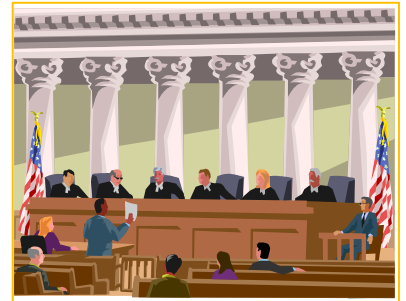


# STETSON LAW

# ADVOCACY BOARD



# 2011

# *FALL TRYOUTS*

**2011–2012 ADVOCACY BOARD  
GENERAL TRYOUT  
INFORMATION AND DEADLINES**

[www.law.stetson.edu/advocacy/tryouts](http://www.law.stetson.edu/advocacy/tryouts)

**ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION BOARD**

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Professor Kelly Feeley

**TRIAL TEAM**

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Professor Lee Coppock

**MOOT COURT BOARD**

Pages 11–13

Professor Brooke Bowman

If you  
want to be a competition team member of the nation's  
**number 1 advocacy school,**  
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 begins: Wednesday, April 13, 2011, at 5:00 p.m.

Registration ends: Wednesday, June 22, 2011, at 5:00 p.m.

Drop deadline: \*Friday, July 29, 2011, at **12:00 noon**

Announcement of students  
invited to join one or more

Advocacy Board teams: Monday, August 29, 2011

**\*DROP DEADLINE:** If you register and decide not to try out, you **MUST** send an e-mail to [tryouts@law.stetson.edu](mailto:tryouts@law.stetson.edu) no later than **noon** on Friday, July 29. **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.**

- II. **SUBJECT MATTER/PROBLEM USED FOR TRYOUTS:** Each team has a different way of distributing the problem for its portion of the tryouts. Please read the specific instructions for that team to determine when and where you should receive or pick-up the problem.
- III. **FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS:** Primary contact will be through e-mail. Sometimes we will send joint e-mails and other times we will send individual e-mails. **Please** check your Stetson e-mail 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.

## **2011–2012 ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) BOARD**

**Tryout Dates:      Friday, August 19, 2011 (Preliminary Rounds)  
                                 Saturday, August 20, 2011 (Final Round)**

### **TRYOUT INFORMATION**

#### **Eligibility**

1. Have completed R&WII;
2. Be in good academic standing;
3. Expected graduation date of May 2012 or later;
4. Must remain on the ADR Board through graduation;
5. Should not plan on being a member of a Vis team (may take the Vis class, but not be considered to compete on the Vis team);
6. Will keep your schedule open, including not registering to take the MPRE or planning out of town trips without checking with the ADR Faculty Advisor because of a potential competition conflict.
7. Attend a weekly class (currently scheduled for ***Tuesdays from 12:10 to 1:20 p.m.*** It is possible that this could change, but when planning your fall schedule, plan around keeping this time slot open); and
8. Attend a **Mandatory Orientation** with new and former ADR Board members scheduled for Saturday, September 10, 2011, from 12:30 to 6:00 p.m. at Stetson's Gulfport campus.

#### **ADR Board Tryout Process**

1. All candidates will try out in pairs;
2. You can register with or without a partner.

**Except for the final individual interview, each step of the tryout process must occur with a partner.**

#### **Registrations:**

- If you know who your partner will be, there is a place on the registration form where you can enter his or her contact information.
- Your partner must also register and include your contact information (this acts as confirmation that you both have agreed to be partners).
- **IMPORTANT:** If you list someone as a partner but he or she does not register, he or she is **not** considered to be a candidate to try out for the ADR Board, and you must then select another registered partner.

#### **Finding a partner after you have registered:**

- If you register without a partner and later decide you want to partner with someone, send an e-mail to [tryouts@law.stetson.edu](mailto:tryouts@law.stetson.edu) advising us of who your partner will be.
- Be sure your partner is copied on this e-mail. This e-mail **must** include your partner's contact information (name, e-mail, and telephone).

- **Be sure that the person you list as your partner has already signed up to try out.** Remember, if he or she is not registered, he or she is **not** considered to be a candidate to try out for the ADR Board and you must choose another partner from the tryout list.

#### **Not having a partner by the Drop Deadline:**

- After the **Drop Deadline** those without partners will be notified of who is on the “without partner” list. From this list you can arrange to partner with someone, or you will randomly be assigned a partner.

#### **Multiple Skills**

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. I look for candidates who possess as many of those different skills as possible because you never know when someone may have to fill in for another student due to an unforeseen emergency. Knowing that someone is capable of competing on any of the teams is a real asset. It is because of these required multiple skills that the tryout process has several components.

#### **Preliminary Tryout Rounds**

There are two preliminary rounds for the ADR Board tryouts:

- Negotiation; and
- Client Interview

***Friday, August 19, 2011***

***8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon***

**NEGOTIATION ROUND:**

The purpose of the negotiation is to prepare as much as possible to come up with a plan for how you are going to get what your client wants, but at the same time be flexible enough to respond to information that you learn about the other side, while building rapport with the other side and realizing that the other side has a client who it has to answer to as well.

