

The Rebuttal



A Letter from the Chief Justice

This year's justices produced the second issue of *The Rebuttal* as part of our continued effort to reconnect our alumni with our current Board members. I would like to thank Associate Justice Jason Lambert for spearheading the production of this newsletter and for all of his hard work. I would also like to thank the existing Moot Court Board for allowing me to serve as Chief Justice. Because I believe Moot Court is the most prestigious organization on our campus, serving as Chief Justice is the highest honor that one may be afforded. I would also like to welcome our newest Board members to our Moot Court family. Being a member of the Moot Court family is an esteemed privilege that comes with the opportunity for great success. And, already this academic year, our Moot Court family is off to a great start.

In June, our Orseck team argued before the Justices of the Florida Supreme Court, and for the second year in a row, the Orseck team won all three awards at the competition. The team's achievements are not only a testament to the skill, dedication, and hard work of our members, but also a reflection of the leadership of the Moot Court Board faculty advisor, Professor Brooke Bowman, professors, and the alumni who tirelessly help prepare our Moot Court Board members. For that, we thank you.

Looking forward, we have

seven teams competing in five competitions this fall. Additionally, the Board will be assisting first-year students prepare for oral arguments in their R&W II classes, assisting with the Fourth Annual National Pretrial competition, as well as participating in other events this semester. The Moot Court Board will have a fun and productive semester and year. As Chief Justice, I am excited about a year of programs, events, and competitions that will enhance our educational experience, continue our growth as professional advocates, and maintain our legacy of winning moot court competitions all around the world.

Our roadmap to success relies not only upon our dedication, but also upon the contributions of our alumni, coaches, and faculty advisor. It is your dedication and hard work that make Stetson's Moot Court Board a force to be reckoned with nationally and internationally.

Respectfully yours,

Frederick Longmire

2011-2012 Stetson Moot Court
Chief Justice



2011-2012

Moot Court Season Off to a Great Start

Moot Court is one of the few law school activities that maintains a year-round competition schedule. This summer, was no different as three Stetson teams competed in two competitions in Florida.

Chad Burgess, Brooke Geiger, and Jason Lambert represented Stetson in the 2011 Robert Orseck Memorial Moot Court Competition hosted by The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division. The competition took place during the annual Florida Bar convention, which was held in Orlando.

John Henley, Christina Unkel, and Darcie Mulay as one team and **Amanda Corsentino, Paul Sarlo, and Julia Richmond**, as another, both represented Stetson at the Zehmer Worker's Compensation Competition. This competition took place during the 66th Annual Workers Compensation Educational Conference in Orlando, FL. **GREAT, Page 2**

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Great Start, from page 1

All nine competitors represented Stetson ably at their respective competitions, and the Orseck team took home several honors, repeating last year's domination. Advancing through five rounds, **Chad**, **Brooke**, and **Jason** took home Best Brief and Champion, with **Chad** and **Jason**

arguing the final round in front of all seven Justices of the Florida Supreme Court. **Jason** was named Best Oral Advocate in the final round. This was truly a great start to the 2011–2012 season!



Brooke Geiger, Chad Burgess, and Jason Lambert with the Justices of the Florida Supreme Court.

Upcoming Event

The Fourth Annual Pretrial Competition, hosted by Stetson University College of Law, will be held October 14th–16th on Stetson's Gulfport campus. This competition captures what attorneys do every day, requiring participating teams to write two trial briefs, argue the motions, and then present witnesses and a closing argument. To learn more, contact nptc@law.stetson.edu.

Stetson Moot Court Nationally Ranked!

Once again, the Stetson Moot Court Board is nationally ranked—tenth on the Blakely Advocacy Institute's rankings of moot court programs. As a result, Stetson has again been invited to the Andrews Kurth Moot Court National Championship, an honor bestowed on only the top 16 teams in the country. The current rankings are as follows:

1. U. of California—Hastings
2. Texas Tech University
3. George Washington U.
4. Mississippi College
5. South Texas
6. Duke University
7. Seton Hall University
8. Washington U.—St. Louis
9. McGeorge School of Law
10. **Stetson University**
11. University of Florida
12. Columbia University
13. Loyola U.—Chicago
14. William & Mary University

Welcome to Our Newest Moot Court Board Members!

Throughout the academic year, the Moot Court Board grows and changes. The Phelps Dunbar First-Year Appellate Advocacy Competition allows top Research and Writing II students in the part-time program to interview for a spot on the Board each fall. The Carlton Fields First-Year Appellate Advocacy Competition provides the same opportunity each spring for the top Research and Writing II students in the full-time program.

Additionally, students may complete a rigorous tryout process over the summer, consisting

of a writing exercise and oral arguments in front of panels of five judges, or may compete for a spot through the International Sales Law and Arbitration class that establishes teams for the Willem C. Vis International Arbitration Moots in Hong Kong or Vienna.

