

Moot Court Minutes



2010-2011 Moot Court Board



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In This Edition:

- Chairman's Corner p. 1
- Regent Teams Succeed at Elon School of Law's National Competition p. 2
- Regent iL Competition is One for the Books p. 3
- An Associate's Perspective p. 4
- Regent to Host ACMA National Competition p. 4
- Chairman's Corner: A New Chapter p. 4

Chairman's Corner

Linh Flores, Chairman

Dear Moot Court Board Alumni & Friends,

This year has flown by! It seems like it was just yesterday that I was greeting you as the Chairman-elect for the 2010-2011 Board, and now I am writing my last message. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as Chairman this year. I am honored to have served alongside such impeccable Board Members and Associates. Our goal was to bring glory to God and honor to Regent Law by doing everything with excellence. I truly believe that with the Lord's grace we accomplished this goal. We worked hard to collect and assemble 233

Operation Christmas Child boxes, host four excellent competitions, and place highly in three interscholastic competitions. It is humbling to see how the Lord has blessed our efforts.

The Lord not only blessed us with success, but He brought all of us together as a family. Strong ties have developed this year, and it will be difficult for me and the Board Members to say goodbye to one another and the Associates. Being involved in moot court has most definitely enriched my law school experience and given me memories that will last long after my days here at Regent have ended.

The legacy of the Regent Moot Court Board would not be possible without the support, participation, and prayers of our alumni and supporters. Thank you for what you do to support the Board. As the current Board Members and I graduate and join you as alumni, we trust the new Chairman, Tristen Cramer, and the 2011-2012 Moot Court Board with the privilege and responsibility of upholding the legacy of excellence established by previous Boards. I am confident that Tristen will lead next year's board with humility, integrity, and servant leadership. God bless you, 2011-2012 Regent Moot Court Board! Make us proud!



Regent Teams Succeed at Elon School of Law's National Competition

Amy Labzentis, Associate



Pictured: Second Place Team - Amy Labzentis (oralist), Linh Flores (brief writer), Matthew Roche (oralist)

After several rounds of oral arguments over a three-day period in early April, Regent Law came away with second place after competing in the Billings, Exum & Frye National Moot Court Competition hosted by Elon University School of Law in Greensboro, North Carolina. The second place team also won the best brief award, while another Regent team competed and placed as quarter-finalists at the competition. Both Regent teams competed among 31 teams from 17 of some of the best law schools in the nation, including University of Virginia School of Law, Duke University School of Law, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law, and George Mason University School of Law.

Named after three former North Carolina Supreme Court Justices, this was the competition's inaugural year, which focused on a problem involving free speech, the Establishment Clause, and the public forum doctrine. The main issue presented was whether the government could, by proclaiming a state day of prayer, hold an event promoting the day but then exclude a group from the event who is speaking peacefully against the day of prayer.

After submitting a brief and undergoing intense preparation through numerous rounds of mooting

by Moot Court Board Members, the hard work of the teams paid off. In the final round, the second place team, consisting of Matt Roche (3L), Amy Labzentis (2L), and Linh Flores (3L) argued before a panel of North Carolina Supreme Court Justices.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor was scheduled to give the keynote address at the closing banquet, however, she had to cancel at the last minute. David Gergen, editor-at-large for *U.S. News and World Reports*, spoke in Justice O'Connor's place and encouraged those present to advocate for justice in their careers regardless of political party lines.

Matt Roche believed that the teams represented Regent well stating that "we were a witness to the ideals and values we adhere to as a Christian law school." Professor Kathleen McKee, who coached both teams, reflected on the competition, "When God is in the room, remarkable things happen. Despite the fact that the teams faced stiff competition and the setting for the competition was at times distracting, it was clear that the Regent teams were committed to glorifying the Lord by their performance during the competition and by their interaction with the other teams."



Pictured: Quarter Finalist Team - Brittany Marks (oralist), Melissa Yatsko (brief writer), Sonny Behrends (oralist)



Regent 1L Competition is One for the Books

Sarah Hartsfield, 1L Competition Coordinator

The annual 1L Moot Court Competition occurred from March 28th to April 11th keeping the Board incredibly busy for two weeks with practice rounds, preliminary rounds, and the final rounds.

This year's competition was the largest one the Board has ever hosted with over 160 competitors and over 85 preliminary rounds. This required the help of many students to bailiff and many professors to judge the rounds. Their help contributed greatly to the effectiveness of the competition.

