

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

What will I learn by being a member of the Moot Court Board?

Research, writing, analysis, attribution, editing/proofreading, oral advocacy . . . are just a few of the obvious skills that Moot Court Board members learn. If we looked at Stetson's J.D. Program Learning Outcomes, membership in the Moot Court Board touches on all seven learning outcomes. However, there are so many other skills that members learn!

Looking at ABA Standard 303(b)(3), it states, "A law school shall provide substantial opportunities to students for: . . . (3) the development of a professional identity." Moot Court Board members learn so many character skills that further develop their professional identity, and this issue of *The Rebuttal* focuses on those skills.

- ♦ **Collaboration**—One of the most important skills an attorney has is the ability to work with others. Collaboration involves sharing information and knowledge; developing relationships; treating everyone with respect and as an equal; working towards a common goal; and expressing enthusiasm about team assignment and meeting new people, among other skills. On Moot Court, collaboration is not only with your colleagues, but also with faculty, alums, judges, and attorneys, as you prepare for competition. Professor Bowman, Director, Moot Court Board
- ♦ **Composure and Time Management:** I joined Moot Court because I wanted to develop attributes that practitioners possess and employers desire. Moot Court provides the experience of managing a hefty workload, maintaining your composure in stressful times, and developing time management skills. These attributes are hard to learn in a classroom, and Moot Court provides the experience required to foster the skills of a professional. John, Class of 2021
- ♦ **Honoring Commitments:** Honoring commitments is a "soft skill" that, in my opinion, can teach a hard lesson. In Moot Court, we honor the commitments we make because the repercussions may not only affect us, but they affect our teammates and our representation of Stetson. It is important to honor commitments in all that you do—when you say you will do something, people are counting on you to get it done. Ashley, Class of 2021
- ♦ **Many Character Skills Learned:** Although our curriculum at Stetson is rigorous, there are so many professional skills that we simply cannot learn in the classroom. Moot Court provided a unique opportunity to learn these critical skills, such as an ability to cooperatively work with individuals from different academic, cultural, and professional backgrounds; confrontation of one's personal weaknesses to turn them into strengths; and the discipline to perform under pressure. Moot Court provides the essential experience that helped me close the gap between feeling like simply a law student and feeling like a developing future attorney. Frieda, Class of 2021

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- ♦ **Real Lawyering Skills:** At a job interview after my oral argument in R&W II, a shareholder told me that while in school, Moot Court is the closest thing I'd get to real lawyering. The shareholder wasn't a litigator—he was a transactional lawyer. But he said, "Moot Court teaches that attention to detail, the responsibility to something bigger than yourself, the pressure, and the ability to balance it all while pushing through the nerves, really matters." Carmen, Class of 2021
- ♦ **Active Listening:** I wanted to join Moot Court to improve my active listening skills. One of the most important aspects of an oral argument is directly answering the precise question asked by the judge. Being able to listen attentively, and respectfully, is essential to being a successful advocate. Bianca, Class of 2021
- ♦ **Multi-Tasking:** Although being a part of Moot Court adds to your responsibilities as a student, it helps you learn how to juggle your competing priorities. As attorneys, you will be given multiple clients and assignments at once, and you must be able to properly handle them, all while dealing with obstacles and challenges in your personal life. Moot Court gives you a sense of what that pressure feels like and teaches you how to harness that feeling for the better. Bridget, Class of 2020
- ♦ **Attention to Details:** Attention to details is one of the most important skills that we learn in Moot Court. It is small details—in writing and in oral arguments—that impress judges and will set you apart from other competition teams. To quote Coach John Wooden, "It's the little details that are vital. Little things make big things happen." Romina, Class of 2020
- ♦ **Lifelong Learning:** Being a part of the Moot Court Board will teach me the steps of how to be a lifelong learner. In order to write a best brief or win a best oralist award for your team, it is necessary to motivate yourself to become an expert on the topic you are arguing. That means you are researching, digging into the issues, and picking apart the best arguments until the day the brief is submitted. On Moot Court, this is a fun process because you go through it with teammates who are equally enthusiastic about being experts with you. Audrey, Class of 2021
- ♦ **Receiving Feedback:** Moot Court has really helped me with my ability to receive constructive criticism and, instead of taking it to heart, using it to address my weaknesses. I think in some capacity, we are all afraid of criticism or of others discovering our weaknesses, but being told where you can improve is an essential part of developing a more complete product. Kendall, Class of 2021.
- ♦ **Facing Challenges:** I wanted an opportunity to step outside of my comfort zone and allow myself to embrace my future role as an advocate for my client. Anna, Class of 2017

Interested in learning more about the Moot Court Board?

Watch for the announcements in The Docket for more news about upcoming events and activities.

Including the Eleventh Annual Chief Justice First-Year Oral Argument Competition,
which typically takes place in the fall semester

Want to **try out** for the Moot Court Board—or the Dispute Resolution Board or Trial Team?
Watch for announcements in The Docket in the spring semester, as the annual tryouts take place
after finals in May.

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