

Northern Illinois University College of Law Friends of Moot Court

Newsletter dedicated to those alumni who have participated in the Moot Court Society
Summer 2011

29th Annual Prize Moot Court Competition

Final Bench and Finalists

The 29th Annual NIU College of Law Prize Moot Court Competition finals were held on March 5, 2011. Competitors argued the constitutionality of the absence of an affirmative defense of reasonable mistake of age, and the proper conditions for supervised release following a conviction for engaging a minor in producing pornography.

Moot Court Hall of Famers

Josh Ladwig ('11) and Kristen Shaffer ('11) were inducted into the Moot Court Hall of Fame. The team represented the College of Law with distinction at the 2010 Appellate Lawyers Association (ALA) National Moot Court Competition held in Chicago, taking second place overall out of sixteen teams from around the country. Ladwig and Shaffer are a veteran team, having previously won Best Respondent's Brief at the 28th Annual NIU College of Law Prize Moot Court Competition in February 2010. Shaffer also won the award for Best Oralist in the Preliminary Rounds of that competition. The team was coached by Legal Writing Instructors Meredith Stange, Elsa Miller, and Jeanna Hunter and assisted by Associate Dean Lenny Mandell and Professor Robert Jones.



Presiding over the final round of competition were (seated, from left): the Honorable Gary S. Feinerman, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois; Presiding Justice Michael S. Kanne, U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit; and the Honorable John W. Darrach, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois. Standing (from left) are finalists Daniel Nunney & Bradford Stewart, and the first place team of Robert Kosic & Ibrahim Ali.

29th Annual Prize Moot Court Competition Results

First Place:

Ibrahim Ali & Robert Kosic

Finalists:

Brad Stewart & Daniel Nunney

Semifinalists:

Trisha Chokshi & Stephen Sotelo
Kathryn Williams & Colby Hathaway

Best Petitioner's Brief:

Kehinde Durowade & Pavielle Walker

Best Respondent's Brief: Stephanie Mann & Becca Kopps

Best Oralist:

Preliminary Rounds - Eric Poplonski

Second Best Oralist:

Preliminary Rounds - Jerry Connor

Best Oralist:

Final Round - Ibrahim Ali





Associate Dean's Corner

As I reflect on this past year, I feel a strong sense of pride in the excellence of our Moot Court program. In external competitions, our team reached the finals of the Appellate Lawyers Association competition, defeated only by Cardozo School of Law. In our march to the finals, we defeated perennial powerhouse Texas Tech in the semifinal round and earned a Third Best Brief award. This past year we also entered the Jessup International Competition and achieved terrific results. Special kudos to Professor Dan Reynolds, who, after twenty-nine straight Moot Court banquets, got into the game and coached the Jessup team to its success.

As for Moot Court XXIX, the Moot Court Board conducted a flawless internal competition

concluding with a very exciting final argument. The level of preparedness our students displayed was evident during the arguments. And you, our moot court alumni leaders, showed a parallel level of preparation in your questioning of the student advocates from the bench. My sincere appreciation goes out to our superb panel of judges for the final argument: Judge Michael S. Kanne, from the U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit, who presided over the final argument; long-time friend of moot court Judge John W. Darrah, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois; and Judge Gary S. Feinerman, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois. A few months before the competition, Judge Feinerman had been sworn in by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, for whom he had previously clerked.

We were very fortunate to have such an accomplished panel of judges this past year. Next year is Moot Court XXX, and the Moot Court Board is already beginning preparations for an undoubtedly special event. We hope to see you all there.

Lenny Mandell
Associate Dean for Student Services

Preliminary, Semi-Final Round and Brief Judges

The NIU Law Moot Court Society would sincerely like to thank the following NIU College of Law alumni, faculty and friends for giving of their time to serve as competition judges. We are always grateful for the continuing support of the NIU Law community in helping students participate in these activities.

