



News & Trending  
NEWS

## MERRILL MASON AND MIKE SABER JUDGE FINAL ROUND COMPETITION FOR THE DUKE UNIVERSITY "START-UP CHALLENGE"

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For the second consecutive year, Smith Anderson partners [Merrill Mason](#) and [Mike Saber](#) were selected as judges for the Duke "Start-Up Challenge" which culminated in final round competition this Spring.

The Duke Start-Up Challenge provides an opportunity for Duke University students to learn how to formulate a viable business concept. In this three-phase, six-month competition, teams develop plans that encompass all aspects of a business including concept, technology, marketing, management, market research, financials and execution. The top finalists advance to the third and final phase. Judges selected for their business knowledge provide constructive feedback to the competitors throughout the entire competition and determine the teams that advance and eventually win. Over \$100,000 is awarded in prize money.

After careful evaluation by the judging panel, Oncoscope, Inc. took the top honors. Oncoscope will "develop, build and market accurate, high coverage and cost effective patented optical biopsy systems for detecting pre-cancerous cells in epithelial tissue."

"The judges were impressed with Oncoscope's business plan and highly professional presentation" said Mr. Saber. "While all of the finalists did a terrific job, Oncoscope was a deserving winner" added Mr. Mason.

Mr. Mason and Mr. Saber both practice corporate and securities law. Mr. Mason represents emerging and entrepreneurial companies and focuses his practice on venture capital; securities; mergers and acquisitions; intellectual property; and general corporate matters. Mr. Saber focuses his practice on the formation, financing and general representation of public and private growth and technology companies and closely held businesses. Combined, they have over 35 years experience practicing corporate law.