

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The University of Texas School of Law has won the
2 2011 John L. Costello National Criminal Law Trial Advocacy
3 Competition; and

4 WHEREAS, Hosted this year by George Mason University School
5 of Law in Fairfax, Virginia, from February 10 through 13, the
6 Costello competition differs from many other mock trial contests in
7 that each school represents only one side of the case, and unknown
8 facts and witnesses are revealed as the competition progresses; the
9 UT Costello mock trial team represented the prosecution in its case
10 against a hypothetical 21-year-old woman charged with DWI and
11 involuntary manslaughter; and

12 WHEREAS, Members of the UT Costello competition mock trial
13 team were third-year students Robert Clopton and Lauren Sprouse and
14 second-year students Tony McDonald and Bryan Acklin; coaching the
15 team were Jay Adkins, a 1982 UT law school alumnus who serves as an
16 assistant attorney general in the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit of
17 the Office of the Attorney General of Texas, and Ciara Williams, a
18 2007 alumna of the law school who maintains her own practice in
19 Austin; the team was sponsored by the UT law school Advocacy
20 Program; and

21 WHEREAS, This year is the first time that The University of
22 Texas has participated in the Costello competition and also the
23 first time that Mr. Adkins and Ms. Williams have coached an
24 interscholastic mock trial team; and

1 WHEREAS, The members of the UT Costello mock trial team
2 showed great poise and skill, winning each round of the competition
3 before beating the team from Catholic University in the final round
4 to bring home the national title; and

5 WHEREAS, In honor of the Costello mock trial team and The
6 University of Texas School of Law Advocacy Program, The University
7 of Texas lighted the entire tower in orange on the night of April
8 20, 2011, and displayed the number 1 in white lights on each side of
9 the building; and

10 WHEREAS, The Costello competition demands rigorous
11 preparation and outstanding persuasive skill, and the members of
12 the UT team may indeed take justifiable pride in their impressive
13 achievement; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
15 Legislature hereby honor Robert Clopton, Lauren Sprouse, Tony
16 McDonald, Bryan Acklin, Jay Adkins, and Ciara Williams and The
17 University of Texas School of Law Advocacy Program on winning the
18 national championship in the 2011 John L. Costello National
19 Criminal Law Trial Advocacy Competition and extend to the team
20 members and coaches and all those associated with the Advocacy
21 Program sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it
22 further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for the team as an expression of high regard by the Texas
25 House of Representatives.

Christian

H.R. No. 2477

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2477 was adopted by the House on May 30, 2011, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House