyer allowed them to persevere. They did not look down on themselves because of their race or their experiences, because they know what they deserve in terms of opportunity and respect. They provided that hard work, along with having inner confidence, has brought them success.

Rather than being held back by their backgrounds and the fact that their experiences in life are much different from that of their non-black colleagues, they thrived. Mr. Wilson talked about how he takes self-confidence with him in the courtroom and feels like no one in that room is better than him, because he knows he will out work them. Judge Simmons uses the experiences he had growing up in Los Angeles to drive him to always work hard and never quit, even when his mother died on his first day of law school.

Theses attorneys and judges found themselves in the positions they hold today, because they embraced themselves and their experiences. Having this pride allows them to advocate for people of color to the best of their abilities and to work towards a critical goal: to make the criminal justice system more fair for people of color, and I applaud them for their accomplishments.



Author: Damontez Cox (3L)

I attended the virtual event Advocating for Change in early November and, hearing the panelists talk about the challenges they faced as Black judges and attorneys, it sparked many thoughts regarding my own journey towards higher education.

The panelists talked about how many of them were the first or only Black judge or attorney in their office or courthouse. Black men and women are underrepresented in the legal field, but also in teaching roles. For students of color, it can be daunting not to have mentors that we can fully relate to and look up to. Thus, becoming a lawyer can almost seem like a fantasy without these role models in positions we seek to fill.

Many students will find it inspiring to hear that when Judge Langhorne first joined the bench, she was the second woman and first Black judge in her district to preside. For me, it was hearing Judge Simmons talk about how, coming from Compton, he battled with low self-esteem issues that so often plagues Black people. The life of a Black law student is hard. I say this not to invalidate the struggles of my non-Black colleagues, but because it is the only experience I know. It is very difficult living in a society that constantly tells you that you are not good enough, so it was refreshing to hear these speakers talk about the obstacles they faced and how they overcame them to try to change the lack of representation of Black litigators and to make a difference in the criminal justice system.

SPRING 2021 LITIGATION COURSES

Effective Brief Writing & Motion Advocacy

TUESDAY AFTERNOON
Professor Brockl

A judge's first impression of a lawyer is often based on the quality of his or her papers. That impression had better be a good one. This course, taught by a former prosecutor, will teach students how to effectively draft motions and argue them in a real-world setting. Utilizing a variety of fact patterns, students will develop a portfolio of written work and will receive feedback aimed at building confidence in courtroom advocacy.



Trial Advocacy

TUESDAY EVENING
Judge Torpoco

This course is taught by a local practicing judge. Throughout the semester, students will learn the basic skills needed by every lawyer going to court: conducting a direct examination, introducing documents and physical evidence, cross examining witnesses, making and answering objections, and preparing opening statements and closing arguments. The final examination for this course is a full trial. Pre/co-requisite: Evidence.



Advanced Communication for Attorneys

TUESDAY EVENING
Professor Scott

Successful attorneys are skilled communicators inside and outside of the courtroom. This course will equip students with effective communication techniques to achieve desired results in real-life situations, such as speaking with partners or work staff, handling difficult work conversations, delivering presentations, client interactions, and more. Students will learn how to assess each scenario and be able to identify the best method to communicate their message with authenticity and confidence. Our focus will include vocal variation, purposeful movement, effective use of technology to enhance in-person and online presence, and other media.

****New Course Offering****



Mock Trial & Advanced Mock Trial - Competition

TEAM PRACTICES

MON/THURS 6:00 - 9:00 P.M. & SATURDAY 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

INVITATION ONLY

The National Mock Trial Team competes on a local and national level in mock trial competitions across the country. The Team is invite only based on your performance in the Annual Golden Griffin Challenge, an intra-school mock trial competition open to all upper-classmen who have taken evidence and have taken or are currently taking Trial Advocacy.

Civil Litigation - Pretrial Phase

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON
Professor Castoria

Students handle every aspect of pretrial preparation of a civil lawsuit. They proceed from the initial client contact, through formulating client representational strategy, to developing a case theory. They draft all the case pleadings as well as motions challenging the sufficiency of the pleadings. The course ends with a pre-trial settlement conference.



Introduction to eDiscovery

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON
Professor Myers

In this class you will explore the tools, common practices and laws that make eDiscovery unique. In doing so, you will learn to manage the risks associated with identification, preservation, collection, review and production of electronically stored information (ESI). ESI comprises approximately 90%+ of documents produced in a litigation (e.g. emails, network databases, Word, Excel, social media and cellular data), and ESI significantly increases in volume and complexity with each passing year. Leave this course with an understanding of how to best serve your future clients while meeting your discovery obligations under Federal and California law.



