
The Wagner Competition was co-chaired by Nathalie González and Katerina Kurteva, and the fact pattern was co-authored by Ali Jaffery and Julie Nociolo.

The first issue in this year’s fact pattern required competitors to argue whether unpaid interns are “employees” entitled to wage and overtime payments under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

The second issue required competitors to argue whether the 67 interns should be certified as a class under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and as a collective action under the FLSA.

The Final Round competitors were Shaun Roberts and Erica Blankenship from Northern Kentucky University Chase College of Law, and Dominique Hinson and Christian Dewhurst from South Texas College of Law.

Northern Kentucky University won the overall competition, and the Best Oralist Award went to Dominique Hinson from South Texas College of Law. Information about the Wagner Competition, the names of all award recipients, and a video recording of the Final Round can be found on the Wagner Competition website.

The Moot Court Association would like to thank all of the New York Law School alumni for their tremendous support in helping fill over 100 judging slots!

This year’s Final Round judges were:

**Seth Harris**  
ILR School Distinguished Scholar, Cornell University, and former U.S. Deputy Secretary of Labor

**The Honorable Joseph E. Irenas**  
U.S. District Court Judge, District of New Jersey

**Ronald Meisburg**  
Partner, Proskauer Rose LLP, Former General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board

**Rachel Bien**  
Partner, Outten & Golden LLP
Q: Why join the Moot Court Association?
A: I believe that Moot Court is the national face of NYLS. Its members represent the school throughout the country, both as to their individual skills and as to the school’s professional reputation in the legal community. After the Legal Writing Oral Arguments at the end of my first year, I wanted to develop better oral argument skills, as I knew I wanted to be a trial lawyer and litigator. I competed in Froessl to try out for the NYLS Moot Court team and was honored to have been chosen to argue as a Finalist in the 1996 Froessl Competition, whose final panel consisted of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, Second Circuit and Southern District of New York judges, and Professor Nadine Strossen on issues of same-sex marriage and physician-assisted suicide.

Q: Where have you worked?
A: For five years after graduation from NYLS in 1998, I worked for the NYC Law Department, Office of the Corporation Counsel, defending the NYPD, the FDNY, and the NYC Department of Corrections. After my tenure at the law department, I began working for Traub Lieberman Straus & Shrewsbury LLP, where I have practiced for nearly 11 years and have been a partner for over five years. After I started, the firm continued to have steady growth, and I founded the firm’s summer intern program in 2008 based on a NYLS alumni inquiry. I currently co-chair the program, and we recruit directly from the NYLS Moot Court Association, among others.

Q: Why do you recruit Moot Court students?
A: Moot Court students are taught how to advocate positions for the client and use persuasive legal writing. Coaching a competition helps develop leadership skills.

Q: How did your Moot Court experience help you in your professional life?
A: New York City Civil Court Judge Gerry Lebovits (2012-present), our former Moot Court faculty advisor, was a personal mentor and helped to shape my legal writing. As to oral advocacy, I took my first defense verdict in Federal Court one year to the day after getting admitted to practice, and I believe much of my professional success is due to my experience on Moot Court.

Q: While you were on Moot Court, where did you compete?
A: I was a Semi-Finalist at the 1997 International John Marshall Information Technology and Privacy Law Competition. I coached the Vanderbilt First Amendment Law Competition and also competed at the American University competition.

Q: You come back to judge for Froessl, you donate time and money to the Moot Court Association, and you co-founded the NYLS Moot Court Alumni Organization. Why do you continue to give back to the MCA?
A: NYLS is a close-knit community. I am personally grateful for the NYLS alumni, including one of my firm’s founding partners, Meryl Lieberman ‘81. I believe it is incumbent on our alumni to give back to the students and provide them with career guidance and job opportunities, whenever possible. It is also important for alumni to keep a finger on the pulse of the law school community and legal market.

Q: Any advice for prospective and current Moot Court students?
A: Try out for the NYLS Moot Court team—it is by far one of the best in the country. (Fact check: take a look at the trophy case on the main floor.) But, in doing so, don’t just “join” Moot Court to put it on your résumé. Do it to show prospective employers that you accomplished something other than completing required coursework. Work with a team toward succeeding at a national moot court competition—there is no greater reward as a law student. Work toward a leadership position on Moot Court. Get over the fear of public speaking, and be able to organize your arguments, so that when you go to court and have a few precious moments to get your point across, you will have a valuable skill for years to come.