Regardless of the path onto the Board, each of these new members has proven their ability and passion to be a part of the top-ranked advocacy program in the nation. Welcome to the Moot Court Board family!

Congratulations to you all!

Deidra Brown, 2L
Chad Burgess, 3L
Amanda Chazal, 3L
William Collum, 3L
Jamie Combee, 2L
Amanda Corsentino, 3L
Diana Evans, 3L
Sharon Galantino, 2L
Jhenerr Hines, 2L
Brian Howsare, 2L
Caitlein Jammo, 2L
Erik Johanson, 2L
Erin Okuno, 2L
Julia Richmond, 2L
Carly Ross, 2L

Hey Alumni! We Want You!

Over the past few months a new focus on our Moot Court Board alumni has been gaining momentum, and we are pleased to offer you a preview.

First, as many of you know, many of our practice judges are alumni who have participated in moot court competitions, and bring their practical experience to educate and teach current members. It is the high quality of our practice judges that enables Stetson to maintain its dominance in moot court competitions.

Further, with seven teams competing in five competitions

this semester, we have practices that need judges throughout the semester. This season's competitions cover a variety of bodies of law, so please contact Professor Bowman at bowman@law.stetson.edu to learn more and to see with what practices you can assist.

Second, we are in the process of finalizing a list of all the awards Moot Court members won while on the Board. Watch the Moot Court Board website (www.law.stetson.edu/academics/advocacy/moot/) for more information.



Finally, we will be launching an alumni interface on our web page very soon, which will allow you to sign up to judge, check the status of competitions, and much more. Stay tuned for more information!

Fall 2011 Upcoming Competitions

This fall, the Moot Court Board will send seven teams to five competitions across the country. The teams will consist of two or three members.

First up is the **2011 National Veterans Moot Court Competition**, hosted by the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims Bar Association, George Washington Law School, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. The competition runs October 14–16 in Washington, D.C. Professor Michael Allen will be coaching the two teams representing Stetson.

The following weekend, two teams will represent Stetson at the **Mercer Legal Ethics and**

Professionalism Competition hosted by Mercer Law School. The competition takes place in Macon, Georgia from October 20–22. Professor Brooke Bowman and Professor Jeff Minetti will be coaching these teams.

Our third competition this semester will also be in October, the **30th Annual John Marshall Law School International Moot Court Competition in Information Technology and Privacy Law**. The competition is held in Chicago, Illinois, October 27–29. Professor Brooke Bowman and alumni Larry Miccolis will be coaching the team.

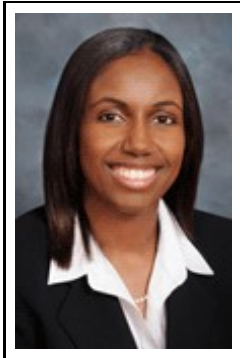
The fourth competition will be the **Appellate Lawyers As-**

sociation National Moot Court Competition in Chicago, Illinois, November 4–5. This team will be coached by Professor Michael Finch.

Finally, Stetson will compete in the regionals of the **National Moot Court Competition**, sponsored by the New York City Bar and the American College of Trial Lawyers. Regional rounds are November 16–17, in Atlanta, Georgia, with winners advancing to nationals on January 30–February 2. Professor Michael Allen and Professor Louis Virelli will be coaching this team.

Good luck to all our teams!

Alumni Spotlights



ASHLEY WARD-SINGLETON '10

Ashley Ward-Singleton joined the Moot Court Board in the Spring of 2009 through the Phelps Dunbar First-Year Appellate Advocacy Competition. Competing four times while on the Board, Ms. Ward-Singleton achieved many successes, including winning the 2010 Zehmer Workers' Compensation Moot Court Competition.

Now, Ms. Ward-Singleton practices insurance defense law at Banker Lopez Gassler, P.A.; however, her Moot Court skills continue to serve her well.

In many instances, she finds that a hearing before a judge will be distilled down to a transcript, making the clarity and persuasiveness of an oral argument even more important because it eventually becomes a written argument as a transcript. This skill was honed through hours of practice and competition as a Board member.

Additionally, Ms. Ward-Singleton stresses the importance of being as comfortable as possible in the courtroom and talking to judges, another skill gained through Moot Court.

As a word of advice, Ms. Ward-Singleton stresses working hard, and using one's Moot Court experiences to his or her advantage. By highlighting that experience in detail, others will know that you possess written and oral advocacy abilities that are not only valuable, but highly sought after by employers.



G. JENNIFER SENAPATI '09

G. Jennifer Senapati joined the Moot Court Board in the fall of 2008, and was a member of both the Moot Court Board and the ADR Board.

