

March 11, 2014

Re: UChicago College Dean's Fund Proposal

To the committee of the Deans Fund for Student Life,

For nearly two decades, our mock trial team has worked hard to make a name for the University of Chicago in national competition. Every year, when our competitors compete across the country winning rounds, awards, and trophies, they do so proudly, knowing full well that their achievements reflect on the academic institution of which they are a part. Through the mock trial team, UChicago has been the recipient of seven national awards, eleven All-American Awards, and countless regional championships.

But there's still more that we can do for the UChicago name than simply compete - our sights have not turned toward hosting our own tournament. Most elite mock trial programs (UCLA, Northwestern, Yale, and many others) already host their own invitationals annually, and for good reason. By attracting other elite schools to its own doorstep, a school can ensure its own competitors gain more experience during the competitive season. And if that school's tournament is well-designed, well-run, and well-funded, it tends to leave the attorneys, judges, and competing undergraduates (many of whom are considering law school) with an excellent impression of the hosting institution.

This is why, for the past year, we have been setting the stage to host the very first "Great Chicago Fire Invitational" in 2015. We intend to make this into the flagship mock trial tournament of the Midwest, but there are a few obstacles we first need to overcome. Most importantly, though the tournament will eventually be made self-sustaining through entrance fees and sponsorship, there are a number of startup costs for which we need funding now. Trophies, for instance, necessitate a large purchase before tournament fees are even paid to us. Moreover, though many other costs such as food and printing services could be paid for by entrance fees, high entrance fees in our first year would limit our ability to attract other elite programs. Judges who will preside over the tournament and evaluate the competition could also foreseeably present a significant cost that must be addressed.

For these reasons, we are humbly requesting a grant of \$1000 to put a dent in the startup fees for our tournament. This grant would ensure the groundwork is laid to keep the UChicago name on the map in academic competition for years to come, and foster a spirit of cooperation between the University of Chicago and other elite academic institutions.

This coming January, our campus will be host to roughly 250 undergraduates from peer institutions, and over 100 judges from the legal field. Ultimately, our hope is for each and every one of them to walk away impressed at the quality of this tournament, and with an appreciation for what we know to be the best academic institution in the world, the University of Chicago.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you!

Mock Trial "Great Chicago Fire Invitational" Budget

Trophies	Individual Trophies	\$100
	Team Trophies	\$170
	Traveling Trophy	\$600
TROPHY TOTAL		\$870
Printing and Signage	Ballots	\$175
	Tab Cards	\$6
	S/H for Ballots/Tab Cards	\$5
	B&W Printing	\$30
	Color Printing	\$6
	Folders	\$10
	Manila Envelopes	\$15
	Tape	\$5
TOTAL PRINTING		\$252
Food (for Judges/Volunteers)	Bottles Water	\$90
	Chips	\$75
	Plates	\$35
	Napkins	\$5
	Cups	\$35
	Forks	\$12
	Soda	\$88
	Catering	\$1200
TOTAL FOOD SUPPLIES		\$1530
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$2652