

THE MCA DOCKET

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL MOOT COURT ASSOCIATION

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FALL 2007

2007 Annual Charles W. Froessel Moot Court Competition



(From left): Sharon Sorkin, Best Final Round Advocate Charles Messina, and Joseph Niemczyk.



(From left): Charles Messina, Chris O'Donnell, Shane Humphries, and Edmond Foy.

New York Law School hosted the 31st Annual Charles W. Froessel Moot Court Competition from September 4 to 9, 2007. The exciting and competitive final round took place on September 9 in the Stiefel Reading Room at New York Law School. Almost 100 NYLS students competed in the hopes of becoming one of 36 new candidates for membership in the association.

This year's competition was diligently run by Karlton Jarrett and Devra Nemrow and the fact pattern was co-authored by Vicki Becker and John Buza. The foursome put in countless hours of work to make the competition a success. This year's fact pattern required competitors to effectively argue whether the Second Amendment provided an individual or collective right to own a gun and whether persons with mental illness constituted a quasi-suspect class for analysis under the Equal Protection Clause.

As always, the association received a tremendous amount of support from alumni and friends who helped fill over 200 judging slots. The Froessel Competition is well known for its quality

final round bench, and this year was no exception. This year's final round competitors argued in front of:

The Honorable Roger L. Gregory
U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit

The Honorable D. Brooks Smith
U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit

The Honorable Bob Barr
Former member of the United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Michael J. Sullivan
United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts & Acting Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

The Honorable Barbara Underwood
Solicitor General of the State of New York & Former Acting Solicitor General of the United States

The Honorable Dennis Feld
Deputy Director, Special Litigation and Appeals for Mental Hygiene Legal Services, Second Legal Department

Professor Susan Abraham
Associate Professor, New York Law School

This association presented awards for excellence in a variety of categories to the following competitors:

Best Team

Charles Messina & Sujan Vasavada

Best Petitioner Brief

Lev Ekster & Adam Love

Best Respondent Brief

Jean Chou & Susan Cordek

Best Preliminary Round Oral Advocate

Armando Acosta

Best Final Round Advocate

Charles Messina

Morris Orland Award for Excellence in Written and Oral Advocacy

Matthew Aboyme
Christopher O'Donnell
Maureen Lee
Brian Seidenberg
Kathleen Walters
Demia Wilburn

Welcome from Professor Abraham



As the new faculty advisor to the New York Law School Moot Court Association, I would like to congratulate the Executive Board on an excellent Froessel Competition and welcome the 2007–2008 candidates to New York Law School's Moot Court Association. I look forward to working with all of you as you prepare for your competitions, and expect it to be an exciting year with some new opportunities. This month we will begin some informal seminars focusing on different appellate advocacy skills and the role the moot court experience plays in honing those skills. I hope that these seminars will not only be useful to the students in helping them gain skills, but will also provide a forum for discussion and an opportunity to see how some of the skills learned in Moot Court apply to the real world of appellate practice.

I am already impressed with the professionalism and commitment of this year's Executive Board and can sense the enthusiasm and camaraderie of the new candidates. Here's to another successful year!

Thank You from the Froessel Co-chairs: Karlton Jarrett and Devra Nemrow



We have been truly honored to serve as the Co-chairs for the Charles W. Froessel Moot Court Competition. It was a tremendous experience and we are incredibly grateful for all of the support we received from Professor Susan Abraham, our faculty advisor, and all of the New York Law School faculty for their support and advice. We also want to thank our distinguished final round bench for giving of their experience, time, and expertise. Finally, we heartily thank the New York Law School administration and the New York Law School Moot Court Association for all of their dedication and support, without which the Froessel Competition would not be possible.

SAVE THE DATE!

Coming March 5–9, 2008:
The 31st Annual Robert F. Wager
Moot Court Competition.
Alumni judges are always needed.

Please contact the Competition
Chairs Michelle Benedetto
and Chance Miller
with any questions at
wagnermoot@nyls.edu.



The Association Members on Moot Camp Day.

Meet the Chairs: Joe and Sharon



Joseph Niemczyk, Chair

What about your position has surprised you the most?

The degree of communication and interaction with the administration has surprised me the most. This position has given me the opportunity to get to really know the people running our school and for them to get to know me. While still being a student, I have also felt like an important contributor to the future of the Association as well as the School in general.

What is your favorite aspect of your role?

Working with Sharon! Well, at least that's one of my favorite aspects. Another aspect that I really enjoy is getting to know all these people that I would never have had the opportunity to know without being a member of Moot Court. Each member has something different to contribute.

What in your background best prepared you for this role?

The experience that prepared me the best for this position was my former job as manager of a wellness center here in the city. I had such a great experience there that I still keep in touch with most of my old co-workers. I hope to form the same type of bonds with my fellow members.

Tell us something we don't know about you.

I am a huge horror film buff—especially old 80's horror films. I have the full set of *Friday the 13th* films, including *Jason X* (horrible...but aren't they all?!). The obsession is so big that friends get me history books on Jason Vorhees and Camp Crystal Lake as holiday gifts!

Sharon Sorkin, Vice Chair

What about your position surprises you the most?

On paper, jobs often fail to convey their true dimensions. I continue to be surprised by the fact that one position must engage in such a large breadth and variety of types of communication and audiences. Facilitating and coordinating communication with faculty, administrators, and students involves not only different forums for discussion, but also different means of accomplishing that discussion. Encouraging discourse and debate on behalf of the MCA and for the benefit of the MCA, to the satisfaction of multitudinous parties, is both more complex and more rewarding than I imagined.

What is your favorite aspect of the role?

One of the benefits of being a leader in the present MCA is the opportunity to have a hand in shaping its future, as well as the future of its student members. Our goal is to create an academic environment in which we foster legal education by accelerating the learning process, encouraging students to have a stake not only in the substance of what they are being taught, but also the community of excellence of which they are a part. For me, I am most fulfilled when helping students find their own paths and directions, and assisting their learning today in order for them to accomplish tomorrow.

What in your background best prepared you for this role?

My position, generally, entails problem solving. For that immediate decision, or emergency situation, I am armed with my experience as a crisis counselor. For policy decisions in which we need faculty support, canvassing and going door-to-door has made me always ready to ask for assistance. For helping students understand certain legal arguments, I am prepared with my experience creating and teaching learning programs for elementary school students. Further, working as a summer associate at Paul Weiss instilled a certainty that I can do all of the above, composed, confident, and with fearless sense of purpose.

Tell us something we don't know about you.

I am certain knowledge of law comes with an obligation to serve. My dream is to run my own full-service non-profit, with one department devoted to civil rights impact litigation, one department of social work services, and one department focused on publications of constituency voices. Therefore, tailoring, selecting cases, does not result in people devoid of services of any kind, but they can be helped either directly by the on-site social worker, or, in the alternative, provide their stories in order to garner support for their causes or generate voices of other members of the community with similar concerns.

New York Law School Moot Court Association 2007–2008 Executive Board

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The MCA Docket is a publication of the Moot Court Association at New York Law School. For more information, please contact:

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