

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Nov. 21, 2013**

**16 moot court teams will vie for national championship**

*UH Law Center's Blakely Advocacy Institute and Andrews Kurth sponsor sixth annual tournament*

**Nov. 21, 2013** – The nation's 16 best moot court programs will face off at the federal courthouse in January for the right to claim the title of National Champion in the sixth annual competition hosted by the Blakely Advocacy Institute at the University of Houston Law Center and sponsored by Andrews Kurth LLP.

"The Andrews Kurth Moot Court National Championship is designed to recognize sustained excellence by law schools in moot court competitions. It is a fiercely competitive tournament and is recognized by competing schools as one of the top three competitions in the country," said Jim Lawrence, director of the Blakely Advocacy Institute.

This year's problem focuses on hydraulic fracturing and the National Environmental Policy Act. As part of the three-day championship activities Jan. 23-25, participating teams are invited to participate in a symposium related to the same topic.

Moot court programs qualified for the National Championships based on points accumulated during the previous year at competitions throughout the country. This year's field is comprised of teams from Baylor University Law School, Chicago Kent College of Law, Florida Coastal School of Law, Georgetown University Law School, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Michigan State University College of Law, New York University School of Law, Pepperdine University School of Law, Seton Hall School of Law, SMU School of Law, South Texas College of Law, Stetson University College of Law, Texas Tech University School of Law, Ohio State University College of Law, University of California Hasting College of Law, and the University of Georgia School of Law.

The Championship's symposium will explore the tension between the hydraulic fracturing industry and the implications of that industry on the nation's environmental policies. The symposium will be held at the Downtown DoubleTree Hotel on Jan. 23 from 10 a.m. - 3p.m.

Guest judges for last year's final round were U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals Judges James Graves, Fortunato Benavides, and Jennifer Elrod; U.S. Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals Senior Judge Arlen Beam, former Texas Supreme Court Justice and current Andrews Kurth partner Scott Brister. Other members of the judiciary who participated in last year's tournament were Mike Engelhart, Nancy Johnson, Terry Jennings, William J. Boyce, Martha Hill Jamison, Brett Busby, Jeff Brown, Sylvia Matthews, Al Bennett, Caroline E. Baker, and Ravi Sandill.

For additional information, including registration for the Championship symposium, visit the Championship's website [law.uh.edu/blakely/mcnc/homepage.asp](http://law.uh.edu/blakely/mcnc/homepage.asp).

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