



Cal Western wins trial advocacy regional

By **DOUG SHERWIN**, The Daily Transcript

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A team from California Western School of Law won the American Association for Justice's (AAJ) regional student trial advocacy competition in Seattle last weekend to advance to nationals next month.

The California Western team was composed of second-year law students Dayna Ellsworth, Mary Naoom, Shane Lauritzen and Michael Brenn. Corey Garrard, a third-year student, served as an alternate.

They were coached by former distinguished advocate competitors Billie R. Gibson ('10) and Michelle M. Ryle ('13).

A second team from California Western -- Micaela de la Cerda, Marlena M. Balderas, Patricia M. Wilson and Kara A. Ritter -- placed 10th. They were coached by Jason M. Conge ('10), and Lindsey Willard ('13).

"This win really came from a team of eight students, not just the four students who were in the finals," Ellsworth said. "Without our other California Western team to scrimmage against, to push us to be better every week, and to support us, we would have not made it past the first round."

The national AAJ competition will be held April 10-13 in Santa Monica.