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LAW SCHOOL INTERNS BENAVIDES AND MOYER WIN DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION



Winners Teresa Benavides and Danton Moyer (left) with DA Kevin Steele (center) and runners-up Marissa Booth and Samuel Cooper.

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Aug. 8, 2018) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele announced the winners of the DA's Office 18th Annual Summer Intern Mock Trial Competition for second-year law students. The winners were Teresa Benavides from Drexel University Thomas L. Kline School of Law and Danton Moyer from Temple University Beasley School of Law. Taking second place were Marissa Booth and Samuel Cooper, both from Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law

The Mock Trial competition was held over two weeks ending with a final round on August 7 in the Montgomery County Courthouse. The law students prosecuted a variation on a real trial with added legal hurdles and factual inconsistencies to create difficulty in the case. Other interns acted as witnesses and detectives in the case. In the final rounds the jury was made up of District Attorney Steele, Deputy District Attorneys and Assistant District Attorneys. First Assistant District Attorney Edward F. McCann, Jr., sat as the judge for the case.

The competitors were certified legal summer interns—all second-year law students—who were approved and certified under Pa. B.A.R. 321 and 322 by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. That certification allowed them to practice law in Magisterial District Court and the Court of Common Pleas this summer under the supervision of the office's Assistant District Attorneys and staff. Throughout the summer, the second-year law students handled Gagnon hearings, guilty pleas, summary appeals and other legal proceedings.

The nine second-year law students were part of a summer class of 40 interns that included undergraduate, first-year law and second-year law students. Interns hailed from Albright, Cabrini College, Connecticut, Drexel, East Carolina University, Fairfield, George Washington, Georgetown, LaSalle College, Muhlenberg College, Pittsburgh, University of Pennsylvania, Penn State, Quinnipiac, St. Joseph University, Temple, The U.S. Military Academy, Villanova, West Chester, Widener, Yeshiva College and York College.

Approved for release:

Kevin R. Steele