

Headline News

Andrews Kurth Sponsors Second Annual City Championship Debate Tournament

March 11, 2010
Houston, Texas

Firm presents a total of \$7,500 in scholarships to winning teams

(Houston, Texas)—The Houston Urban Debate League (HUDL), the country's fastest growing affiliate of the National Association for Urban Debate Leagues, held its second annual **Andrews Kurth City Championship Debate Tournament** on Thursday and Friday, March 4-5, at the University of Houston, and Saturday, March 6, at the Bob Casey Federal Courthouse in downtown Houston.

A total of 122 teams competed in the three-day event, but at the end only one HUDL City Champion remained. Andrews Kurth Partner and Chief Diversity Officer, Elizabeth Campbell, presented the \$7,500 **Andrews Kurth Jonathan Day Scholarship** to the top two teams.

The winning team from **Westbury High School** received \$5,000 total (\$2,500 per team member) and the second place team from **North Houston Early College High School** received \$2,500 total (\$1,250 per team member). Additionally, these top two teams will go on to represent HUDL at the third annual Chase Urban Debate National Championship in New York City beginning on April 23, 2010.

"In just two short years, policy debate has been restored to the majority of HISD's high schools," said Griffin Vincent, Partner at Andrews Kurth. "Hundreds of students are seeing the value of debate and working hard to develop their skills as they become the leaders of tomorrow."

The recent City Championships were a celebration of the hard work and dedication of hundreds of debaters, league directors (Bryan Weber and Justin Whyte), scores of HISD teachers and administrators, dozens of HUDL mentors, and countless supporters.

Andrews Kurth believes in the value of debate and would like to commend HISD and the Board of Directors and Advisory Council of the Houston Urban Debate League for bringing policy debate back to Houston.

About the Houston Urban Debate League

The mission of the HUDL is to build, support and sustain programs in Houston's public schools to make policy debate an educational resource available to all students. HUDL began in 2008 when 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 currently serves 27 high schools and over 800 students. To learn more about HUDL, please visit houstonurbandebate.org.

About HISD

The Houston Independent School District is the largest school district in Texas and the seventh 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 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 400 lawyers and offices in Austin, Beijing, Dallas, Houston, London, New York, The Woodlands and Washington, DC, Andrews Kurth represents a wide array of clients in multiple industries. For more information about Andrews Kurth, please

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