

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 Board members:

- ◆ **Deanna Cipriano:** I wanted to join the Moot Court Board because Stetson is known for being number one in advocacy, and I wanted to be part of a team that could help me build the necessary skills to be an effective advocate in my career. Also, I wanted to join Moot Court because not only am I given the chance to develop my oral advocacy skills, but also my writing skills.
- ◆ **Becky Klonek:** I wanted to join Stetson’s Moot Court Board for three reasons: (1) the invaluable experience of practicing the advocacy skills required to be an effective real-world advocate; (2) the opportunity to refine my legal writing skills; and (3) the prestige and networking opportunities that come with being apart of not only the best advocacy program in the country, but also specifically, the Moot Court Board.
- ◆ **Chris Lawson:** I wanted to join the Moot Court Board because I wanted to develop my writing skills and my “advocate voice.” Moot Court is the only advocacy board that really challenges both your oral advocacy and your research and writing skills. Moot Court Board, to me, was the Board that would best allow me to focus on the skills that I will be using in practice.
- ◆ **Alex Metras:** I wanted to join the Moot Court Board because I wanted be trained in the practical skills needed after graduation. Being a part of the best advocacy program in the country presents unique opportunities to fine-tune the same skills all lawyers will need, in ways others will not have the opportunity to. The Moot Court Board will help prepare me to be the best advocate I can be, and will help me gain the degrees of separation needed to make my legal work stand out.
- ◆ **Sean Mullen:** I wanted to join Moot Court because it embodies what Stetson is. Being an effective advocate is essential to being an effective attorney. I knew that joining Moot Court would help develop my skills far more than I could on my own. In addition, I just think the competition aspect is fun!
- ◆ **Nicole Neugebauer:** I wanted to join the Moot Court Board to compliment the legal writing skills I have learned in law school with oral advocacy. Moot Court will make me a more well-rounded attorney and a stronger advocate for future clients. Additionally, I believe that a huge part of being an attorney is learning to collaborate with a team to finish a work product, and Moot Court provides the skill and guidance to do this effectively.

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- ◆ **Brian Remler:** I joined the Moot Court Board because I wanted to apply the legal knowledge I gained last year in a practical manner. While I appreciated the legal foundation that my first-year courses laid, I felt a palpable gap between the theoretical knowledge that I gained from classes and the real-world experience that I need to succeed as an attorney. I think that the Moot Court Board will allow me to broaden my skillset in the exciting and intellectually stimulating setting of appellate advocacy.
- ◆ **Tiffani Thornton:** While preparing for the R&W II oral arguments, I became interested in the process and experience of appellate advocacy. More than an academic exercise, honing the skills of research, writing, and oral arguments are key for a future lawyer. Stetson's Moot Court Board is a sharp team of students who practice and refine these skills with every competition, which made it a group I had to join!
- ◆ **Andrew Wit:** I joined Moot Court because it focuses on two of the most important skills an attorney *must* possess in order to be successful—oral and written advocacy. These skills are necessary in every area of law—yes, even transactional practice. A litigator uses both of these skills at every hearing. Even a land-use attorney uses them when meeting with politicians to get changes approved. Moot Court is an invaluable experience that will help you hone both of these skills in tandem, while also giving you an opportunity to work with a team and learn from other incredibly talented students.
- ◆ **Vasilios Zimarakos:** For me, Moot Court is the epitome of what it is to be an attorney. Personally, there is nothing that encompasses what it means to be an attorney more than to research and learn a new area of law, structure a persuasive argument in writing, and then advocate on behalf of your client in an oral argument. The skills I have begun to hone throughout my participation as a member of the Moot Court Board coupled with the natural excitement of having the opportunity to compete are just two reasons why I am excited to be a member of Moot Court!

Interested in learning more about the Moot Court Board?

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

Want to try out for the Moot Court Board—or the Dispute Resolution Board or Trial Team?

See the **Advocacy Board Tryouts Information** webpage—

<https://www.stetson.edu/law/academics/advocacy/home/advocacy-tryouts.php>

—for more information!