

STETSON LAW

ADVOCACY BOARD



2014

FALL TRYOUTS

**2014–2015 ADVOCACY BOARD
GENERAL TRYOUT
INFORMATION**

www.law.stetson.edu/advocacy/tryouts

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Board

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Professor Brooke Bowman

If you want to be a member of the nation's number 1
Advocacy Boards, please read this packet very carefully!!

REGISTRATIONS WILL ONLY BE HANDLED ELECTRONICALLY!

- I. **REGISTRATION:** You may register to try out for one, two, or all three of the advocacy teams. If you register for multiple teams, we will work with you to make sure that the tryout times do not conflict.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Registration opens: Monday, March 24, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.



Trial Team Boot Camp:* Thursday, May 15, 2014, all day



Registration ends: Friday, May 30, 2014, at **12:00 noon**

Drop deadline: **Friday, July 18, 2014, at **12:00 noon**

Announcement of students
invited to join one or more

Advocacy Board teams: Sunday, August 24, 2014

****DROP DEADLINE:**

If you register and decide not to try out, you **MUST** send an email to tryouts@law.stetson.edu, no later than **12:00 noon** on Friday, July 18, 2014. **This is the only way to drop from a team tryout.** This drop deadline is **firm**.

After the drop date has passed and barring an emergency, any student who **does not appear for a scheduled tryout may be barred** from participating in future advocacy board tryouts.

* This is a **mandatory** training session for all students wishing to try out for the Trial Team. If you do not attend this boot camp, you will not be eligible to try out for the Trial Team.

- II. **SUBJECT MATTER/PROBLEM USED FOR TRYOUTS:** Each Board has its own tryout packet, and each Board has a different way of distributing the problem or materials for its portion of the tryouts. Please read the specific instructions for that Board to determine when and where you should receive or pick-up the problem or materials.
- III. **FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS:** Primary contact will be through email. Sometimes we will send emails to all students trying out and other times we will send individual emails to only those students participating in a single Board tryout. **Please** check your Stetson email frequently for new updates. As we get closer to the end of the summer and to the tryouts, we will send out the final details.

**2014–2015 ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE
RESOLUTION (ADR) BOARD**

**Tryout Dates: Friday, August 15, 2014 (Preliminary Rounds)
 Saturday, August 16, 2014 (Final Rounds)**

TRYOUT INFORMATION

I. ELIGIBILITY

- Have completed R&W II and be in good academic standing;
- Graduate May 2015 or later and remain on the ADR Board through graduation;
- Not compete on the Vis team, but may take the Vis class;
- Not register for the MPRE or plan out-of-town trips without checking with the ADR faculty advisor because of a potential competition conflict;
- Attend a weekly class (currently scheduled for ***Tuesdays from 12:05 to 1:20 p.m.*** Although it is possible the time/date could change, plan to keep this slot open when scheduling classes); and
- Attend a **Mandatory Orientation/Team Building** with new and former ADR Board members on Stetson's Gulfport campus (day and time TBA).

II. ADR BOARD

When you try out for the ADR Board, you are really trying out for all four teams:

- Arbitration Team
- Client Counseling Team
- Mediation Team
- Negotiation Team

Based on your performance during tryouts, work experience, interests, personality, and strengths, students will be assigned to different teams. Because each team requires different skills, the tryout process is multi-faceted to tap into those different skills. The ADR Board looks for candidates who possess as many of those different skills as possible because knowing someone is capable of competing on any of the teams is a real asset.

III. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. REGISTRATION

- All candidates will try out in pairs and you can register with or without a partner;
- If you know who your partner will be, you both must register and enter the other's information as confirmation of your partnership. **NOTE:** If you list a student as a partner, but that student does not register, that student cannot be your partner.
- If you don't have a partner when you register, there will be time to find a partner and/or one will be assigned to you.

B. PREPARING FOR TRYOUTS

First and foremost, the skills necessary for success on the ADR Board are working with others, thinking on your feet, and being a good "people person."

- There are many books at the library about interviewing and negotiating. Reading any of them, or portions of them, would be helpful.
- Visit the Advocacy Board Tryouts website: www.law.stetson.edu/advocacy/tryouts, where you will find videos, and some book chapters on interviewing and negotiating.

C. TRYOUT SPECIFICS

Preliminary Tryout Sessions/Rounds

All those trying out for the ADR Board will participate in two preliminary sessions/rounds---a negotiation and a client interview

1. FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2014, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon NEGOTIATION SESSION

The negotiation round is designed to prepare you to plan for and anticipate what your opponents' goals and strategies are, be flexible enough to respond to learning information about and from your opponents, build rapport with your opponents, and work with a partner.

