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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAW SCHOOL INTERNS DECKEL AND O'CONNELL OF TEMPLE WIN DA'S 2021 MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION



Finalists: Stephen Long, Samantha Ollmann; DA Steele; winners: Bradley Deckel, Anne O'Connell.

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Aug. 10, 2021) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele announced that Bradley Deckel and Anne O'Connell, both from Temple University Beasley School of Law, were the winners of the District Attorney's 21st Annual Summer Intern Mock Trial Competition for second-year law students. Taking second place in the competition were Stephen Long from Rutgers Law School and Samantha Ollmann from Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law.

For the Mock Trial Competition, second-year law student interns prosecuted a fictitious murder case that involved legal hurdles and factual challenges to create difficulty. Other summer interns acting as witnesses and detectives, while the jury for the final round on August 3rd 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 final round.

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. COVID protocols required that all interns be fully vaccinated to work in person in the office and in court. Throughout the summer, the second-year law students handled Gagnon hearings, guilty pleas, summary appeals and other legal proceedings.

The 10 second-year law students were part of a summer intern class of 28 that included first-year and second-year law students as well as two undergraduates. College and law school interns came from University of Delaware, Drexel University, Holy Family University, Lehigh University, Rutgers, University of South Carolina, Temple University, Villanova University and Widener University.

Approved for release:

Kevin R. Steele