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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOCK TRIAL TEAM WINS REAL COMPETITION
By: Nicole Denise Collier

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The FAMU Hatchett Pre-Law Society Mock Trial Team placed first overall in the southeast regional competition of the Ninth Annual Intercollegiate Mock Trial Tournament. The event took place January 29-31, 1993 in Atlanta, Georgia.

The team qualified for the next level of national competition, the Championship Flight, to be held February 26-28, 1993 in Des Moines, Iowa.

FAMU's Mock Trial Team is divided into two groups. One, headed by Daniel Boylen II, won the regional competition in Atlanta. The other, headed by Jerry L. Vallery II, qualified for the Silver Flight competition, a division of the nationals. The Silver Flight competition will be held March 12-14 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The teams are coached by Attorney William Ravenell, and advised by Dr. Addis Taylor and Mr. Richard Moore.

What is it *really* like to be in a courtroom situation? What types of things do the judge and jury look for during a trial? These are some of the issues the teams had to address in competition.

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Both teams had been preparing for the regional competition since October. Once the teams received the case, they had to appoint roles of attorneys and witnesses, and be prepared to try the case, arguing either side. Preparation also included working on courtroom strategy and practicing appropriate body language. “Everything counts,” said Moore.

Professionals judging the competition looked for things such as knowledge of the case, competence of the rules, properly submitting evidence into court, making the proper objections, and overall competence of courtroom procedures.

“Last year we went to the nationals and people didn’t take us as seriously as we thought they should have. This year we finished first in the regional competition – over two time national winner, Rhodes College,” said Boylen. “We’re not just going to place [in the nationals] but *win*.”

Boylen was awarded a plaque for outstanding attorney and teammate Nicole Petite was awarded one for outstanding witness.

The Mock Trial Team gets involved with competitions for the sake of experience. All of the students involved are not necessarily interested in law, but through participation, are able to develop a better understanding and appreciation of the legal field.