Meaghan Alexander ('04)
Nick Alexander ('07)
Thomas Arado ('01)
Vincent Argento ('84)
Kory Atkinson ('04)
Austin Bartlett ('00)
Steven Boldt ('10)
Honorable Judith Brawka
Thomas Chan ('10)
Emily Chen ('01)
Hon. Eugene Doherty ('89)
Matthew Doss ('01)
Brent Eames ('09)

Bradley Fuller ('10)
Keith Grant ('87)
Michael Hantsch ('10)
Jeanna Hunter
Joseph Hylak- Reinholtz ('09)
Erie Johnson ('02)
Heather Johnson ('01)
Jeff Kaplan
Daniel Kegl ('10)
Tom Kelly ('05)
Vicki Kelly ('08)
Katrina Kuhn ('97)
Stacey Mandell ('96)

Frank Martinez ('83)
Kate McCabe ('01)
Hon. Joe McGraw ('85)
Elsa Miller ('91)
David Neuman ('05)
Melissa Olivero ('97)
Ron Richards ('04)
Mark Sobczak ('09)
Meredith Stange
Rebecca Stephens ('10)
Brad Tengler ('09)
Kadi Weck ('04)
Andrea Zenker ('05)

Students Excel in External Competition

Phillip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition

The team of (from left): Matthew Jakobsze, Judy Soto, Matt Hartman, Emily Martin, Professor Dan Reynolds (coach), and Glenn Stevenson competed and won sixth best brief out of 48 submitted briefs. Team member Emily Martin was named Fifth Best Oralist out of 96 competitors. The competition was held at the Chicago Kent College of Law in February 2011.



International Moot Court Competition in Information Technology and Privacy Law

Jessica Fiocchi ('11) and Alex Geocaris ('11) admirably represented NIU Law at the 29th Annual International IT and Privacy Moot Court Competition, held at

the John Marshall Law School in Chicago in October 2010. The team was coached by Associate Dean Lenny Mandell and Stacey Mandell ('96); and assisted by Professor Robert Jones, Legal Writing Instructors Jeanna Hunter, Elsa Miller, and Meredith Stange, and a number of alumni.

Outgoing Moot Court Society Board

Dean Mandell thanks outgoing Board members (seated from left): Associate Justice Kristen Shaffer, Chief Justice Josh Ladwig, and Associate Justice Rob Clements; (standing, from left:) Associate Justices Bill Westfall and Matt Hartman.



Friends of Moot Court Society

Seeks Competition Sponsors

The number of competitions available to Moot Court Society members continues to grow. While this increase in competitions brings many benefits, including a heightened awareness of the College of Law and its students, there is also the unfortunate reality of a rise in the costs of participation.

Because the College of Law cannot cover all of the expenses of the Moot Court Society, there are a number of sponsorship opportunities available for Friends of Moot Court Society members to make possible the continued participation of the Moot Court Society in competitions.

Event sponsors can help defray costs such as entry fees and competition expenses, food and hotel for external competitions, and the internal Prize Moot Court Competition, Awards Banquet, and receptions.

If you are interested in a sponsorship opportunity, please send a check (on memo line write *Moot Court Competition Sponsorship*) to:

Greg C. Anderson, Director
Career Opportunities & Development
NIU College of Law
DeKalb, IL 60115
phone: 815.753.9604
email: ganderson@niu.edu

2011-2012 Moot Court Society Board

Moot Court Society welcomes incoming Board members (seated from left): Associate Justice Ibrahim Ali, Chief Justice Robert Kasic, and Associate Justice Jennifer Weston; (standing, from left): Associate Justices Eric Poplonski and Adam Kaplan.





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2011-12 Competition Schedule

October 2011

27-29 30th Annual International Moot Court Competition
in Information Technology and Privacy Law,
Chicago

November 2011

4-5 Appellate Lawyers Association Moot Courtpetition,
Chicago
National Moot Court Competition

February 2012

11 NIU College of Law Prize Moot Court First Round
Preliminary Arguments
18 NIU College of Law Prize Moot Court Second Round
Preliminary Arguments
25 NIU College of Law Prize Moot Court Semi-Finals

March 2011

3 NIU College of Law Prize Moot Court Finals and
Awards Banquet

2011-12 External Moot Court Competition Teams Named

National Moot Court Competition
Ibrahim Ali & Robert Kosic

**International Moot Court
Competition In Information
Technology And Privacy Law**
Colby Hathaway, Brad Stewart &
Kathryn Williams

**Appellate Lawyers Association
Moot Court Competition**
Trisha Chokshi & Jennifer Weston

**Please check the NIU Law website at www.niu.edu/law for updated
information and specific dates as they become available.**