As a Board member, in addition to other competitions, her team finished second in the 2008 National Tax Moot Court Competition, hosted by The Florida Bar Tax Section.

As a current associate with Butler Pappas, many of Ms. Senapati's cases go through mediation, something for which Moot Court surprisingly pre-

pared her. The level of preparation required and the ability to relate to all sides of the issue are very similar to the need to present your cases clearly to a judge in a competition, making Moot Court a great training ground for her typical cases.

Furthermore, Moot Court prepared Ms. Senapati for practice by requiring her to develop a strategy from scratch and then execute that strategy in written advocacy, usually a motion before the court, but sometimes in correspondence with clients and opponents.

Ms. Senapati's recommendation for students is to focus on your written advocacy skills. So much of today's practice is not in court, but rather in writing—

through motions, letters, and briefs—making the ability to communicate clearly and persuade effectively in writing critical to success.

Ms. Senapati also believes it is very important to remember that the skills learned in Moot Court can be used to meet clients needs in other ways as well. Many clients may not have the ability or desire to go through a trial or a series of hearings, but rather simply want to settle. It then becomes important for the attorney to be able to persuade the client and the other side to reach a mutually beneficial goal that takes into account the clients' needs, wants, and objectives.

Fall 2011 Justice Board



FREDERICK LONGMIRE, CHIEF JUSTICE

Frederick Longmire is a third-year student and serves as Chief Justice of the Moot Court Board. Frederick competed in the 2010 National Criminal Procedure Tournament and was named Second-Best Oralist, Preliminary Rounds. In spring 2011, Frederick competed in the 2011 ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition, where his team, with Erik Hanson and Jason Lambert, advanced to semifinals and won the Second-Best Brief Award. In addition to serving as Chief Justice, Frederick is a member of the Black Law Student Association, a member of ABA Law Student Division, and a member of the Phi Delta Phi Legal Honors Fraternity. Frederick is from Pensacola, Florida, and graduated from the University of West Florida, with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. Prior to law school, Frederick served as the Juvenile Drug Court Coordinator for the 1st Judicial Circuit of Florida and also served on the Board of Directors for Florida Ass'n of Drug Court Professionals. He also published two articles regarding juvenile drug courts and volunteered as a fire fighter. Frederick is interested in both civil and criminal law.



ERIK HANSON, ASSOCIATE JUSTICE

Erik Hanson is a third-year, part-time student graduating in May 2012. In addition to serving as an Associate Justice, Erik is an associate for the *Stetson Law Review*. In summer 2010, he competed in the Robert M. Orseck Memorial Moot Court Competition, at The Florida Bar conference, where he won Best Oral Advocate, Final Round, and his team won Best Brief and Best Overall Team. In spring 2011, Erik competed in the ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition, where his team advanced to the semifinals and won the Second-Best Brief Award. Erik hails from upstate New York. During his undergraduate career, Erik worked for a tort defense and complex litigation firm in Fort Myers. He graduated from Florida Gulf Coast University, summa cum laude, with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a minor in International Relations. While attending Stetson, Erik works full-time for an international technology retailer. After graduation, Erik intends to stay in south Florida and practice in commercial and/or intellectual property litigation.



JASON LAMBERT, ASSOCIATE JUSTICE

Jason Lambert has lived in the Tampa Bay area for most of his life and attended Stetson University in Deland for undergrad, where he received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration in Management. Before law school, Jason worked for several years in the construction industry, ultimately selling a business focused on providing construction notice services to subcontractors just prior to entering Stetson. While at Stetson, he has served as a mentor to incoming students as a Stetson Ambassador. As a competitor for the Moot Court Board, Jason and his teammates were the Champions of the Mercer Legal Ethics and Professionalism Moot Court Competition in fall 2010 and was a regional semifinalist and Second-Best Brief Award winner at the ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition this spring. Further, Jason argued in front of the Justices of the Florida Supreme Court this past summer as part of the Champion Orseck team, and was named Best Oral Advocate, Final Round. Post graduation, Jason will continue working for a commercial and construction law firm in Palm Harbor, Florida.

The Summer Associate Experience

Each summer, law students across the country take a break from the study of law and get an opportunity to practice through internships, clerkships, and summer associate positions. Many members of Stetson's Moot Court Board participated in such programs this summer, and two of them gave us a snapshot of their experience.

Gregory Ludtka, 3L

This summer I had the opportunity to clerk at a small but well-established litigation firm, Michael P. Maddux, P.A., in Tampa. I worked on a variety of cases, but I focused on a civil rights case that was filed in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida. This case was brought on behalf of a deaf client who was thrown into a metal bench, punched, kicked, and tased by officers, as he was being arrested. The shocking incident was captured by an onlooker and posted on YouTube. It has been the source of some local publicity.

