



THE MCA DOCKET

The Newsletter of the New York Law School Moot Court Association

FALL 2017–SPRING 2018



2017–18 Moot Court Association members during the 2017 Froessel Competition with Professor Melynda Barnhart (bottom right)



2017–18 Moot Court Association Executive Board members. Left to right, top: Nicole Niermeyer, Daniel McKenna, Marissa Monteiro, Monique Baptist, Ashlyn Rich, and John Naphor. Left to right, bottom: Alison Snyder, Jessica Brenner, Brenda Alejo, Kiera Guzzo, and Christina Rizzolo.



2017 Froessel Competition Award Recipients. Left to right: Ehiguina Borha was a finalist and Best Oralist. Lili Shainis won Best Petitioner Brief. Jena Silverman won Best Respondent Brief. Corinne Hilber was a finalist. Michael Kelley won Best Preliminary Round Oral Advocate.



Dear Alumni and Friends,

It is an honor to represent the New York Law School Moot Court Association (MCA) as Chair for 2018–19! This past year's MCA Executive Board did an amazing job, adding 19 new members through the September 2017 Froessel Competition and hosting yet another great Wagner Competition! The Board did an excellent job strengthening MCA alumni relations, important work that will continue. We established a new position, Training Coordinator, and the MCA member in this role will organize our alumni database and reach out to alumni throughout the year. Additionally, we have two Associate Editor positions (one in the fall and one in the spring) that will focus on releasing more editions of *The MCA Docket* annually.

The MCA 2018–19 team is excited for the upcoming year and all that it has to offer, starting with the 42nd annual Charles W. Froessel Moot Court competition from Friday, September 21 to Sunday, September 23, 2018. Then we will look ahead to the 43rd annual Robert F. Wagner National Labor and Employment Law Competition from Friday, March 22 to Sunday, March 24, 2019. Please save the dates on your calendar! We will need judges to ensure that we have another great year!

Sincerely,

Lili Shainis
2018–19 Moot Court Association Chair



Dear Alumni and Friends,

It’s been a wonderful year for the New York Law School Moot Court Association! I am in awe of our members and all that our team accomplished this year. From organizing the annual Charles W. Froessel Intramural Competition in September to putting together the ever-successful Robert F. Wagner National Labor and Employment Law Competition in March, and subsequently helping to organize the first-ever Co-Curricular Demonstration for the NYLS community, our members have been busy! But that’s not all.

We are proud to celebrate the advancements of our competition teams: In fall 2017, we were octo-finalists in the National Health Law Competition in Carbondale, Illinois and quarterfinalists in the National Veterans Law Moot Court Competition in Washington, D.C. To top it off, the NYLS MCA won the regional level of the National Moot Court Competition hosted here in New York City, receiving the Best Brief, Best Team, and First Place Overall awards.

In spring 2018, MCA continued to shine: The National Moot Court Competition team went on to the semifinals at the national level. A few weeks later, our team went on to the octo-finals at the Tulane Sports Law Competition in New Orleans, Louisiana. Additionally, we advanced to the quarterfinals and the octo-finals of the Domenick L. Gabrielli Family Law Moot Court Competition in Albany and the Cardozo BMI (Broadcast Music, Inc.) Moot Court Competition in New York City, respectively. Our team also advanced to the octo-finals of the Kaufman Securities Law Moot Court Competition. Finally, in Buffalo, the NYLS MCA argued in the finals at the Wechsler Criminal Law Moot Court Competition, placing second nationally.

I am supremely proud of all we have accomplished and the steps the 2017–18 Executive Board has taken to secure future success for the team. We have created new Executive Board positions, implemented policies that will increase internal training standards, intensified our recruitment efforts, and strengthened our connection with the MCA alumni network. As a graduating member of this team, I wanted to ensure that there was a way to keep all past MCA members connected. There is no better source of inspiration than members of this team, past and present.

Serving as this year’s Chair has been the highlight of my law school career and has provided me with memories that I will forever cherish. To my team, my Executive Board, and all of those who came before us and who will follow: thank you, thank you, thank you! I cannot wait to see what MCA does next.

