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S.C. Bar LRE Mock Trial Program wins national award
Award recognizes Mock Trial Program's dedicated volunteers

COLUMBIA, S.C. (July 30, 2013)—The S.C. Bar Law Related Education (LRE) Division's Mock Trial Program was recently named "Best Volunteer Program" by PR Daily's 2013 Nonprofit PR Awards.

The Mock Trial Program is designed to provide students with a better understanding of the law, including due process and the roles of those involved in the legal system, and encourage them to be well-informed citizens. As a result of participation in the program, students also learn self-confidence, public speaking skills and debating skills.

Teams of students throughout South Carolina compete in regional and state competitions each year, with guidance from dedicated attorney volunteers and teacher coaches. During the competitions, students present the plaintiff and defendant sides of a fictitious case before a panel of local volunteer judges and lawyers, and fill the roles of defendant, witnesses, bailiff and timekeepers.

"This award is a testament to the enduring spirit of volunteerism that has sustained the Bar's Mock Trial Program for more than 25 years," said Stephen M. Cox, S.C. Bar Law Related Education Committee Chair. "Each year, hundreds of S.C. Bar members donate their time and talents to helping middle and high school Mock Trial teams master complicated legal concepts and rules of evidence. The guidance of these lawyers, judges, teachers and other volunteers helps our students become more thoughtful, better-informed citizens and ultimately strengthens their local communities. We are deeply grateful for our volunteers' continued support and honored to have won this award."

Volunteer attorneys and teacher coaches commit up to 300 hours preparing their students for competition. In addition, volunteer judges dedicate their time to learning the case materials, and presiding over and judging each competition. The 2012 Mock Trial season comprised 1,029 volunteers, ultimately impacting 2,239 students statewide.

The Mock Trial Program is sponsored by the S.C. Bar's Law Related Education (LRE) Division, which was developed in 1976 to improve the ability of teachers to instruct law related education. For more information on the Mock Trial Program, visit www.scbar.org/lre.

The Mock Trial Program is made possible through a S.C. Bar Foundation IOLTA grant and the S.C. Bar.

The South Carolina Bar, which has a membership of more than 14,500 lawyers, is dedicated to advancing justice, professionalism and understanding of the law.

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