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Golden Gate University Wins San Francisco Trial Lawyers Mock Trial Competition

Third consecutive victory

San Francisco, CA (November 7, 2014) – [Golden Gate University School of Law](#) (GGU Law) took first place in The San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association's (SFTLA) annual Mock Trial competition, earning the title, "Best of the Bay," for the third consecutive year and fourth first place win in five years. This year, GGU Law beat Santa Clara University, Stanford University and University of California, Hastings in the intense, day-long competition.

"We are very proud of our continued success at the SFTLA competition," said Associate Professor of Law, Wes Porter, director of GGU's litigation center. "The GGU team consisted of students new to mock trial so the victory is also a testament to our program and training." GGU alumnus Jaclyn Merkis and Erik Knuppel, along with Porter, served as coaches to students Danielle Jones, Erik Faussner, Rena Sera and Peter Nedeau.

The schools squared off in the courtrooms of the San Francisco Superior Court, presided over by Retired Judges Honorable Alex Saldomando, Honorable David C. Velasquez and sitting Judge Honorable Socrates Manoukian. School teams consisted of two attorneys and two witnesses, switching sides from Defense to Plaintiff or Plaintiff to Defense. SFTLA members served as jurors. GGU's top winning team won \$2,000, 2nd place team members won \$1,000 and the other two teams won \$500 each from SFTLA's Carlene Caldwell Scholarship. All student participants also receive a one year membership to SFTLA.

"I think the one thing that really made a difference in our training is that our coaches and professors within GGU Litigation aren't afraid to challenge aspiring advocates," said GGU team member Erik Faussner. "If I hadn't been prepared to deal with a difficult witness, I would not have been able to perform as well as I did. GGU's approach to litigation is unsurpassed in the way it prepares advocates to deal with the unexpected. I also feel that the effort each team member gave in the five weeks leading up to the competition is what set our team apart."

[About Golden Gate University School of Law \(GGU Law\)](#)

GGU Law offers full and part-time law programs that blend practical skills training with legal theory to prepare students to be critical thinkers, problem solvers and leaders, with the flexibility to respond to changes in the legal profession. The first law school in America to have a female dean and to actively recruit female applicants, the school of law's mission is to produce a diverse group of graduates with the skill, judgment and moral compass to become exceptional lawyers and socially responsible members of the global community.

[About Golden Gate University](#)

GGU, a private nonprofit, has been helping adults achieve their professional goals by providing undergraduate and graduate education in accounting, law, taxation, business and related areas for more than 113 years. GGU is accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

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