

## Headline News

### Andrews Kurth Sponsors Inaugural City Championship Debate Tournament

April 15, 2009  
Houston, Texas

Firm presents a total of \$7500 in scholarship money to winning teams

(Houston)- The Houston Urban Debate League (HUDL), the country's newest affiliate of the National Association for Urban Debate Leagues, had its inaugural **Andrews Kurth City Championship Debate Tournament** on Friday, March 27, at the University of Houston and on Saturday, March 28, at the Federal Courthouse in downtown Houston.

A total of 35 teams competed in this two-day event. HUDL presented the \$7500 **Andrews Kurth Jonathan Day Scholarship** to the top two teams. The winning team from **Westbury High School** received \$5000 total (\$2500 per team member), and the second place team from **John H. Reagan Senior High School** received \$2500 total (\$1250 per team member). In addition, the top two teams will go on to represent HUDL at the 2nd Annual Chase Urban Debate National Championship in Chicago, Illinois, beginning on April 24, 2009.

"It is our desire to restore the tradition of policy debate in the Houston public schools through HUDL," says Griffin Vincent, Andrews Kurth Partner and board member of HUDL. "Participating in debate can have an enormously positive impact on the academic performance of these students and we thought it only fitting to recognize and give honor to Jonathan Day's long-time commitment to community endeavors in Houston by having the scholarship bear his name."

#### **About the Houston Urban Debate League**

The mission of HUDL is to build, support, and sustain programs in Houston's public high schools to make policy debate an educational resource available to all students. HUDL began in 2008 when, on March 12, 2008, the Houston Independent School District (HISD) board unanimously approved funding a high school HUDL debate program to begin during the 2008-2009 academic year. With the support of HISD, HUDL is currently serving 15 high schools and over 200 students in its inaugural season. To learn more about HUDL, please visit: [www.houstonurbandebate.org](http://www.houstonurbandebate.org).

#### **About HISD**

The Houston Independent School District is the largest school district in Texas and the 7th largest in the United States with 296 schools and more than 200,000 students. The 301-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in Houston/Harris County, Texas with nearly 30,000 employees. As a result of tremendous academic gains in recent years, a record 157 HISD schools have achieved Texas' top ratings of Exemplary or Recognized. For more information, visit the HISD website at [www.houstonisd.org](http://www.houstonisd.org).

#### **About Andrews Kurth LLP**

For more than a century, Andrews Kurth has built its practice on the belief that "straight talk is good business." Real answers, clear vision and mutual respect define the firm's relationships with clients, colleagues, communities and employees. With more than 400 lawyers and offices in Austin, Beijing, Dallas, Houston, London, Los Angeles, New York, The Woodlands and Washington, DC, Andrews Kurth represents a wide array of clients in all areas of business law. For more information about Andrews Kurth, please visit [andrewskurth.com](http://andrewskurth.com).