

The Rebuttal



What is Moot Court?

Moot Court combines the best of both worlds—persuasive written advocacy and persuasive oral advocacy! Similar to what attorneys actually do at the federal and state appellate and supreme 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.

Why did I want to join the Moot Court Board?

- ◆ Moot Court is one of Stetson's most distinguished organizations, recognized for excellence in written and oral advocacy. It offers the chance to compete at the highest level, work alongside dedicated peers, and learn from mentors who embody professionalism and discipline. That legacy of excellence is what drew me to join Moot Court, and I hope to build on that tradition while continuing to grow as an advocate. Kaitlyn Stroud, class of 2027
- ◆ I joined the Board because I enjoy research, writing, and oral advocacy. I am pursuing a career in civil litigation, and Moot Court is the perfect opportunity to hone my skills and elevate my law school experience. Colin Synder, class of 2027
- ◆ I joined Moot Court because I wanted to join a group of likeminded individuals passionate about appellate law and advocacy. My main goals for joining the Board are to improve my oral advocacy skills and strengthen my brief-writing skills. The Board's structure—allowing work with both experienced third-year students, professors, and alums—will enable me to achieve these goals through teamwork, feedback, and coaching/mentoring. Anna Janowski, class of 2027
- ◆ I joined the Moot Court Board to have the incredible opportunity to represent the entire Stetson Law community at competitions. So many professors, alumni, and current students have dedicated themselves to promulgating a reputation of excellence, and it was a dream of mine to have a chance to uphold that same legacy. Parker Schlichte, class of 2027
- ◆ I wanted to join the Moot Court Board because I fell in love with the appellate approach to legal writing in R&W II, and Moot Court is the best way to hone my skills as an advocate. Haven Twyford, class of 2027
- ◆ I wanted to join the Moot Court Board to sharpen my advocacy skills. Moot Court will give me exposure to various skills that will make me a better advocate—oral advocacy skills, teamwork, writing, etc. Above all, I look forward to breaking down complex legal issues with other like-minded individuals. Sam Hijazi, class of 2027.
- ◆ I joined Moot Court because legal writing is a critically important skill for an attorney to develop. After finishing my first-year R&W classes, I was interested in continuing to develop my writing. I also knew I enjoyed the lifeblood of Moot Court—digging into a complicated issue, then formulating the best argument for that issue based on my own research. The fact that I want a career in litigation and love present oral arguments, was just a bonus. Jack Clark, class of 2027

What Moot Court skill did I use in my job this summer?

- ◆ While interning with the Office of Legal Counsel at the Department of Justice, I relied heavily on the research and writing skills learned during my membership on Moot Court to compose memorandums for my supervisors to utilize in their briefings with executive branch officials. Moot Court membership will teach you how to efficiently research complex legal questions while also having the ability to answer them as concisely as possible. In a work environment, like the Department of Justice, these abilities are vital to ensuring that quality work is completed within the sensitive time constraints. Frank Giallourakis, class of 2026
- ◆ What moot court skill did I use this summer? Storytelling through a brief. I combed through thousands of pages of documents to construct a concise factual narrative that framed the issue on the client's side and dovetailed with the creative policy arguments. Drew Valenti, class of 2026
- ◆ I had two different opportunities this summer: The first was with the National Center for Life and Liberty, where I researched and drafted memos on First Amendment issues arising from Methodist church disaffiliation cases before the South Carolina Supreme Court and the Alabama Supreme Court. My work focused on the ecclesiastical doctrine, the use of neutral principles of law in property disputes, and the balance between the Free Exercise and Establishment Clauses—issues that required me to analyze complex precedent and frame persuasive arguments, much like in the arguments we make on Moot Court.

I also externs with a judge at Florida's Sixth District Court of Appeal, where I drafted an appellate opinion on Fourth Amendment search and seizure, observed oral arguments, and engaged in discussions on case strategy and judicial decision-making. Both experiences reinforced Moot Court skills—clear written advocacy, issue-spotting, and conversational presentation of oral arguments—while also showing me the importance of collaboration and community in the practice of law. Clayton Smith, class of 2027
- ◆ My most used Moot Court skill at my summer associate position was legal research. In almost every task, I had to find relevant case law to the plethora of issues the partners would throw at me and then explain which cases were favorable, which were unfavorable, and why, sometimes in an email or sometimes in a motion that would be filed with the court. Because these questions were usually “urgent,” Moot Court strengthened my ability to conduct extensive research quickly, meet deadlines, and provide everything the partners needed without letting anything fall through the cracks (and I am so grateful for it). Tara Basile, class of 2026

Interested in learning more about the Moot Court Board?

Watch for the announcements in The Docket 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)?

Watch for the announcements in The Docket, as the annual tryouts take place after finals in May.

****There will be an informational meeting in the late fall or early spring.****