

## STUDENT TRIAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION

*Can born-again Christian James Price prove that GEM Corporation engaged in religious discrimination and violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 when the Company fired him? Can GEM convince a jury that Price engaged in misconduct by asking employees under his supervision how often they attend church? by giving away Bibles to employees? or by offering advice to an openly gay employee about how she might "cure" her "illness?"*

To answer these questions in a trial applying the Federal Rules of Evidence and Civil Procedure, the LEL Section has invited students in law schools in California, Arizona, Nevada, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, and Washington, D.C. to participate in the 2007 Student Trial Advocacy Competition. The 2007 Competition is scheduled for November 3 & 4 at court houses in Chicago and Dallas, and will be held on November 17 & 18 in courthouses in Los Angeles, Miami, New York City, and Washington, D.C. This year's fact pattern will present student advocates with a compelling, real life religious discrimination fact pattern in an intriguing context.

As in past Competitions, teams will consist of four students. In each trial round, two students are advocates and two students are witnesses for their own trial team. During each trial, each student advocate conducts a direct examination, a cross examination, and presents either an opening statement or closing argument. A "judge" and "jury" of experienced LEL Section litigators scores the performances. Evaluators also provide constructive comments on each advocate's performance. In subsequent rounds the students exchange places as advocates and witnesses.

The Section is looking forward to participation by more than 100 law students and LEL members in a weekend of challenges, learning, professional interactions between students and practicing lawyers, in an engaging, realistic setting. As the Competition grows into new regions throughout the Nation, more section volunteers are needed to serve for three hours as judges and evaluators. If you would like to spend a few hours observing offering feedback to aspiring advocates who soon will be your future colleagues and opposing counsel, please contact Chris Meacham at [MeachamC@staff.abanet.org](mailto:MeachamC@staff.abanet.org).