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Indigenous Law students place in top 16 at national competition

Michigan State University College of Law third-year students Alicia Ivory and Novaline Wilson finished in the top 16 out of over 50 teams, and earned third place for Best Brief at the 16th annual National Native American Law Students Association's (NNALSA) Moot Court Competition. Held in Tempe, Arizona at Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor Law School from February 22-24, Ivory and Wilson represented the Law College's Indigenous Law & Policy Center in the competition.

This NNALSA competition is the only national competition dedicated exclusively to the area of federal Indian Law and is designed to promote and recognize the finest oral and written advocacy on a significant problem in federal Indian law.

"We're proud of our students and all of the work they did to prepare. It's a difficult competition, and their work paid off. They did a great job," said Matthew L.M. Fletcher, Director of the Indigenous Law & Policy Center.

Michigan State University College of Law Indigenous Law Program consists of a certificate program and policy center, both committed to the educational and professional development of those representing the native community. MSU Law offers one of only five Indigenous Law Certificate programs in the nation, educating law students and training lawyers to be prepared to work on behalf of tribes around the country, whether for tribal governments, private law firms, or non-profit organizations.

For more information about the Law College, visit www.law.msu.edu.

MORE INSIDE

Graham K. Crabtree speaks on "Preserving

BY ROBERTA M. GUBBINS
Legal News

"I am going to give you some helpful tips today on what you need to do to preserve your objections, and to build your record for two purposes—to get what you want in the trial court and if successful there to hold on to it in the Court of Appeals," said Graham K. Crabtree, beginning his remarks at the Ingham County Bar Association (ICBA) Luncheon Lecture, held on February 27th at the State Bar of Michigan in Lansing.

Much of Crabtree's legal work is in the Court of Appeals. "That necessarily involves what has been done down below in the trial court. I am pretty much stuck with what I get, record wise," he said.

Preserving your arguments and objections:

"You should be mindful of the need for a specific objection and offer of proof if making an objection during the trial," said Crabtree. "If your evidence is excluded, ask to present testimony on a separate record out of the presence of the jury. You have to show it was not harmless error when the trial court denied entry of the evidence."

"Make all the appropriate arguments in favor of your position or in opposition to

your opponent's position as specifically as you can with reference to supporting authority or case law," Crabtree said. "That is when it is nice to have trial book handy with cases."

"If your documentary or other exhibits are excluded, have them marked," he advised, because you can then make them part of the record. The record on appeal will include all exhibits admitted into evidence including those that were offered and excluded."

"It probably goes without saying that you want to get all your facts in," Crabtree said, "to prove your case. Your record should be clear—a nod of the head is not recorded. Make sure all your exhibits have been admitted before you close your case."

"In your motion practice, be sure to make all arguments in your motion and brief because you may not be allowed oral argument. The court can dispense with all arguments," he said. "On appeal, looking at whether something was preserved or not, I find myself thinking I know what trial counsel was hoping to say but he didn't say it. But if it is in the brief, it is part of the record."

"Make sure all your supporting facts are appropriately documented," he said. "On

(continued on page 2)

55th District Court holds tenth Sobriety C



Grads, family and friends wait for the Sobriety Court ceremony to begin. Legal News photo by Roberta M. Gubbins

Fourteen graduates celebrated Ingham County's 55th District Court tenth Sobriety Court Graduation. District Court Judge

grateful to the program" - "I am happy. I thank you (nodding to the Judge and probation staff) for showing me



Graham K. Crabtree

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