

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2007

Contact: Abby E. Dozier
Communications Specialist
PH: 817.212.4061

Texas Wesleyan Law School Wins State Moot Court Competition

FORT WORTH, TX – The Texas Wesleyan University School of Law Moot Court team of 3L Melissa Swan, 3L Matthew Wright, and Johannes Walker '07 won the law school's first state moot court championship at the 2007 Texas Moot Court Competition in San Antonio, TX.

"I am extremely proud of Melissa, Matthew, and James for their performance in San Antonio," Interim Dean Cynthia L. Fountaine said. "Our Moot Court team set an incredibly high bar last year, and this result shows that our Moot Court team has depth and is capable of consistently outstanding performances. Our trial advocacy program is filled with some of the brightest and talented student advocates in the country, and this team has demonstrated that with this state title."

Hosted by the Texas Young Lawyers Association, the competition was part of the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting. The team was coached by Jennifer Ellis '05 of Payma, Kuhnel, & Smith, and Rob Sherwin of Brackett & Ellis.

The team beat Texas Tech University School of Law in the semi-final round, and South Texas College of Law for the overall championship. South Texas previously won three state championships from 2003-2005 and six state championships over the past 10 years.

The final round against South Texas was judged by seven of the nine current Texas Court of Criminal Appeals judges.

"To win in front of those judges, and to win so convincingly, was among our program's finest hours," Sherwin said. "South Texas had a tremendous team, and yet the round wasn't even close."

Oralists Walker and Wright took all seven ballots from the court during the final round. Ellis echoed Sherwin's enthusiasm about the team's ability to perform in front of the judges.

"The most impressive quality of our team members was their ability to really converse with the judges with confidence and superior knowledge of the law," Ellis said. It was obvious that the skills they have learned in their classes and through participation in moot court will serve them well in the future as practicing attorneys."

Walker, who graduated from the law school in May, competed in the 57th annual National Moot Court Competition and the American Bar Association's National Appellate Advocacy Competition earlier this year with fellow graduates Natalie Roetzel and Matthew Rhoads. 3L's Wright and Swan will continue competing in Moot Court competitions when the fall semester begins.

###