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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

A Return to In-Person Debate: Chicago Debates and McDermott Will & Emery Join Forces on Annual Debate Tournament for CPS Students

Chicago, IL (May 2022) – [Chicago Debates](#) is partnering with longtime supporter, [McDermott Will & Emery](#), to host its special annual invitational tournament on Saturday, May 7, 2022. This will be the first in-person tournament since February 2020, and will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at McDermott Will & Emery, 444 West Lake Street, Suite 4000, Chicago, IL 60606.

The tournament will feature novice teams from five schools:

Chicago Bulls College Prep

Taft High School

Kenwood Academy

Hancock College Prep

Solorio Academy High School

The invitational tournament provides students with the opportunity to experience a professional work setting, interact with company employees, and compete in a small and welcoming, but competitive, environment. This year's policy topic is: *Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its protection of water resources in the United States.*

"McDermott is pleased to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Chicago Debates. We have hosted an annual Chicago Debates invitational tournament for more than a decade, and it's always amazing to see these young debaters in action," said Michael Boykins, managing partner of McDermott's Chicago office. *"This event gives young people from underserved Chicago communities a platform for developing their public speaking skills and learning to be critical thinkers and leaders. At McDermott, we believe that academic debate opens up possibilities for students and potentially sparks an interest in pursuing a career in the legal profession."*

"We appreciate the longtime support of McDermott Will & Emery and are grateful for their acknowledgement of the importance of academic debate," said Dr. Toinette Gunn, Executive Director of Chicago Debates. *"This event launches our return to in-person tournaments and*

creates an opportunity for students to demonstrate the academic and social-emotional skills they've gained from this transformative activity.”

The tournament will include volunteer judges from McDermott Will & Emery along with a roundtable discussion with students on careers in Law.

During this school year, nearly 1000 students from more than 70 CPS schools have participated in 46 Chicago Debates tournaments. You can support Chicago Debates by making a donation at ChicagoDebates.org/donate or by texting **CHIDEBATES** to **243725**.

About Chicago Debates

Chicago Debates is bridging the opportunity gap for Chicago Public School (CPS) students by providing them with an after-school program that supports their academic, career, and leadership success. Our mission is to advance the educational achievement, community contributions, and life success of Chicago's youth through the transformative power of academic debate. We envision a world in which Chicago youth are empowered to find their voice, succeed in college and career, and become leaders in their community. Debate may not fix all of the world's problems, but it can shape the next generation of leaders who will. We exist to ensure that the next generation includes some of Chicago's most marginalized youth.

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