SPRING 2021 LITIGATION COURSES

Strategic Jury Persuasion

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

Professor Mask

Persuasive storytelling is key to becoming a winning trial lawyer. This advanced "how to" course is for students who want a deeper dive into the science and art of jury storytelling and persuasion. Students will be introduced to the trial preparation techniques of some of the most successful trial lawyers in the country. Topics will include how to let your story do the arguing for you, how to successfully use focus groups, how to combat cognitive biases of jurors, and how to become more persuasive through proper framing, among others. Utilizing interactive strategies, students will practice and hone their courtroom persuasion skills. Class size will be limited. Prerequisite: Trial Advocacy or STEP or permission of the professor.

****New Course Offering****



Evidence

THURSDAY EVENING

Professor Steckler

This course is a survey of the principles of law and rules governing the admissibility of proof at criminal or civil trials, including direct and cross-examination of witnesses, impeachment of credibility, expert testimony, hearsay, privileged communication, and documentary proof.

Prerequisites: Civil Procedure I, Corequisite: Civil Procedure II



Introduction to Criminal Litigation

Apply the skills learned in Trial Advocacy in the context of a criminal case. The class is divided into trial teams assigned to prosecution or defense. The class begins with the staging of a mock crime, it is reported, a suspect is arrested, charges are filed, and the prosecution commences. The class proceeds through major phases of a criminal trial, including discussion and exercises on preliminary hearings.

THURSDAY EVENING



Prof. Morehead



Prof. Redding

Professional Presentation & Persuasion

THURSDAY EVENING

Professor Scott

Whether in the courtroom, working with colleagues, spending time with clients, or working remotely, as a lawyer you must be able to communicate and present your ideas in a compelling manner that moves others to action. Eliminate nervous tics and self-consciousness when speaking in public, learn to think on your feet, and capture the attention of all your listeners. Learn the skills necessary to deliver outstanding in-person and virtual presentations. Students will be called upon to apply and incorporate basic technology skills that will enhance all of their presentations. This class will be highly interactive and offers students the opportunity to master new communication skills while engaging with their classmates.



Introduction to Litigation

FRIDAY MORNING

This course will prepare 1st STEP students for their summer trial and evidence program by teaching them basic trial skills necessary to become successful litigators in the courtroom. The course will teach students an overview of litigation, including the differences between civil and criminal law. Students will participate in drafting and arguing a motion, will learn to prepare and be a good witness, and begin the process of reviewing a case file and putting together a trial. Students will end the course presenting jury addresses in a mock-trial setting. The course is designed to provide students with feedback and guidance to prepare them for the intensive summer litigation program. Open only to students applying for 1st STEP.



Prof. Briggs



Prof. Brockl

WELCOME!

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEW PROFESSOR

Justin Myers works as counsel at Harbor Litigation Solutions where he advises legal teams—both corporate and law firms—on issues involving electronically stored information (ESI), including custodian interviews, data mapping, defensible collection methodologies, the use of legal technology, review workflows, litigation contingency and readiness planning. Professor Myers has more than 18 years of experience in the litigation support industry, including leadership roles with in-house and outside counsel. He has presented numerous training seminars and MCLE courses on ESI subjects, including ethics in eDiscovery. Professor Myers has been involved in some of the most notable cases dealing with discovery issues. In addition to cases with complex discovery issues, Professor Myers has managed discovery in large scale litigation for a number of clients. He holds a J.D. from GGU and a B.S. from the University of San Francisco.



WELCOME, CAPTAIN!

During the upcoming Spring 2021 competition season, Michael Sly (3L) will join current captain, Keenan Webb (3L), as co-captain of GGU's National Trial Team. Michael is a third-year student at Golden Gate University School of Law. He graduated from University of California, Berkeley with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. He went on to work in the Victim Services Departments of the San Joaquin District Attorney's Office and the San Francisco District Attorney's Office for four years total. In that role, Michael developed an interest in policy, criminal justice reform, and social justice. Michael is a graduate of the 1st STEP Summer Litigation Program, an active member of the Society of Litigators, and a 3-semester veteran of the National Trial Team. After completing 1st STEP, he interned with both the San Francisco and Solano County District Attorney's Offices. Michael enjoys cooking, brewing beer, and road trips.



GOLDEN GRIFFIN CHALLENGE

On Friday, August 28th, 2020 the annual Golden Griffin Challenge took place. The Golden Griffin Challenge is an intra-school, upper-division only, truncated mock trial competition featuring student advocate teams of two conducting a cross examination and presenting a closing argument. The competition also doubles as tryouts for GGU's National Trial Team.



