

Two UM Students Win Nation's Top Legal Writing Award for Best Brief

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Oxford) Rachel Mullen of Metairie, La., and Robert Parrott of Jackson, Ms., both members of the University of Mississippi School of Law Class of 2011, received top honors in a national brief writing competition sponsored by Scribes, the American Society of Legal Writers. Mullen and Parrott will receive their awards at the American Bar Association's Annual Meeting in August.

Mullen and Parrott won the award for their petitioner's brief submitted for the Mercer Legal Ethics and Professionalism Moot Court Competition in November 2010. Scribes reviews the best briefs submitted in any national moot-court competition, or preliminary regional competition held before a national competition. In the end, the Scribes Brief-Writing Award Committee picked Mullen and Parrott's brief as the best out of the 55 briefs that were submitted from across the nation.

"This is a truly remarkable accomplishment" said Professor Benjamin Cooper, the team's advisor. "Rachel and Robert are being recognized for writing the very best moot court brief in the entire country. This is a testament to their exceptional writing ability, analytical skills, and diligence."

"This award recognizes more than an academic skill," said Richard Gershon, dean of the University of Mississippi School of Law. "Law students become lawyers, and the best writers end up as top attorneys because of their ability to communicate in clear and convincing language."

The Mercer competition was based on the case *Pottawattamie County v. McGhee*, and the team's brief addressed whether a prosecutor could be held liable for civil damages for fabricating false evidence and then using that evidence in a criminal trial that resulted in a wrongful conviction and incarceration.

Parrott, Mullen and the University of Mississippi School of Law will be awarded plaques at the Scribes Annual Meeting, which will be held on August 6 in Toronto during the ABA's Annual Meeting. Scribes was founded in 1953 in order to recognize good legal writers and improve overall legal writing.

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To arrange an interview with either student or for more information, please contact:

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