

Posted on 09 May 2011.

LAW WEEK COLORADO

<http://www.lawweekonline.com/2011/05/glenwood-h-s-team-takes-3rd-place-in-u-s-mock-trials/>

Glenwood H.S. Team Takes 3rd Place In U.S. Mock Trials

Glenwood Springs High School's mock trial team took third place at the National High School Mock Trials Championship in Phoenix, the Colorado Bar Association announced today.

A full press release follows.

Glenwood High School Places Third at National Mock Trial Championship

DENVER—Glenwood Springs High School's mock trial team took third place at the National High School Mock Trials Championship in Phoenix.

This year, the National Championship was attended by 48 teams—the largest number of teams in the history of the Championship—from 43 states, Guam, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, South Korea and (for the first time) Australia.

This marks the fifth time in 10 years that a team from Glenwood has traveled to compete in the national championship. Colorado last won the National title in 1990.

"The kids did just phenomenal," said attorney head coach Charlie Willman. "You can't get closer to perfection. We could not have asked for more from these young people."

Prior to nationals, the Glenwood team bested Lakewood High School—the 2010

state champions—at the state mock trial tournament. Students on the Glenwood team include Erica Arensman, Christian Bergren-Aragon, Isaac Carlson, Isabel Carlson, Joseph Ciborowski, Grace Gamba, Eileen Klomhaus, Alex Pototsky and Hope Whitman. Vic Zerbi and Wes Burke served as assistant attorney coaches; the teacher-coach was Bryan Gonzalas.

Student Alex Pototsky won an award for Best Witness and Christian Bergren-Aragon won Best Attorney.

“I could not have asked for a better way to end my career as a Glenwood Springs High School Mock Trial participant,” Bergren-Aragon said. “I love my coach, I love my team and I love my state.”

At mock trial competitions, teams prepare for both sides of the case and don’t find out which side they will present until they step into the courtroom. Students at nationals had about one month to prepare for their case. They are judged on how well they know the case, question witnesses, advocate their side of the case and make and respond to objections. Dramatic speaking, persuasive argument skills and how well the witnesses play their roles are also factors in judging.

The case at nationals focused on a dispute in northern Arizona between a Native American tribe and a uranium mining company. The dispute focuses on whether the expansion of the mining operations will impact the water and wildlife on the land and will significantly impact the public health and safety of the native residents.

“This team has worked unbelievably hard to get to this place. This is the team to represent Colorado!” said Carolyn Gravit, Director of CBA Public Education.

“These students will succeed at whatever they do in life. I am honored to be a part of this program.”

The Nation Championship was held in Phoenix May 5 to 7. Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Conor opened the national championship awards banquet at the Phoenix district courthouse named in her honor.

Note to Editors: A photo of the Glenwood Springs High School team, taken at the state mock trial tournament, is attached for your use.

About the Colorado Bar Association □ The Colorado Bar Association is a voluntary bar association with more than 17,000 members – nearly three-quarters of all attorneys in the state – founded in 1897. The bar provides opportunities for continuing education, volunteering and networking for those in the legal profession while upholding the standards of the bar. The bar likewise works to secure the efficient administration of justice, encourage the adoption of proper legislation and perpetuate the history of the profession and the memory of its members. For more information visit www.cobar.org.