- The negotiation will require teams to negotiate an agreement, contract, or other settlement with another team.
- Approximately two weeks before tryouts, both teams will be emailed general facts about the negotiation scenario, and secret facts specific to their client's position in that scenario.
- Although each negotiation will last only 15 minutes and the judges will know that an agreement is not required to be reached, the judges can determine who has strong negotiation and partner skills during that time.

2. FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2014, 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. CLIENT INTERVIEW SESSION

The client interview round is designed to prepare you to plan questions and discussions with a new client, be flexible with the order and content of your questions based on the client's responses, and work with a partner.

- Approximately two weeks before the tryouts, teams will be emailed a 1–2 sentence snippet including the client's name, general nature of the client's problem, and general area of the law involved.
- Although each interview will last only 10–11 minutes and the judges will know that teams will most likely not complete the interview, the judges can determine who works well with others, who can think on their feet, who can ask the right questions, etc.

Advancing to the Final Tryout Round and Individual Interview

There are two potential parts to the final round, the client interview and potentially, an individual interview.

A crucial part of legal practice and the ADR Board is learning to work with different people even on short notice; therefore, the top individual students from the preliminary sessions/rounds will advance to the final round and be paired with a new partner.

Students advancing to the final round will be notified and assigned their new partners by email on Friday, August 15, 2014, after the preliminary rounds are complete and scores calculated. Students advancing to the final round will also be provided a new client snippet. In addition, students will also complete a questionnaire to be brought to their scheduled final client interview round.

1. SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2014, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon CLIENT INTERVIEW ROUND

- The final client interview will follow the same format as the preliminary client interview round of 10–11 minutes, except with a new client, new client problem, and new partner.

- All final client interviews will take place in the same room, with the same judges, and the same client.
- On Friday evening, August 15, 2014, all students advancing to the final client interview round will be emailed a 1–2 sentence snippet about the final round client, the client’s problem, and the general area of the law involved.

2. SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2014 (approximate start time: 1:15 p.m., and running until 6:00 p.m.)
INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEW

- The top individual students from the final client interview round will advance to the individual interviews that afternoon.
- Students advancing to the individual interview will be announced via email as soon as the judges have made their decisions (approximately 12:45 p.m.) and by a sheet posted outside of the tryout room.
- The individual interviews will be scheduled for 15–20 minutes each with a 2–3 person panel. Although we can tell a lot from your tryout performance, there are still areas that are better addressed face-to-face in an interview.

D. Announcing New Members

Those selected to join Stetson’s Advocacy Board teams will be announced Sunday, August 24, to coincide with the other advocacy boards’ announcements.

IV. Mandatory Orientation/Team Building

One of the most important and rewarding aspects of being a member of Stetson’s ADR Board is being part of a team. To foster that team atmosphere, there will be a **Mandatory Orientation/Team Building** for all new and returning ADR Board members in early September, on Stetson’s Gulfport campus for half a day on a Saturday or Sunday.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Board: An Essential Part of the Advocacy Process

Stetson is #1 in advocacy for a reason: we have three amazing advocacy board teams, each of which provides vital skills for the practice of law

The ADR Board focuses on the skills that lawyers use daily in their practice. You are constantly meeting and greeting clients, negotiating with opposing counsel, and either mediating or arbitrating cases to resolve them without litigation. The ability to deal with others in various situations is essential to being a great lawyer.

As a member of the ADR Board, you are part of a team prepared to work hard and reap the benefits. And ADR Board members in good standing earn one credit hour for each semester you are on the Board (excluding summer), and will be prepared to hit the ground running once you graduate.

Being part of a team while a Stetson student was the best experience I had in law school. It wasn’t easy, but it was more than worth it. I hope that if you are looking for that type of challenge, you will try out for the ADR Board.

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2014–2015 MOCK TRIAL TEAM

**Tryout dates: Saturday, August 16, 2014 (Preliminary Rounds)
Saturday, August 23, 2014 (Final Rounds)**

TRIAL TEAM TRYOUT INFORMATION

Eligibility

1. Have attended the May 15, 2014 all-day trial team boot camp, which will be held on the Gulfport campus.¹
2. Have completed Evidence with at least a grade of 2.5, be enrolled in Evidence in the fall of 2014, or **be eligible** to be enrolled in Evidence in the fall of 2014;
3. Have completed Trial Advocacy with at least a grade of 3.0, be enrolled in Trial Ad in the fall of 2014, or **be eligible** to be enrolled in Trial Ad in the fall of 2014;
4. *If an advocate, who will be enrolled in either or both Trial Ad and Evidence in the fall of 2014, does not earn a grade equal to or above the minimum listed in numbers 1 and 2 above, they may later be dropped from the team.*
5. Must have a graduation date of May 2015 or later; and
6. Be in good academic standing.