Sincerely,

Brenda Alejo
2017–18 Moot Court Association Chair

2017 Fall Competitions: Awards

Competition	Location	Competitors	Award(s)
Wechsler First Amendment Competition	Washington, D.C.	Brenda Alejo • Monique Baptist • Milvelys Hernandez • Christin Spinelli	Competed With Distinction
National Health Law Competition	Carbondale, IL	Evgenia Chaverdova • Danielle Cipollina • Christina Fiore • Christina Rizzolo	Octo-Finalists
National Veterans Law Moot Court Competition	Washington, D.C.	Kiera Guzzo • Marissa Monteiro • Ashlyn Rich	Quarterfinalists
National Moot Court Competition (New York Region)	New York, NY	<i>Team A</i> Christopher Fernandez • Isabel Hernandez • Nicole Niermeyer • Shanaye Sweet <i>Team B</i> Venessa Marston • Daniel McKenna • Diandra Romero • Jacques Zelnik	<i>Team A</i> First Place <i>Team A Awards</i> Best Brief • Best Team <i>Team B</i> Competed With Distinction
Chicago Bar Moot Court Competition	Chicago, IL	<i>Team A</i> Brenda Alejo • Patrick MacDonell • Ryan Medler • John Naphor <i>Team B</i> Jessica Brenner • Stefano Perez • Alison Snyder	<i>Team A and Team B</i> Competed With Distinction

2018 Spring Competitions: Awards

Competition	Location	Competitors	Award(s)
National Moot Court Competition (Nationals)	New York, NY (New York City Bar Association)	Christopher Fernandez • Nicole Niermeyer • Christin Spinelli (coach) • Shanaye Sweet (coach)	Semifinalists
Price Media Law Competition	New York, NY (Cardozo School of Law)	Ethan Binder • Corinne Hilber • Christina Fiore (coach)	Competed With Distinction
Tulane Sports Law Competition	New Orleans, LA	Jessica Brenner • Erika Pedersen • Alison Snyder	Octo-Finalists
National Appellate Advocacy Competition	New York, NY	Isabel Hernandez • Monique Zabihzadeh • Jena Silverman (coach)	Competed With Distinction
Domenick L. Gabrielli Family Law Moot Court Competition	Albany, NY	<i>Team A</i> Meenka Maharaj • Olivia Robertson • Milvelys Hernandez (coach) <i>Team B</i> Kelly Burke • Danney Salvatierra • Lili Shainis	<i>Team A</i> Competed With Distinction <i>Team B</i> Quarterfinalists
Duberstein Moot Court Competition	Queens, NY (St. John's School of Law)	Brenda Alejo • Monique Baptist • Robin Wills • Jessica Brenner (coach)	Competed With Distinction
Cardozo BMI Moot Court Competition	New York, NY (Cardozo School of Law)	William Gosling • Mordechai Silberstein • Patrick MacDonell (coach)	Octo-Finalists
Price Evidence Moot Court Competition	Brooklyn, NY (Brooklyn Law School)	Michael Kelley • Daniel McKenna • Kiera Guzzo (coach)	Competed With Distinction
John J. Gibbons Criminal Procedure Moot Court Competition	Newark, NJ (Seton Hall School of Law)	Marissa Monteiro • Ashlyn Rich • Christina Rizzolo (coach)	Competed With Distinction
Thurgood Marshall First Amendment Moot Court Competition	Washington, D.C.	Tarrian Ellis • John D. Naphor • Wesley Brandt (coach)	Competed With Distinction
Wechsler Criminal Law Moot Court Competition	Buffalo, NY	Brenda Alejo • Kayla Canasi • Stefano Perez (coach)	Finalists
Kaufman Securities Law Moot Court Competition	New York, NY	Ehiguina Borha • Martina Watson • Monique Baptist (coach)	Octo-Finalists

Alumni Spotlight

by Marissa Monteiro

Last semester, I had the opportunity to catch up with two of our esteemed alumni and to ask them about themselves and the lessons they've learned post-MCA and NYLS.



Jean Chou '09

Job: Owner, JLC Associates

Hometown: Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and has lived in Australia, New Jersey, and Boston, Massachusetts. New York has been her home for 11 years.