- The negotiation will require you and your partner to negotiate an agreement, contract, or other settlement with another team trying out.
- Approximately two weeks before tryouts, both sides will receive general facts, via e-mail, so that you will know why you are both there to negotiate. Each side will also receive secret facts about just that side's client.
- The negotiations will be scheduled for approximately 15 minutes and the judges will be told that you will most likely not reach an agreement during that time. However, regardless of whether you reach an agreement, the judges can determine who has a

strong strategy, who works well with others, who can think on his or her feet, who made forward progress towards reaching the client's goals, etc.

***Friday, August 19, 2011***  
***1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.***

**CLIENT INTERVIEW:**

- The client interview will require you and your partner to interview a mock client for 10–11 minutes.
- Approximately two weeks before the tryouts, you will receive, via e-mail, a one to two sentence snippet that will include the client's name, the general nature of his or her problem, and the area of the law involved.
- You and your partner will have to ask the client the right questions to elicit as much information as possible and try to build a rapport with the client.
- Although you will most likely not finish the interview and the judges will be advised of this, there will be enough time for the judges to determine who works well with others, who can think on their feet, who can ask the right questions, etc.

**Advancing to the Final Round**

Part of being on the ADR Board is learning to work with different people

- The top individual students from the preliminary rounds will advance to the final round.
- Although both you and your partner may advance, it is possible that only one of you will.
- Regardless of whether you both advance, you will be assigned a **new** partner for the final round.

**Those candidates advancing to the final round and their new partners, will be notified via e-mail, on Friday, August 19, 2011 after the client interview round is complete and the scores have been calculated.**

**Final Tryout Round and Individual Interview**

There are two parts to the final round:

- Client Interview; and
- Individual Interview

***Saturday, August 20, 2011***

***9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon***

**CLIENT INTERVIEW:**

All final round client interviews will take place in the same room, in front of the same panel of judges, and with the same client so that the only thing different will be you—the person conducting the interview. The top students from this round will advance to the final individual interview that afternoon.

- For the final round, you and your new partner will conduct another client interview with a new mock client that will have no connection to the subject matter of the preliminary rounds.
- Friday evening, August 19, 2011, you will receive a one to two sentence snippet about the final round client, his or her problem, and the area of the law involved.
- You and your partner will have about 10–11 minutes to interview the new client on Saturday, August 20, 2011.

**Those students advancing to the individual interview will be announced via e-mail as soon as the judges have made their decisions (approximately 12:45 p.m.) and by a sheet posted outside of the tryout room.**

***Saturday, August 20, 2011***

***Approximate start time: 1:00 p.m. and running through 6:00 p.m.***

**INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEW:**

Based on your performance during the final round client interview, the top candidates will be invited back for an individual 15–20 minute interview. Although we can tell a lot from your tryout performance, there are still areas that are better addressed face-to-face in an interview. There will be a small panel (approximately three people) who will participate in the interview process.

**Announcing New Members**

Those selected to join Stetson's ADR Board will be announced Monday, August 29, to coincide with the other advocacy boards' announcements.

**Mandatory Orientation**

***Saturday, September 10, 2011***

***12:30 to 6:00 p.m.***

**MANDATORY ORIENTATION:**

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** for all new and returning ADR Board members on Saturday, September 10, 2011, from 12:30 to 6:00 p.m. on Stetson's Gulfport campus. The dress is casual and the purpose is to get to know each other and to start team bonding.

### **Preparation 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.” However, there are also some things you can do to prepare to conduct a solid interview or to plan a negotiation strategy.

- 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](http://www.law.stetson.edu/advocacy/tryouts), where you will find videos, and some book chapters on interviewing and negotiating.

### **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, trying to work out deals with opposing counsel and either mediating or arbitrating cases to try to resolve them without litigation. The ability to deal with others in varying situations is essential to being a great lawyer. The ADR Board works to prepare you to deal with those different situations, be creative with solutions, work with others, and challenge yourself.

As a member of the ADR Board you are part of a team. This team works together to help each other and prepare each other. You will be exposed to all of the ADR Board teams regardless of which team you are assigned. If chosen as a member of the ADR Board, be prepared to work hard and reap the benefits.

Finally, as a member of the ADR Board in good standing, you will 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.

Professor Kelly Feeley  
727-562-7394  
[feeley@law.stetson.edu](mailto:feeley@law.stetson.edu)



## **2011–2012 MOCK TRIAL TEAM**

**Tryout dates: Saturday, August 20, 2011 (Preliminary Rounds)  
Saturday, August 27, 2011 (Final Rounds)**

### **TRIAL TEAM TRYOUT INFORMATION**

#### **Eligibility**

1. Have completed Evidence with at least a grade of 2.5, or be enrolled in Evidence in the fall of 2011, or be eligible to be enrolled in Evidence in the fall of 2011;
2. Have completed Trial Advocacy with at least a grade of 3.0 or be enrolled in Trial Ad in the fall of 2011, or be eligible to be enrolled in Trial Ad in the fall of 2011;
3. *If an advocate, who will be enrolled in either or both Trial Ad and Evidence in the fall of 2011, does not earn a grade equal to or above the minimum listed in #'s 1 and 2 above, they may be dropped from the team.*
4. Must have a graduation date of May, 2012<sup>1</sup> or later; and
5. Be in good academic standing.

