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Finalists in 7th Annual Transactional LawMeet® Competition are Named


Today 84 teams competed in regional rounds of the 7th Annual Transactional LawMeet®. The seven Regional LawMeets were hosted at the following schools:

Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law  
Northwestern University School of Law  
Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law  
University of Denver Sturm College of Law  
University of Georgia School of Law  
University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law  
Western New England University School of Law

In this year’s competition, teams negotiated a merger of two emerging technology companies. The drafting stage took place over two months, with students drafting term sheets, interviewing their clients, and marking up opposing teams’ drafts. The regional portion of the competition culminated with live negotiations today, Friday, February 26, 2016.

Gerrie Sinatra, a partner at Dechert LLP who served as a judge and presenter at the LawMeet, said: “It has become even more critical for law schools to graduate new lawyers who have real skills, who can hit the ground running. Firms like mine need students who have had the kind of experience that programs like LawMeets provide.”

Partners from some of the leading law firms in the country, corporate general counsels, and other senior practitioners served as judges for the LawMeets held around the country. For a full list, please visit www.TransactionalMeet.LawMeets.com. “The opportunity to spend a day talking about a deal with these experts is amazing,” noted Michael Keblesh, a 3L from Penn Law.

Two teams were selected from each regional round to compete in the National Rounds, which will be hosted by the New York office of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP on April 1, 2016.

- The finalists from the New England Region were Nick Howland, Alee Jamel, and Maurica John from Emory University School of Law, and Christopher Grady, Brandon Knop, and Katie Stevens from Northwestern University School of Law
- The finalists from the Mid-Atlantic Region were Brent Ashley and Jack Jessee from University of Richmond School of Law, and Eddie Sniezek, Yue Wang, and Willard Younger from University of Virginia School of Law
- The finalists from the Southeastern Region were Brett Dovman, Daniel Resnick, and Melissa Trenk from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva

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University, and Jeremy Boyd, Ale Dalton, William Kent, John Keny, and Will Lay from University of Tennessee College of Law

- The finalists from the Chicago Region were Jeff Brandt, Christine Ristow, and Matthew J. Weber from UCLA School of Law, and A.J. Johnson and Jackson Butler from West Virginia University College of Law
- The finalists from the Midwestern Region were James Ball, Kayla Martin, and Tyson Welch from University of Denver Sturm College of Law, and Katherine Francel and Susan VenRooy from Mitchell Hamline College of Law
- The finalists from the Southwestern Region were Tanios Bouonk, Justin Bosworth, Nafisa Bringe, Nathaniel Moore, and Chris Stimpson from University of Texas School of Law, and Stephanie Drumm, Josh Kohler, and Parker Steel from University of Colorado Law School
- The finalists from the Western Region were Raj Dhaliwal, Kyler O’Brien, and Aaron Wade from University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law, and Jane Pryjmak and Beth St. Clair from University of Washington School of Law

Teams from each regional round were also recognized as Regional Semi-Finalists, although they do not advance to the National Rounds.

- The semi-finalists from the New England Region were Chelsea-Leigh Flucus, Anthony Maddaluno, and Thuy-An Nguyen from Brooklyn Law School, and Thomas Haley, Michael Senders, and Leron Solomon from Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University
- The semi-finalists from the Mid-Atlantic Region were Kristin Goodchild, Kathryn Trogdon, and Rachna Khanna from Western New England University School of Law, and Mary Raffaele and Nicole Palladino from Villanova University School of Law
- The semi-finalists from the Southeastern Region were Taylor West and Erica Jutras from Duke University School of Law, and Stuart Knight and Leah Neumann from University of Colorado Law School
- The semi-finalists from the Chicago Region were Pat Schlembach and Trenton Weaver from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, and Zachary Baughman and Monica Steinberg from University of Michigan Law School
- The semi-finalists from the Midwestern Region were Thomas Guzman, Daniel Siegel, and Samuel Tuttleman from Northwestern University School of Law, and Carol Greer, Matt Snyder, and Andrew Umlauf from Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law
- The semi-finalists from the Southwestern Region were JP Haskins, Hunter Hullett, and Blake Landon from Baylor Law School, and Jie Lai, Janie Sun, and Nick Torres from Emory University School of Law
- The semi-finalists from the Western Region were Philip Dear, Nicole Houman, and Michael Johnson from University of Southern California – Gould School of Law, and Abby Leach and Anna Limoges from University of South Dakota School of Law
In addition to finalists and semi-finalists in the negotiations, teams from each region were recognized for their drafting skills.

- The winners of the Best Draft award from the New England Region were Chelsea-Leigh Flucus, Anthony Madaaluno, and Thuy-An Nguyen from Brooklyn Law School; Thomas Haley, Michael Senders, and Leron Solomon from Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University; and Christopher Grady, Brandon Knop, and Katie Stevens from Northwestern University School of Law
- The winners of the Best Draft award from the Mid-Atlantic Region were Bridget Hendrick, James Kane, Ruby Liu, and Nick Marinelli from Widener University Commonwealth Law School, and Eddie Sneizek, Yue Wang, and Willard Younger from University of Virginia School of Law
- The winners of the Best Draft award from the Southeastern Region were Ernie Holtzheimer and Angie Yannaris from Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law, and Stuart Knight and Leah Neumann from University of Colorado Law School
- The winners of the Best Draft award from the Chicago Region were Francis Kim and Jonathan Chiu from University of Georgia School of Law, and Haley Jonna and Lena Pantely from Wayne State University Law School
- The winners of the Best Draft award from the Midwestern Region were Abby Aldrich, Mark McMullen, and Ian Todd from Baylor Law School, and Carly Knue and Philip Piecuch from Loyola University of Chicago School of Law
- The winners of the Best Draft award from the Southwestern Region were JP Haskins, Hunter Hullett, and Blake Landon from Baylor Law School, and Lily Wilkerson and Liz Devos from University of Georgia School of Law
- The winners of the Best Draft award from the Western Region were Trevor Fugate, Chris Hotton, and Natalie Lambert from J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University; Edward Berrigan and Blake Smith from University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law; and Ross Bautista, Lindsay Craft, and Andrew Walters from University of San Diego School of Law

The fourteen Finalist teams will be competing at the National Round of the competition on Friday, April 1, 2016. The National Round will be hosted by Sullivan & Cromwell LLP’s New York office.

“We have been teaching court room skills to future litigators for years using mock trial and moot court competitions. It’s about time we started to bring up the next generation of transactional lawyers. I only wish LawMeets had been around when I was in law school,” noted Pam Lehrer, General Counsel at Berwind Corporation.

For a list of the schools that participated in each region, please visit www.TransactionalMeet.LawMeets.com. The 2016 Regional Transactional LawMeet
was sponsored nationally by ApprenNet, Inc., Bloomberg Law, and Practical Law. Several other firms provided generous support at each region.

About LawMeets

LawMeets was founded in 2010 by Drexel University law professor Karl Okamoto as a way to deliver practical skills exercises to law students interested in transactional law. He organized the first Transactional LawMeet, with 11 participating teams, in 2010. This year, LawMeets held the 7th Annual Transactional LawMeet, with 84 participating teams. In 2011, LawMeets added the Intellectual Property LawMeet. In addition to hosting competitions for law students, LawMeets also creates hands-on training exercises for law professors to use with their students and for law firms to use with practicing lawyers.

To learn more about LawMeets, please visit www.LawMeets.com or email contact@lawmeets.com.

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