As I wrote the complaint for our client, I was constantly using the skills that I refined as a member of the Moot Court

Board. Throughout the pre-trial process, it was important to marshal all of the facts of the case and to come to an understanding of how they fit together to create a compelling and honest story that satisfied the requirements of the law. As members of the Moot Court Board, we are constantly challenged to know our facts in detail and to apply the law to the facts in the most compelling way.

I genuinely feel that my efforts as an advocate would not have been nearly as successful had I not been refining my attention to detail, my writing skills, and my ability to work with others through Moot Court. I am also convinced that my summer clerking experience provided me with a valuable new set of skills and experiences that will enhance my ability to contribute to Moot Court.

Stephanie Sawchuk, 3L

The Moot Court Board helped me with my summer associate job in a number of ways.

First, the advocacy component of Moot Court helped me—

not only in the courtroom—but in talking in front of the senior partner, presenting my research findings to my assigning attorneys, and talking in front of numerous attorneys at social events. Just the practice of standing behind the podium during practices for competitions helped me to get up in front of whoever my audience was this summer with ease (and maybe a bottle of water).

Moot Court also helped me with my summer associate job because of the extensive written training I have received over the years, particularly, in writing persuasively. One senior partner remarked how essential it was to write persuasively in a corporate firm where high-end clients are paying for zealous advocates, not objective writers. If there is a way for your client to win, the best thing a summer associate can do is to write a memorandum by addressing the counter-arguments that present themselves in the case law, but ultimately illustrating why the client can still be victorious.

Tips and Tricks from Other Summer Associates

- Never turn in a "draft." The "draft" you turn in to the associate or partner should be your "final draft" that you have edited and proofread.
- Understand that in many cases you only get a chance to present your argument to the court (or a partner) in writing. Do not plan for an opportunity to explain yourself, because it may never come.
- Never underestimate the importance of emotional intelligence. Law firms, like most employers, want to hire people that can interact well with others and "hold their own" in social settings, which translates into bringing the firm business.
- Work hard and do your best, but remember that experience is earned, not inherited.
- Choose to work at a place where you enjoy the company of the people around you, and everything else will take care of itself. If you are working in a good environment, you can meet any task.
- Work ahead so you can take advantage of opportunities that arise. You never know when a partner might be stopping by to ask you to lunch!

Upcoming Graduates

This coming December we will say goodbye to four of our Moot Court Board Members: Ashley Dusnik, Elena Kohn, Paul Sarlo, and Cory Suter. Each of them has contributed greatly to the Board, and we are pleased to list some of their accomplishments here.

**2010 E. Earle Zehmer Workers’
Compensation Moot Court Competition**
Orlando, Florida
Best Oral Advocate, Best Overall Team
Ashley Dusnik

**6th Annual ABA Law Student Division
National Arbitration Competition**
Chicago, Illinois
Semifinalist
Ashley Dusnik

**6th Annual ABA Law Student Division
Regional Arbitration Competition**
Washington, D.C.
Second Place Team
Ashley Dusnik

**7th Annual ABA Law Student Division
Regional Arbitration Competition**
Washington, D.C.
Competing This Semester
Ashley Dusnik

**2011 Willem C. Vis International Commercial
Arbitration Moot**
Vienna, Austria
Top 32 Teams (out of 260 international teams)
Elena Kohn

**2011 Mercer Legal Ethics and
Professionalism Competition**
Macon, Georgia
Competing this Semester
Elena Kohn

**2010 ABA Law Student Division National
Appellate Advocacy Competition**
Las Vegas, Nevada
Finalist
Paul Sarlo

**2011 E. Earle Zehmer Workers’
Compensation Moot Court Competition**
Orlando, Florida
Participant
Paul Sarlo

**2010 E. Earle Zehmer Workers’
Compensation Moot Court Competition**
Orlando, Florida
Best Brief Award, Semi-Finalist
Cory Suter

**29th Annual John Marshall Law School
International Moot Court Competition in
Information Technology & Privacy Law**
Chicago, Illinois
Semifinalist
Cory Suter

**19th Annual Duberstein National Bankruptcy
Memorial Moot Court Competition**
New York City, New York
Participant
Cory Suter

**30th Annual John Marshall Law School
International Moot Court Competition in
Information Technology & Privacy Law**
Chicago, Illinois
Competing this Semester
Cory Suter

Kudos!

Congratulations to the following members on some GREAT NEWS!

Stephanie Sawchuk, was recently engaged to her now fiancée, Steve Turk!

Chad Burgess, and his wife Brittany, recently welcomed their first child— a baby girl!

Ashley Dusnik was invited to and competed on Who Wants to Be a Millionaire! The episode airs in early October.

Amanda Corsentino, and her now husband, David Hames, were married this past summer!

Got some great news you would like to share? Let us know!