#### **Preliminary Tryout Round**

**Saturday, August 20, 2011  
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 20.**

#### **Individual Interview**

Every advocate who advances from the preliminary round will be individually interviewed during the week that follows. (This process will include those who have earned a “bye” to the final round.) This interview will be an opportunity for the Mock Trial Advisor and coaches to discuss with the advocates issues that all 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Current Trial Team members who were selected in 2010, and will be finishing in December of 2011, will still be eligible for the fall semester.

## **Final Tryout Round**

***Saturday, August 27, 2011  
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

## **Announcing New Members**

Those selected to join Stetson's Trial Team will be announced as early as Monday, August 29, but in any event, will coincide with the other advocacy boards' announcements.

## **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." Always. ***Every*** time. 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 Lee Coppock  
727-562-7838  
lcoppock@law.stetson.edu

**The Trial Team case will be available between July 15 and 30, 2011,  
either by e-mail or an e-mail which will advise you where to find the case.**

## **2011–2012 MOOT COURT BOARD**

**Tryout date: Sunday, August 21, 2011**

### **TRYOUT INFORMATION**

#### **A. Eligibility**

1. To be eligible to try out for a position on the Moot Court Board in fall 2011, a candidate must
  - a. have completed R&W II by May 2011;
  - b. have earned a 2.75 average in Research and Writing;
  - c. be in good academic standing;
  - d. have a graduation date of May 2012 or later;
  - e. will keep your 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, and the candidate must not schedule other classes that conflict with this class.);
  - g. attend an initial Board meeting, if scheduled separate from the class; and
  - h. stay on the Board until graduation.
2. The Faculty Advisor reserves the right to add Board members or to add non-Board team members when circumstances require or when a team needs special expertise.

#### **B. Competition Problem**

The competition problem will be distributed via e-mail to all students registered for the Moot Court tryouts and posted online on Monday, May 23. At this time, the writing exercise will also be released.

#### **C. Selection Process:**

The tryout process consists of the following four steps:

- a. Submitting a clean, ungraded copy of your R&W II appellate brief. The process for submitting the appellate brief is as follows:
  - a. Print one copy of your appellate brief. Make sure that there is no personal identifying information on the brief. (Please leave the random number on the brief.)
  - b. Between **Wednesday, April 20, at 9:00 a.m.**, and **Friday, May 20, at 12:00 noon**, bring the copy to the Center for Excellence in Advocacy, which is located east of Classroom A, on the first floor.
  - c. Pick up an envelope and **completely** fill out the cover sheet that you will attach to the front of the envelope.
  - d. Hand the envelope to Peggy Gordon.
  - e. **Note:** Appellate briefs will not be accepted via email.

2. Completing the “writing exercise.”
  - a. The writing exercise and instructions will all be distributed on **Monday, May 23.**
  - b. The writing exercise will be due on **Monday, July 11, by 5:00 p.m.**, to a designated TWEN site.
  - c. 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. Presenting one or two oral arguments on Sunday, August 21, 2011 (see section D below for more information):
  - a. The preliminary rounds will be held in the morning/early afternoon of August 21, 2011 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
  - b. The final rounds will be held in the afternoon/early evening of August 21, 2011, tentatively between 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
  - c. These times are subject to change depending upon the number of students participating in the tryouts.
4. All students who advance to the final rounds on Sunday, August 21, will be asked to fill out a questionnaire and sign-up for an interview sometime during the week of August 22. The interviews will be conducted by a panel consisting of professors and Moot Court Board members and alums.

**\*\*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 23.** With regard to a preliminary and/or final argument for Moot Court tryouts, we will **not** know what will be needed until the end of July. What you should do now, to be safe, **is set aside the entire day of Sunday, August 21, 2011**, for tryouts. We are planning to interview the top Moot Court candidates coming out of the final round sometime **during the week of August 22.**

##### **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.
- 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

Based on their performance during the final round, the top candidates will be invited back for a twenty-minute interview; this will take place sometime **during the week of August 22**. Although we can tell a lot from a tryout performance, there are still areas that are better addressed face-to-face in an interview. There will be a small panel (two to five people) who will participate in the interview process.

## F. Announcing New Members

Those selected to join Stetson's Moot Court Board will be announced Monday, August 29, 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 31.

Stetson's Moot Court Board is world renowned! The Board is coming off another successful year, with four championships, eight oralist awards, and four brief awards. And we are looking to add members who are committed to hard work, excellence, professionalism, and developing their research, writing, analysis, and advocacy skills.

Competing as a Moot Court Board member improves practical legal skills such as research, writing and oral advocacy. These are 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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