

By: Hughes

H.R. No. 2058

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Baylor Law School won first place at the Association
2 of Trial Lawyers of America's National Student Trial Advocacy
3 Competition, which was held in West Palm Beach, Florida, April
4 7-10, 2005; and

5 WHEREAS, The ATLA sponsors the annual nationwide mock trial
6 competition in order to inspire excellence in trial advocacy by
7 offering law students the opportunity to develop and practice
8 advocacy skills before distinguished members of the bar and bench;
9 open to law schools throughout the country, the competition
10 involves civil cases that usually deal with product liability,
11 personal injury, or medical malpractice and negligence issues;
12 teams are judged on their skills in case preparation, opening
13 statements, use of facts, the examination of lay and expert
14 witnesses, and closing arguments; and

15 WHEREAS, Competition began on the regional level in February
16 when 223 teams from 138 law schools, including 16 teams from nine
17 Texas law schools, vied for a spot in the national contest; and

18 WHEREAS, The four members of the winning Baylor group are
19 Paul Bailiff, a native of Houston and a May 2005 graduate currently
20 practicing with an area law firm; Robert Little, Jr., from Sherman,
21 who is in his final year of law school and is an alumnus of Baylor's
22 political science program; Meredith Black-Matthews, a second-year
23 law student from Dallas who also holds an undergraduate degree from
24 Baylor; and Gabriel Head, another second-year law student and a

1 graduate of Southwest Texas State University, where he earned his
2 bachelor's and master's degrees in history; and

3 WHEREAS, The Baylor team benefited from the guidance of its
4 head coach, Professor Jeremy Counseller, along with Professor
5 Gerald Powell and recent graduate Eric Porterfield; Professor
6 Counseller credited the victory to the students' long hours of
7 preparation and their command of the law of evidence and procedure;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Recently ranked by *U.S. News and World Report* as
10 having the sixth best advocacy program in the nation, Baylor Law
11 School has enjoyed a tradition of success in the ATLA competition;
12 in 2003 and 2004, Baylor students won third place, and teams from
13 the Waco law school also won first and second places in the regional
14 contest in 2004; and

15 WHEREAS, With their hard work and determination, the members
16 of the Baylor team have brought great credit to themselves and to
17 their school, and this important national championship solidifies
18 the institution's reputation as one of the preeminent law schools
19 in the country; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
21 Legislature hereby congratulate Baylor Law School for its
22 first-place win at the Association of Trial Lawyers of America's
23 2005 National Student Trial Advocacy Competition and extend to the
24 mock trial team members sincere best wishes for success in all their
25 future endeavors; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
27 prepared for the school as an expression of high regard by the Texas

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1 House of Representatives.