Several new outside attorneys volunteered their time to judge, which gave the Board a great opportunity to represent Regent and the school's mission. The Board received many compliments on the competition's organization as well as the quality



Pictured: Sarah Hartsfield (1L Competition Coordinator), Andrew Hull (First Place Winner), Linh Flores (Chairman)



The Moot Court Board announces the names of the competitors who advanced to the final round

of the arguments given by competitors. The elimination rounds displayed strong oral skills from the first year students making the rounds more difficult to judge as the competition progressed.

The final round was a good display of the quality of education that Regent provides to its students. Andrew Hull, Daniel Vaughan, Barret Luxhoj, and Melanie Remington each gave oral arguments before a panel of five judges. One of the judges for the final round, attorney and professor Randy Singer, remarked that the oralists were so good that he did not feel like he had to hold back any tough questions.

This was the last event for this year's Moot Court Board. In many senses, the year ends with the

event that starts it all, the competition that first inspires law students to excel in oral advocacy and draws the talent out of many who do not even realize that they have it.



Competitor Melanie Remington argues in the final round



An Associate's Perspective
Sonny Behrends, Associate

Serving as an associate member of the Moot Court Board during the 2010-2011 school year was a tremendous opportunity for me. I originally applied to the Board because I have a passion for oral advocacy and wanted to improve my advocacy skills. What I finished with was cherished memories, valuable experiences, and lifelong friendships.

My job as an associate did not involve a lot of glamorous work. Whether I was preparing court rooms for the National Competition or reading the bench briefs in preparation for the 1L Competition, work as an associate was sometimes tedious. However, throughout this year, the Lord worked in me while I performed these tasks. He impressed on me the importance of servant leadership, paying attention to details and glorifying Him even in the tedious tasks. This valuable lesson has made me a better man, a better husband, a better law student, and hopefully a better lawyer.

The relationships that were built throughout the year will last a lifetime. Joining the Board as an associate is like joining a big family. Board members welcome associates with open arms, while former Board members periodically visit and judge during various competitions. The Board's heritage and tradition served as a constant reminder that the Regent Moot Court Board is about excellence in advocacy, with an equal emphasis on honoring the Lord and representing Regent Law well.

Regent to Host ACMA National Competition
Bethany Yenca, Public Relations & Administrative Liaison

The Moot Court Board is proud to announce that it will be hosting the 2013 National American Collegiate Moot Court Association (ACMA) Competition. For the past six years, Regent Law has been annually hosting the Mid-Atlantic Regional Tournament, one of eight qualifying competitions for the national tournament.

After the 2010 Mid-Atlantic Regional Competition, the ACMA Director, Frank Guliuzza, requested that the Board submit a proposal to be the 2013 host for nationals. Mr. Guliuzza made the suggestion not only because Regent has been successfully hosting the Mid-Atlantic tournament for the past several years but also because it had hosted nationals in the past. After the Undergraduate Coordinator, Joanna Cannone, submitted the proposal, the ACMA Board of Directors reviewed and granted it due to the several well-run competitions that the Moot Court Board regularly hosts.

The Board has been watching the top 25% of teams advance from the regional competition it has been hosting, but in 2013, the Board will observe the best 80 teams, made up of 160 competitors, coming from all eight regional tournaments.

The national tournament is hosted by a different law school every year. The 2011 tournament took place at Tulane University Law School in New Orleans. The 2013 ACMA National Tournament will take place in January.

Chairman's Corner: A New Chapter Tristen Cramer, Chairman-Elect (2011-2012)

Dear Moot Court Board Alumni & Friends,

I am honored and humbled to have the privilege to serve as Chairman on the 2011-2012 Moot Court Board. I truly enjoyed my experience serving the Board as an Associate Member, and I am excited to see what God has in store for the Moot Court Board over the next year.

It has been a blessing to sit under the leadership of Linh Flores and

the other Board Members as they exhibited Godly leadership. I am grateful for the opportunity to carry on in tradition of servant leadership.

The Moot Court Board has a reputation of excellence in service at Regent. Over the next year, I look forward to continuing to build that reputation both in our local community and also throughout the nation and the world. Regent's Moot Court Board reaches the nation through hosting the ACMA Regional

Competition and our National Constitutional Law Competition in a spirit of professionalism and excellence. We impact the world through our support of Operation Christmas Child.

None of this would be possible without the continued prayers and support of our incredible network of Moot Court Board Alumni. The 2011-2012 Moot Court Board looks forward to serving the Regent Law community with your continued involvement.