



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
Thurgood Marshall School of Law

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Thurgood Marshall School of Law reserves the right to remain proud: The law school’s competitive mock trial team reigns victorious, with back-to-back, first-place championship regional win at the 2021 NBLSA Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition

(Monday, February 1, 2021) – On January 19-23, 2021, students from Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law (Thurgood Law) competed against law schools spanning Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas during the National Black Law Students Association Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition, Southwest Region. Thurgood Law, represented by second-year law students, Tyrice Hampton, Kristin Chivers, Brianna Stark, and Lekwan Frazier (pictured above), rendered top-notch, civil trial simulation, offering opening statements, direct and cross examination of witnesses and closing arguments against other participating teams. Advocates were evaluated on their overall courtroom presence, command of the Federal Rules of Evidence and Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, teamwork and accuracy of objections. After four preliminary rounds, Thurgood Law advanced to the semi-finals, with a win-loss record, 3-1, securing their place to the final rounds. With sweet victory over Texas A&M University School of Law in the final round, Thurgood Law earned *first-place* championship status, culminating in a back-to-back regional win for Thurgood Law, having also won first-place in the 2020 regional mock trial competition. As if the regional victory could not have gotten any sweeter, Thurgood Law second-year student, Kristen Chivers scored the *Best Advocate* award at the competition.

An astonishing finish doesn’t happen without hard work put in by the participating students and their respective coaches. “Countless hours are spent preparing our team for competition,” said Tim Adams, Esq., assistant district attorney with the Harris County District Attorney’s Office and ’17 Thurgood Law alumnus, adjunct professor and director of mock trial program. “I am indebted to Thurgood Law alumnae and dedicated coaches, Sasha Missick, Esq. and Juliana Shaw, Esq., who along with myself, spent a myriad of hours from November 2020 until the competition, preparing our team for the regional win. This year’s rivalry was uniquely challenging due to the online component of weekly practices and the virtual competition itself. In addition to the typical, substantive training, practice was set aside to develop methods for presenting a remote, but still persuasive case. Such things as building chemistry and camaraderie among team members were affected due to the paradigm shift and virtual nature of preparation during a global pandemic. However, our dedicated advocates accepted the challenge, embraced guidance from their coaches and rose to the occasion. Our victory was truly a team effort and a perfect beginning to Thurgood Law’s 2021 mock trial program.”

With the regional win, Thurgood Law Mock Trial Team advances to the national rounds of the National Black Law Students Association Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition, to be held virtually, March 3-7, 2021.

About Thurgood Law:

Since 1947, Thurgood Law has transformed the lives of many students, initiating them into legal professionals serving in Congress, the state legislature and judiciary in Texas, the United States and abroad. Heralded as one of the most diverse law schools in the country, and being part of Texas Southern University, the second largest historically Black college and university (HBCU) in the world, Thurgood Law upholds its leadership responsibility of providing a dynamic legal training program to a diverse cadre of students, who possess the leadership qualifications to become outstanding members of the legal profession.