As lawyers, we are taught to seek out differences. As Moot Court Association members, we learned to identify the distinctions between cases in our brief writing and oral arguments, with the goal of strengthening our points and weakening the points of the opposing party. I spoke with two distinguished alumni in very different industries, and although I noticed the distinctions in their legal careers, I was also struck by their similarities.

Jean Chou always knew she wanted her own firm. Only a year after graduating from NYLS, Jean embarked on a career as a solo practitioner, practicing real estate law. Almost a decade later, she is managing a small team of three attorneys, two paralegals, and an office manager. At times, she has wanted to expand, but she thinks the firm's current size gives it a family feel. It also allows her to keep the quality of the firm's services high while she builds her brand.

Alexander Noble always knew he would be a litigator. He currently works as an Assistant



Alexander Noble '14

Job: Assistant Corporate Counsel, New York City Law Department

Hometown: Westchester, New York

Corporation Counsel for the New York City Law Department, where he litigates civil rights cases in federal court. His practice focuses on defending the city and individual police officers who are sued. His passion for oral advocacy was strengthened by his time with the MCA. He won First Place Individual Oralist in the 2012 Charles W. Froessel Intramural Moot Court Competition and went on to co-author the fact pattern for Froessel in 2013. Alex attributes his success as a litigator to his development of skills through his time on the MCA.

Though Jean and Alex come from different backgrounds, what they share, other than NYLS, is their emphasis on the value of relationships before and after law school. Jean stressed the importance of her classmates being in the industry. Classmates have referred clients to Jean's firm, and she finds that an important skill MCA has taught her is the ability to speak with clients and other attorneys to market herself and to aid in negotiations and dispute resolution.

Alex puts a similar emphasis on the importance of relationships. A lot of opportunities, he says, come from people who trust you. Being open and straightforward in your interactions with others can lead to opportunities.

The most important question I had for these two successful alumni was, "What advice would you give to those who are sitting in our shoes?" While both emphasized the need to develop strong relationships, they also had individualized advice based on their experiences. Alex noted the importance of listening to other people. Jean spoke about striving for work-life balance and asserted that mindfulness is central to being happy. Jean also advised that anyone who is thinking about opening his or her own firm should specialize in one type of law. Doing so, she says, allows you to market yourself as an expert in that field.

2018 Moot Court Association Graduates

Brenda Alejo

Hometown: Austin, Texas
 Undergraduate: Texas State University
 Legal Interests: Constitutional Law and Appellate Advocacy
 Affiliations: Dispute Resolution Team and Center for Real Estate Studies

Monique Baptist

Hometown: Brooklyn, New York
 Undergraduate: St. John's University
 Legal Interests: Juvenile Delinquency, Criminal Law, and International Law
 Affiliations: Trial Competition Team, Equal Rights Coalition, Student Bar Association, Impact Center for Public Interest Law, Center for International Law, Black Law Students Association, and First Generation Professionals

Jessica Brenner

Hometown: Bayonne, New Jersey
 Undergraduate: Kean University
 Legal Interests: Real Estate Transactions, IRC 1031 Acquisitions, and Triple NNN Lease Properties
 Affiliations: Cyberharrasment Clinic, Innovation Center for Law and Technology, and Student Ambassadors

Danielle Cipollina

Tarrian Ellis

Hometown: Jacksonville, Florida
 Undergraduate: University of Florida/Florida International University
 Legal Interests: International Commercial Law
 Affiliations: Black Law Students Association (President), Dispute Resolution Team, Center for

International Law, Center for Business and Financial Law, Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, Military Justice and Veterans Association, and Securities Arbitration Clinic

Christina Fiore

Lina Goto

Hometown: Scarsdale, New York
 Undergraduate: Boston University
 Legal Interests: Labor and Employment Law
 Affiliations: *New York Law School Law Review*

Kiera Guzzo

Hometown: Floral Park, New York
 Undergraduate: St. Francis College
 Legal Interests: Estate Planning and Litigation
 Affiliations: National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys

Milvelys Hernandez

Hometown: New York, New York
 Undergraduate: John Jay College of Criminal Justice
 Legal Interests: Criminal Law
 Affiliations: Black Law Students Association, Impact Center for Public Interest Law, and Criminal Prosecution Clinic

Patrick MacDonell

Hometown: Indianapolis, Indiana
 Undergraduate: University of Notre Dame
 Legal Interests: Criminal Law, Constitutional Law, Evidence, and Criminal Procedure

Venessa Marston

Ryan Medler

Hometown: St. Louis, Missouri
 Undergraduate: University of California, Los Angeles
 Legal Interests: Personal Injury Law, class actions, and mass torts
 Affiliations: Student Bar Association, Trial Competition Team, and *New York Law School Law Review*

John D. Naphor

Hometown: Flanders, New Jersey
 Undergraduate: Drew University
 Legal Interests: Litigation, Constitutional Law, and Criminal Law

Meenka Maharaj

Hometown: Orlando, Florida
 Undergraduate: Florida State University
 Legal Interests: Intellectual Property Law, specifically copyrights in music
 Affiliations: Student Bar Association, Trial Competition Team, Impact Center for Public Interest Law, and Innovation Center for Law and Technology

Stefano Perez

Hometown: Newark, New Jersey
 Undergraduate: Florida State University
 Legal Interests: Constitutional Law, Litigation, and Health Law
 Affiliations: Municipal Litigation Defense Clinic, Center for New York City Law, Trial Competition Team, and Latin American Law Students Association

Ashlyn Rich

Hometown: Sophia, North Carolina
 Undergraduate: Campbell University
 Legal Interests: Criminal Law and

Constitutional Law

Affiliations: *New York Law School Law Review*, OutLaws, and Impact Center for Public Interest Law

Christina Rizzolo

Hometown: Paramus, New Jersey
 Undergraduate: Montclair State University
 Legal Interests: Criminal Prosecution
 Affiliations: Criminal Prosecution Clinic (New York County District Attorney's Office)

Diandra Romero

Hometown: Brooklyn, New York
 Undergraduate: Temple University
 Legal Interests: Intellectual Property Law
 Affiliations: Black Law Students Association and Trial Competition Team

Alison Snyder

Hometown: Nazareth, Pennsylvania
 Undergraduate: Temple University
 Legal Interests: Landlord/Tenant Law and Real Estate Law
 Affiliations: Center for Real Estate Studies, Rooftops Project, and Student Ambassadors

Shanaye Sweet

Hometown: Brooklyn, New York
 Undergraduate: John Jay College of Criminal Justice
 Legal Interests: Immigration Law
 Affiliations: Safe Passage Project and Black Law Students Association

Jacques Zelnik

Hometown: New York, New York
 Undergraduate: Tulane University
 Legal Interests: Corporate Law

2018–19 Moot Court Association Members

Executive Board

Lili Shainis
Chair

Corinne Hilber
Vice Chair

Olivia Robertson
Training Coordinator

Ethan Binder and Monique Zabihzadeh
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Kayla Canasi and Michael Kelley
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Danney Salvatierra and Jena Silverman
Wagner Authors

Members

Ehiguina Borha

Christopher Fernandez

Isabel Hernandez

Daniel McKenna

Nicole Niermeyer

Mordechai Silberstein

Christin Spinelli

Robin Wills



2017–18 Moot Court Association members at the 2018 Wagner Ball

Three Ways to Support MCA Students

1. **Sit on a Hot Bench:**
Volunteer as a judge for the Froessel Competition in the fall or the Wagner Competition in the spring. Watch your email for invitations. CLE credit is available.
2. **Make a Gift:**
Your gift to the Moot Court Fund helps cover competition expenses, such as fees, travel, and lodging. Donate online at www.nyls.edu/give (under the "Other" designation, specify "Moot Court Fund"), or send a check to New York Law School, Office of Institutional Advancement, 185 West Broadway, New York, NY 10013.
3. **Share Your Skills:**
Moot students who are preparing for competitions, and help NYLS continue its impressive record.

Interested? Contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at alumni@nyls.edu or 212.431.2800.