

By: Christian

H.R. No. 2477

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.