



## Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year



**March 25, 2011 – New Orleans, LA** – The law firm of Adams and Reese hosted the Boys & Girls Clubs of America “Youth of the Year” state competition today at the firm’s New Orleans office in One Shell Square as six students from around Louisiana compete for the state title and to represent Louisiana at the regional competition.

Pictured are the students and judges. From left: judges Rob Bonnaffons (Attorney at Adams and Reese) and Jennifer Hoekstra (Attorney at Neblett, Beard & Arsenault), students Adrian Augustus (Baton Rouge), Devyne Rispoli (New Orleans), Rechelle Bessard (Lafayette), Tristan Brown (Shreveport), Jaclaytian Robinson (Shreveport) and DeShawn Stewart (Natchitoches), and judges Robyn Marshall-Wallace (Chairman and CEO of Nolmar Corporation) and Dr. Eric Griggs (Child Psychiatrist).

Judges interview each candidate and select the winner on the basis of scholastic achievement, community service, moral character, leadership ability and consideration of any physical, social or emotional obstacles overcome.

Since its installation in 1947, being named "Youth of the Year" is the highest honor a Boys & Girls club member can receive as the title recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and the Boys & Girls Club, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome. As the national program sponsor, Tupperware Brands awards each state winner a \$1,000 college scholarship and each regional winner a \$10,000 scholarship. The national winner receives an additional scholarship of up to \$50,000 from the Rick and Susan Goings Foundation. Participants are chosen on local and state levels, with five regional winners meeting each September in Washington, DC, to compete for National Youth of the Year title. Historically, the five regional winners have been honored at a Congressional Breakfast on Capitol Hill and have a chance to meet the President of the United States.

As representative and spokesperson for some 4 million youth served by the Boys & Girls Clubs nationwide, the National Youth of the Year serves a one-year term traveling across the country to address various groups on important youth issues and the role Boys & Girls Clubs play in changing young lives. The Youth of the Year also appears on local and national broadcast programs, in newspapers, magazines and various online media sources; and speaks to influential business, civic and government leaders.

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