Christina Stout (2L) & Yzabel Tinga (2L)

Christina Stout & Yzabel Tinga, both 2L's and graduates of the 2020 1st STEP Summer Program, dominated the competition. The fierce duo played the role of defense attorneys for the fictional Jamie Vaughn, who was charged with attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction. They used the skills they learned during their time in the Summer Trial & Evidence program to prevail over the competition and took home a \$500 prize!

THANK YOU TO OUR IN VINO VERITAS VOLUNTEERS!

Montana Baker	Kamina Richardson	Jeremy Pasternak	Julia Levitskaia
Marina Pantchenko	Daniel Klausner	Dennis Zell	Jeremy Castro
Houri Parsi	David Kaiser	Ezekiel Bottorff	Sarah Gounder
Amanda Ewing-Rice	Kevin Haroff	Saba Basria	Keydon Levy
Nicholas Baran	Allison Wang	Daniel Wood	Bryan Tong
Nate Read	Ronald Coleman	Erin Collins	Sunita Popal
Lauren Sujeeth	Destiny Ramsey	Basim Humeid	Butch Ford
Aseil Mohmoud	Maria Evangelista	Monica Mueller	Erik Faussner
George Borges	Fiona McKenna	Casey Kozoll	Jody Mask
Louie Castoria	Lori Mullins	Karina Alvarez	James Wade
Kristen Louis	Ryan Carreon	Quynh Chen	Carlos Concepcion
Dean Pollack	Hans Clugston	Nicole Winget	Jason Schmaltz
Andrew Allen	Joel Chan	Rebecca Nieman	Curtis Briggs
Jason Galek	Daniel Schneiderman	Nicole Grida	Joel Schottland
Ryan Griffith	Rick Stout	Mark Wilson	Bryna Holland
Gregg Zywicke	Caroline McCormick	Michael Belter	Matt Mani
Leeor Neta	Ashley Lotti	Felicia Carrington	Steve Whitworth
Maxwell Louie	Lindsay Hoopes	Yau Lee	Tom Larkin
Courtney Burris	Matthew Minser	Rachel Van Cleave	Michael Freedman
Judge Ruth Samas	Judge Edward Torpoco	Judge Nancy Fineman	Judge Andrew Steckler
Judge Trina Thompson	Judge Brendan Conroy	Comm. Bentrish Satarzadeh	Judge Dorothy Proudfoot

Special thanks: Dustin Cameron and Zach Porter for drafting the fact pattern, Michele Benedetto Neitz & Destiny Fullwood-Singh for providing our MCLE, Judge Kolakowski for presiding over our final trial, Ana Fatima Costa for providing live court reporters and transcript, Harry/Sean/Chris from ITS, Dean Christiansen for his closing remarks, and Joseph Schott for donating Trial Pro as one of our raffle prizes.

In Vino Veritas Feedback

"I just wanted to say thank you so much for letting my students come and watch the final round on Sunday. They really enjoyed it and learned a lot! I enjoyed judging my round on Friday as well. See you next year!"

- **Lori Mullins (Evaluator & Teacher)**

"I had a great experience competing at In Vino Veritas! Our opponents were all well-versed in the strengths and weaknesses of the case. It was evident that the advocates spent countless hours training in the art of trial-level litigation as they showed their outstanding talent and skill during the competition. Competing at a mock trial competition using a videoconferencing platform showed how the legal field can utilize technology during the pandemic. Over-all, I am grateful to have been able to compete at In Vino Veritas. Kudos to GGU Law for organizing this competition!" - **Russell Monilla (FSU Competitor)**

"The effort that y'all put into the competition shows your dedication to the legal community at large. A big thank you from Texas!"

- **Tyler Eaton (SMU Coach)**

"Thank you for an amazing tournament. I can only imagine how difficult this was to pull off, but you and your team made it look easy. We all know that the easy things only look that way because of all of the hard work behind the scenes, so thank you so much." - **Robbie Crabtree (SMU Coach)**

"A perennial favorite for the advocacy program at American University Washington College of the Law, the In Vino Competition rose to meet the challenges of 2020 with professionalism and grace. Our students enjoyed delving into this year's trial problem and found participation in the tournament to be as smooth and rewarding as ever."

- **Joe Lester (American Law Associate Director of Advocacy)**

"The 2020 In Vino Veritas National Mock Trial Competition was a top-notch event and a huge success! I recently had the experience of running an online mock trial tournament (The Summit Cup), and I know how incredibly difficult and stressful it can be having to rely on computer technology, internet connectivity, Zoom, and massive amounts of coordination to make things work. I have to admit, I was a little nervous about the competition using one Zoom link and then breakout rooms for each trial, but it worked flawlessly! Every detail was handled by Rachel, Clodagh, and their GGU team with incredible professionalism and dedication all the way around. Thank you for giving my law students such an amazing educational experience and a fun time!" - **Kevin Keyes (Denver Coach)**