31st Annual Moot Court Competition Renamed and Scholarship Established in honor of Lenny Mandell

The 31st Prize Moot Court Competition was particularly special, as it was the last to be coordinated by Lenny Mandell who retired in June as Associate Dean of Student Services and Faculty Advisor for the Moot Court Society after 31 years of service. In appreciation for his dedication, Dean Rosato issued a proclamation and the competition was re-named the Lenny B. Mandell Moot Court Competition. In addition, NIU Law alumni Austin Bartlett ('00) and Bob Meltzer ('85) established the Leonard Mandell Scholarship as lead donors, which will sponsor a student interested in advocacy during law school.

31st Annual Moot Court Competition
Final Bench and Finalists

The 31st Annual NIU College of Law Prize Moot Court Competition finals were held on March 2, 2013. Competitors argued a case in which a permanent resident of the United States was arrested for distribution of marijuana and disputed an aggravated felony charge that would result in his removal from the country.

Presiding over the final round of competition were (seated, from left): Michael A. Scodro, Esq., Solicitor General, Office of the Illinois Attorney General; Chief Judge Michael P. McCuskey, United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois; and Magistrate P. Michael Mahoney, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Standing (from left) are finalists Kate Guensburg & Manar Zayed and the first place team of Amanda Wielgus & Anthony Gough.
**Associate Dean’s Corner**

All change, even that which we most desire, possesses moments of anticipation and trepidation; for what we leave in the wake is a part of ourselves.

In the past 31 years . . .
I have seen our competition grow from five teams to twenty teams;
I have read hundreds of your appellate briefs;
I have watched hundreds of your oral arguments.
I have watched your team win;
I have watched your team lose.
I have watched you cry with joy;
I have watched you cry with sadness.
I have watched you grow from a fourth-semester law student to an extremely well-prepared appellate advocate, in the course of one competition. And it always impressed me.
I have called on you to return as alumni judges, and you always answered the call.

I have called on judges, from the State circuit court to the Illinois Appellate and Supreme Courts; from the Federal District Court to the Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court, and many of them answered my calls to share their expertise with you.

I have treasured your generous gifts of time, knowledge, and friendship.

I have been especially honored and humbled by Dean Rosato’s proclamation to name the moot court competition in my name, and by Bob Meltzer’s and Austin Bartlett’s benevolence to create a scholarship in my name so that future students will receive the benefits from our NIU College of Law education and experience.

And even though you have all changed from second-year law students to third-year law students to graduates and alumni to practicing attorneys and legal professionals, know that over the years what you have left behind became a part of me as well.

And for that, I sincerely thank you.

Lenny
Associate Dean for Student Services (ret.)

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**Distinguished Panels Serve on Moot Court Semi-Final Benches**

The Moot Court Society was honored to welcome the following Illinois Appellate Court Justices and Chief Judge as semi-final round judges.

**Hon. Joseph E. Birkett**
2nd District Appellate Court

**Hon. Judith Brawka**
Chief Judge, 16th Judicial Circuit

**Hon. Michael J. Burke**
2nd District Appellate Court

**Hon. Ann Jorgensen**
2nd District Appellate Court

**Hon. Mary Seminara-Schostock**
2nd District Appellate Court

**Hon. Robert Spence**
3rd District Appellate Court

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**Preliminary Round and Brief Judges**

The Moot Court Society sincerely thanks the following alumni, faculty, and friends for giving of their time to serve as competition judges. We are always grateful for the continuing support of the NIU Law community in helping students participate in these activities.

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<th>Meaghan Alexander (’04)</th>
<th>Brent Eames (’09)</th>
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<td>Nick Alexander (’07)</td>
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*brief judges
Students Excel in External Competition

Phillip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition
The team of (from left): Matt De Paz, Spencer Langford, Jeremy McCabe, Lindsay Vanek, and Sarmistha Banerjee, coached by Professor Dan Reynolds, won three awards this year. In addition to earning 3rd Best Memorial honors out of 21 teams, Lindsay Vanek was ranked 5th Best Oralist and Sarmistha Banerjee was ranked 2nd Best Oralist out of 90 oral competitors. The competition was held February 2-3, 2013 at the Chicago Kent School of Law.

National Latino/a Law Student Association Moot Court Competition
The team of (from left): Manar Zayed, Jazmin Newton-Butt, coach Professor Robert Jones, Guillermo Gasue, and George Michael Gomez helped put NIU Law into the quarterfinal round of the competition held in Los Angeles on October 4-5, 2012. Newton-Butt and Zayed were awarded Best Respondent’s Brief of the competition.

Appellate Lawyers Association Moot Court Competition
Seth McClure (left) and Michael Myers represented NIU Law November 2-3, 2012 in Chicago. The team was one of twelve teams invited to participate. They were coached by legal writing instructors Jeanna Hunter, Elsa Miller, and Meredith Stange.

International Moot Court Competition in Information Technology and Privacy Law
The team of (from left): Karen Levin, Carolyn Nevin, and Richard Harris represented NIU Law October 25-27, 2012 in Chicago. The team won 5th Best Brief and advanced to the Octofinal Round. They were coached by Lenny Mandell, Stacey Mandell (’96), and a number of alumni.

Moot Court Society Thanks Outgoing Board & Welcomes New Board
Thanks to outgoing Moot Court Board members (seated from left): Justice Carolyn Nevin, Chief Justice Karen Levin, