

Denver Law Team Wins ABA National Mediation Advocacy Competition

The University of Denver Sturm College of Law team of Erik Carlson (3L) and Sarah Rice (3L) became the 2018 National Champions of the American Bar Association's Representation in Mediation Competition held on April 5 & 6, 2018, in Washington, D.C. Forty four law schools and over 90 teams participated in this year's competition.

Carlson and Rice competed against eight regional finalists, scoring as the top team in the first day of competition. They won the semi-finals and went on to sweep all three judges to win the final round against the team representing St. Mary's University School of Law.



National winners (l-r) Erik Carlson and Sarah Rice

In each round, the students play the role of client and attorney. Each team is evaluated on five aspects: 1) attorney-client relationship; 2) collaborative negotiation; 3) utilization of the mediator; 4) positive outcomes for the client; and 5) self-assessment and reflection. Each round had a different fact pattern including land use and nuisance law, family business disputes, elder care, and trusts and estates. Carlson and Rice received kudos for their ability to gather information to determine the other side's undisclosed facts and interests, their ability to analyze legal and practical obstacles to settlement and their creative option generation.

The Denver Law team is coached by Visiting Associate Professor of the Practice C.J. Larkin and Steven Lambert, JD'17, assistant coach and regional competition winner (2017). DU's expanded 2018 team included Kyle Ames (3L) and Erica Sefton (2L) (DU's second regional team), Joshua Dunn (1L), Ana Engativa (2L), Audrey Johnson (3L), Maddie Person (2L), and Kyle Riley (3L).

Congratulations to Sarah and Erik for their dedication and excellent team work!

For more information on the competition, please visit the [ABA website](#).



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