

# The Rebuttal



## What is Moot Court?

Moot Court is the best of both worlds—a combination of persuasive written and oral advocacy! Similar to what attorneys actually do at the federal and state appellate courts, teams of two to three students write an appellate brief and prepare to present oral arguments in front of panels of judges, attorneys, and professors, at competitions, around the nation.

Stetson students get a glimpse of what life is like as Moot Court Board members in their Research and Writing II classes.

## Why did I want to join the Moot Court Board?

**From our newest Moot Court Board members:**

- ◆ **John Arnett:** I wanted to join the Moot Court Board because (1) it is an intense and stimulating intellectual challenge; (2) it offers me a great opportunity to become the kind of lawyer I want to be; and (3) it offers me a chance to represent my school proudly.
- ◆ **Jessica Baik:** I wanted to join the Moot Court Board, because I know that it will immensely enhance my research, writing, and speaking skills. Additionally, I believe that being a part of a team is crucial in molding myself into a better advocate and future attorney. It is so important to learn how to communicate effectively, gain many different perspectives, and apply constructive criticism.
- ◆ **Thomas Banks:** I wanted to join Stetson's prestigious Moot Court Board because I wanted to compete on a team with high expectations and to go "toe-to-toe" with some of the best oral advocates in the nation. I knew that joining the Moot Court Board would help me further develop the necessary research and writing skills to be a successful attorney in the future.
- ◆ **Kathryn Bonti:** I wanted to join Moot Court because I wanted to challenge myself and because it is such an honor. I have found so much joy from interacting with all the former and current moot court board members and the Moot Court Director.
- ◆ **Alejandro Camacho:** I chose to join the Moot Court Board because I enjoyed the challenge of preparing an oral argument. I am not usually outspoken; however, a competition drives me to reach outside my comfort zone.
- ◆ **Tiffany Colon:** I wanted to join Moot Court Board because it helps develop essential skills that are necessary for a lawyer to have, such as effective communication and written communication. Being a Moot Court Board member requires a lot of research and writing and that is a very useful skill as a lawyer—knowing how to navigate through sources to pick and choose the ruling of law applicable and being able to distinguish them from what you anticipate the other side will say.
- ◆ **Kelly Hawk:** I wanted to join the Moot Court Board to learn more about advocacy and to improve my written and oral advocacy skills. I also hope to meet new people and make connections with peers and alumni.
- ◆ **Jordan Koziol:** I wanted to join the Moot Court Board because (1) I find complex legal analysis to be the pinnacle of intellectual stimulation, and (2) I hope to improve my advocacy skills in a collegiate and team-oriented setting.

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- ◆ **Travis Hearne:** I wanted to join the Moot Court Board because (1) I enjoy competition as a process in and of itself. It improves personal knowledge, development, and acumen. It also fosters both humility and perseverance. (2) I want to contribute to Stetson's reputation, since the school and I reflect on each other and our reputations are intertwined. (3) Moot Court is an amazing opportunity to improve my own skills (both writing, speaking/presenting, and collaborating with a team—all very important skills for lawyers) by subjecting myself to intense scrutiny by coaches, teammates, competitors, attorneys, and judges.
- ◆ **Joseph Kemmerling:** I wanted to join the Moot Court Board, because it would give me an opportunity to see the gray area of the law. In addition, Moot Court will help me improve as a law student and a future lawyer. Moot Court requires writing, oral, and team-building skills among others. Being able to build on all of those skills will be invaluable.
- ◆ **Kai Su:** I wanted to join the Moot Court Board because I wanted the most rigorous and thorough training in advocacy that Stetson had to offer. Based on my observations during my first year, every Stetson Moot Court Board member I have seen argue has had such mastery of presentation, style, and organization. I would also like to experience the intense learning process involved in preparing and participating in a competition.
- ◆ **Kelley Thompson:** I came to Stetson with the goal of being on a team because of our stellar reputation for advocacy. Going in, I thought I would end up on trial team because I had some mock trial experience in high school. However, after participating in an oral argument competition during my first semester and after taking R&W II, I realized that I am capable of engaging in appellate advocacy as well. I wanted to join Moot Court, in part, to branch out from trial and grow as an advocate. I think Moot Court is going to be one of my biggest growth experiences in law school, and I am excited about that.
- ◆ **Tyler Troyer:** As a first-year student, I was focused on finding opportunities to develop my professional abilities. Moot Court stood out as an unrivaled opportunity to gain substantive oral advocacy and writing experience. My brief experience competing in first-year competitions surpassed my expectations and allowed me to take on a rewarding challenge while gaining the type of experience I was looking for.
- ◆ **Brielle Tucker:** I wanted to have some form of structured writing experience outside of Research and Writing. I enjoy brief writing because it is a way to ensure that my argument is fully articulated. Since oral advocacy can sometimes be taken off path, I can rest easy knowing our brief's argument is clear, concise, and persuasive.
- ◆ **Madison Wahler:** I wanted to join the Moot Court Board because I really enjoyed the process of writing a brief and doing an oral argument at the end of R&W II. I have met intelligent, motivated students through the Moot Court events and I can already tell the Advocacy Boards provide an excellent support system. I'm excited about the opportunity to help Stetson continue its tradition of excellency in advocacy and am hopeful that participating in Moot Court will improve my research and public speaking skills so that my future clients receive better, more zealous representation.

Interested in learning more about the Moot Court Board?

Watch the Announcements for more news about upcoming events and activities!

**Including** the upcoming **Fourth Annual Chief Justice First-Year Oral Argument Competition**—  
Information Meeting on **Thursday, September 7, 2017**, at 5:00 p.m. in Classroom A.

Want to try out for the Moot Court Board—or the Dispute Resolution Board or Trial Team?  
See the **Advocacy Board Tryouts Information** webpage—linked from the Center for Excellence in  
Advocacy webpage (<http://www.stetson.edu/law/academics/advocacy/home/>)—  
for more information!