Preliminary Tryout Round

**Saturday, August 16, 2014
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

- Each advocate will give a closing argument for a case and side to be assigned.
- Maximum time for the closing argument will be 8 minutes.
- Advocates should plan for 6–7 minutes to avoid exceeding the maximum time.
- Courtroom attire is required.

Preliminary rounds may be held in two or three venues on the Gulfport campus. Between 4 and 7 advocates will advance to the final round from each venue. **A posting of those advancing will be sent out via email by 5:00 p.m. that same day—Saturday, August 16.**

Final Tryout Round

**Saturday, August 23, 2014
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

- Each advocate will engage in a brief cross examination of the same witness for approximately 3–4 minutes.
- Immediately thereafter the advocate will deliver a closing argument.
- The closing argument should be no longer than 6–7 minutes.
- Total time for each advocate should be approximately 10 minutes.
- Courtroom attire is required.

¹ This is a **mandatory** training session for all students wishing to try out for the Trial Team. If you do not attend this boot camp you will not be eligible to try out for the Trial Team.

Individual Interview

Every advocate who advances out of the preliminary round will be individually interviewed during the week of August 18. (This process will include those who have earned a “bye” to the final round.) This interview will be an opportunity for the Trial Team Advisor and coaches to discuss with issues that all prospective Trial Team members need to know.

Questions will be raised and addressed before the final round of tryouts. Of course the possibility exists that following the interview session one or more of those who advanced from the preliminary round will not be included in the final round.

Announcing New Members

Those selected to join Stetson’s Trial Team will be announced as early as August 24, 2014, to coincide with the other advocacy boards’ announcements.

Those students who make the final round of trial team tryouts, but are not selected for the team, will be offered a position as a member of Stetson’s General Advocacy Board, a new organization tied directly to our competition teams and Center for Excellence in Advocacy. Members of Stetson’s General Advocacy Board will work directly with the Center for Excellence in Advocacy to provide scrimmage teams for traveling groups competing outside the law school, work on projects within the Center, and serve as a pool of talent for the trial team. Members of Stetson’s General Advocacy Board will have opportunities to serve as witnesses for various competitions and may also be called upon to compete on the trial team, if their performance on the Board warrants it and a need exists on the team. Membership on Stetson’s General Advocacy Board recognizes the accomplishment of making it to the final round of tryouts, and also provides an opportunity to further develop advocacy skills while supporting the Center and Stetson.

A History of Excellence—A Tradition of Winning

Stetson’s Mock Trial Team is a National Champion. *National Champion.* We want to do literally everything possible to keep it that way. No law school in the country has equaled Stetson’s success in Trial Team competitions over the past 15 years. We have done that with advocates committed to do whatever it takes to prepare for competitions. We win because we work hard, we are professional, and we always bring an “A-team” with an “A-game.” Stetson’s advocates are not only talented (able to bring a compelling cross examination and closing argument) but willing to spend the time, effort, and determination to continue our winning tradition.

Two credit hours per semester are earned by advocates who get a spot on the Trial Team. ***All Trial Team members are required to attend the Mock Trial Board class that meets on Fridays at or near noon.*** The exact time and location will be posted.

Stetson’s Trial Team is, and will continue to be, comprised of the best of the best. If you are willing to work hard, be a team player, and want to be a part of extending Stetson’s winning tradition, you should try out.

Professor Michele Joiner
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2014–2015 MOOT COURT BOARD

**Tryout dates: Saturday, August 16, 2014 (Preliminary Rounds)
Sunday, August 17, 2014 (Final Round)**

TRYOUT INFORMATION

A. Eligibility

1. To be eligible to try out for a position on the Moot Court Board in fall 2014, a candidate must
 - a. have completed R&W II by May 2014;
 - b. have earned a 2.75 average in Research and Writing;
 - c. be in good academic standing;
 - d. have a graduation date of May 2015 or later;
 - e. keep his or her schedule open, including not registering to take the MPRE or planning out-of-town trips without checking with the Moot Court faculty advisor because of potential practice and competition conflicts;
 - f. attend a weekly training class (new members will be expected to attend a weekly training class to be held in the fall on Wednesdays, from 4:40 to 5:55 p.m. Attendance at this class is mandatory; Board members must not schedule other classes that conflict with this class);
 - g. attend any Board meetings, if scheduled separate from the regularly scheduled Moot Court class; and
 - h. stay on the Board until graduation.
2. The Moot Court faculty advisor reserves the right to add additional members when circumstances require or when a team needs special expertise.