As to the competitors—practice, practice, practice. Be as prepared as possible for your competition. Don’t be rehearsed or too casual, but do have a “conversation” with the judges by succinctly responding to their questions. Remember that your responsiveness while maintaining composure is just as important as the substantive point you are conveying. Practice deference to the Moot Court judges and make your alumni proud!
2013-2014 MOOT COURT COMPETITIONS

RECAP OF FALL COMPETITIONS

Emory University School of Law Civil Rights and Liberties Moot Court Competition:
Congratulations to Octo-Finalists Elona Kukaj and Nathalie González, as well as Octo-Finalists Emily Barile and Lily Ockert, and their coaches, Garrett Baldwin and Julie Nociolo.

The 32nd Annual International Moot Court Competition in Information Technology and Privacy Law at the John Marshall Law School:
Congratulations to Octo-Finalists Camellia Mokri and Areal Allen-Stewart, and their coach, Ali Jaffery.

The 31st Annual Chicago Bar Association Moot Court Competition:
Congratulations to Octo-Finalists Byron Lewis and Michael Ricchiuto, and their coach, Ariel Cabral.

The 64th Annual New York City Bar Association Moot Court Competition:
Congratulations to Semi-Finalists Raymond Queliz, Katerina Kurteva, and Antonio Perrotto, and their coach, Catherine Brunetto.

SPRING COMPETITIONS

The Evan A. Evans Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition at the University of Wisconsin Law School:
Congratulations to Octo-Finalists Matthew James—winner of the Best Oralist award—and Julie Nociolo, and their coach, Kathryn Baxter.

The 16th Annual Herbert J. Wechsler Criminal Law Moot Court Competition at SUNY Buffalo Law School:
Congratulations to Finalists Shana Pettinato and Veronica Przygocki, and their coach, Katerina Kurteva, for their Second Place finish.

The 21st Annual John J. Gibbons Criminal Procedure Moot Court Competition at Seton Hall University School of Law:
Congratulations to Semi-Finalists and Best Brief award winners Xavier Martinez and Brian Noel, and their coach, Antonio Perrotto.

The 26th Annual Domenick L. Gabrielli National Family Law Moot Court Competition at Albany Law School:
Congratulations to Quarter-Finalists Robert DeMono and Rebecca Medina, and their coaches, Nathalie González and Brooke Schwartz.

The American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Competition:
Congratulations to Eighth Best Oralist Joanna Drucker.

The 30th Annual Cardozo/BMI Entertainment and Communications Law Moot Court Competition:
Congratulations to Quarter-Finalists Catherine Brunetto and Jacquelynn Guzman, and their coach, Camellia Mokri.

The 17th Annual Federal Bar Association Thurgood A. Marshall Memorial Moot Court Competition:
Congratulations to Octo-Finalists Evan Bane and Jennifer Jimenez, and their coach, Lily Ockert.

The First Annual Touro Law Center Moot Court Competition
Congratulations to Semi-Finalists and Best Brief award winners Khushbu Patel and Jamie Kwasniewski, and their coaches, Garrett Baldwin and Joam Alisme
Congratulations to Quarter-Finalists and Third Best Brief award winners Jack Ferreri and Richard Ibarra, and their coach, Andrew Heymann.

For up-to-date recaps, please see the MCA website.
PHOTOS OF THE 2013-2014 MOOT COURT ASSOCIATION

2013-2014 Moot Court Association Executive Board

(Left to right) John G. Gibbons Competition Semi-Finalists Brian Noel and Xavier Martinez and their coach, Antonio Perrotto.

(Left to right) Herbert J. Wechsler Competition Finalist Shana Pettinato, coach Katerina Kurteva, and Finalist Veronica Przygocki.

(Left to right) Domenick L. Gabrielli Competition coach Brooke Schwartz, Quarter-Finalists Robert DeMono and Rebecca Medina, and coach Nathalie Gonzalez.

(Left to right) Cardozo/BMI Competition Quarter-Finalists Jacquelyn Guzman and Catherine Brunetto.
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