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**For Immediate Release**

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## University of Houston Law Center Arbitration Team Coached by Locke Lord's Ann Ryan Robertson Earns Top Spot in International Moot Competition

**(HOUSTON) April 17, 2012** – A three-member University of Houston Law Center arbitration team took top honors in the international Willem C Vis (East) Moot held recently in Hong Kong, an international competition that included more than 90 teams from around the world. Locke Lord attorney Ann Ryan Robertson, who started the team a decade ago and has coached it every year since, said it is the second time the University of Houston has finished in the top two.

"This team fielded incredibly tough questions from the arbitrators, but the students maintained their focus and their outstanding oral skills under intense pressure," Robertson said. "They practiced and studied long hours to prepare for this competition, and that hard work paid off."

The University of Houston Law Center team included oralists Frank Carroll and Meredith Rice and brief writer Jennifer Frank. The teams competed for four consecutive days until 16 teams were selected for the elimination rounds. Those 16 teams competed in sudden death rounds until two teams remained for the final round. This year's moot, which Locke Lord helped sponsor, was based on the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission's (CIETAC) new arbitration rules, and participants had to play claimant or respondent in a dispute involving a contract of sale governed by the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods. City University of Hong Kong was overall winner of the moot, which included law students from Harvard, Georgetown, Rutgers, George Washington University and many more.

"Ann is unwavering in her pursuit of excellence, and the students respond to that unwavering approach with purpose and dedication," said Jim Lawrence, Director of the University of Houston Law Center's Blakely Advocacy Institute. "The Vis is great exposure for our students of the global nature of the current practice of law, and we are fortunate to participate in such a tremendous event."

Robertson has over a decade of experience in international arbitration and is a member of the U.S. delegation to the NAFTA Advisory Committee on Private Commercial Disputes and serves as Chair of the North American Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. In 2008, *Texas Lawyer* named her one of 30 "Extraordinary Women in Texas Law" for her work with the University of Houston Law Center arbitration team.



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