STUDENTS from Knox Grammar School, Wahroonga, have had the trip of a lifetime after being crowned champions of the NSW Law Society’s Mock Trial competition last December.

The rigorous competition required the team to get through a round robin section and then knockout rounds involving 256 schools from across the State.

The team of seven Knox students flew to the US last month to represent Australia in the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Phoenix, Arizona. “Involvement at this level in the mock trial is a significant achievement from a talented and inspiring group of students,” said Knox English teacher, Cecilia Batista.

Knox boarder, Sam Duncan, Valentine, has been at the heart of the team’s success.

After moving to Knox in 2010 for Years 11 and 12, he has been involved in the mock trial team, captained the Knox diving team, which won the Combined Associated Schools Championship in March, and has been a key member of the male voice power choir.

Last year he had a lead role in the school musical, took part in the Boys to Men mentoring program, assisting a Year 8 student settle into Knox and topped five academic subjects. “I have been continually impressed with and excited by the opportunities and challenges offered at Knox,” Mr Duncan said.

“In particular, I was thrilled to be invited as part of a team of eight boys to compete at the mock trial competition in the USA.”

The National High School Mock Trial Championship itself is the ultimate law-related education experience for the brightest high school students around the globe. The championship provides a challenging opportunity for personal growth and student achievement, while promoting critical thinking and teamwork skills.

The five-day championship was a rigorous week of advocacy where 48 teams of eight students played both prosecution and defence roles in four preliminary rounds. During each round, a judge presided over the trial, while a panel of attorney evaluators acted as the jury.

The Knox Grammar School team won two of its four trials, which was a tremendous achievement given the differences in the legal systems of Australia and the US.

Visit www.knox.nsw.edu.au or contact, (02) 9487 0122.