B. Competition Problem

The competition problem will be distributed via email to all students registered for the Moot Court tryouts and posted online on Tuesday, May 27. At this time, the writing exercise and other instructions will also be released.

C. Selection Process

The tryout process consists of the following four steps:

1. Submit a clean, ungraded, unrevised² copy of your R&W II appellate brief. The process for submitting the appellate brief is as follows:
 - a. Visit the 2014 Moot Court Tryouts TWEN page and download and complete the cover sheet. (Save the cover sheet as a PDF-file.)

² Please do not revise, edit, or proofread your R&W II appellate brief before submission. In other words, submit the exact same version that you submitted to your R&W II professor.

- b. Between Monday, April 21, at 12:00 noon, and Friday, May 30, at 12:00 noon, submit your appellate brief and the cover sheet (at the same time) to the designated drop box on the 2014 Moot Court Tryouts TWEN page. (Failure to submit the appellate brief may result in disqualification from tryouts.)
 2. Complete the “writing exercise.”
 - a. The writing exercise and instructions will all be distributed on Tuesday, May 27 (after the completion of the Law Review Write-on Competition).
 - b. The writing exercise will be due on Tuesday, July 15, **by** 5:00 p.m., to a designated TWEN site.
 - c. Early submission of the writing exercise is permitted, but only one submission will be accepted from each participant.
 - d. Students submitting their writing exercises **after** 5:00.00 on Tuesday, July 15, will be disqualified.
 - e. The writing exercise will be worth **30%** of the total preliminary-round score. The writing exercise will not factor into the score in the final round.
 3. Present one or two oral arguments on Saturday, August 16, 2014, and Sunday, August 17, 2014 (see section D below for more information):
 - a. The preliminary rounds will be held in the afternoon/early evening of Saturday, August 16, 2014, between 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
 - b. The final rounds will be held in the afternoon/early evening of August 17, 2014, tentatively between 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
 - c. These times are subject to change depending upon the number of students participating in the tryouts and the number of courtrooms used.
 4. All students who advance to the final rounds on Sunday, August 17, will be asked to fill out a questionnaire and sign-up for an interview that will take place sometime during the weekend of August 16–17 or week of August 18.
 5. Failure to complete any step in the tryout process **will result** in disqualification.

D. Oral Argument

You will receive more information regarding oral arguments when the actual problem and writing exercise are distributed on **May 27** and after the writing exercises are due on **July 15**. With regard to the schedules for the preliminary and/or final arguments, we will **not** know the schedule until after Friday, July 18, the drop deadline. What you should do now, to be safe, is **set aside the afternoons/early evenings of both Saturday, August 16, 2014, and Sunday, August 17, 2014**, for tryouts.

1. Preliminary Round

- a. Contestants will argue one time.
- b. Each contestant will argue for the same side.
- c. Each contestant will have eight minutes to present an argument.
- d. Each contestant should be prepared to answer questions from the judges.
- e. Contestants will argue before at least three judges, possibly more. Arguments will be conducted in more than one room at one a time. Each contestant will appear before only one panel of judges.
- f. Courtroom attire is required.
- g. The preliminary oral argument will be worth **70%** of the total preliminary-round score.

2. Final Round

- a. Each contestant will argue for the same side as the preliminary round.
- b. All contestants will appear before the same panel of judges. (The final round judges will not have judged the preliminary rounds.)
- c. Each contestant will have eight minutes to present an argument.
- d. The writing exercise will not factor into the score in the final round; therefore, the oral argument will count for 100% of the final score.
- e. Courtroom attire is required.

E. Interviews

Candidates advancing to the final round will be invited back for a twenty-minute interview. The interviews will take place sometime **during the weekend of August 16–17 or the week of August 18**. Although we can tell a lot from a tryout performance, there are still areas that are better addressed face-to-face in an interview.

F. Announcing New Members

Those selected to join Stetson's Moot Court Board will be announced Sunday, August 24, to coincide with the other advocacy boards' announcements. Any student selected to join the Board must be prepared to attend the Moot Court class starting on Wednesday, August 27.

Stetson's Moot Court Board is world renowned! The Board is wrapping up another successful year, with Stetson teams winning championships, oralist awards, and brief awards. And we are looking to add members to the Board who are **committed** to hard work, excellence, teamwork, and professionalism, and who are committed to further developing their research, writing, analysis, and advocacy skills.

Competing as a Moot Court Board member improves so many practical skills—skills you will use in practice whether you are an appellate attorney or not. In fact, law firms prefer candidates with moot court experience because the training improves skills used by successful attorneys on a daily basis.

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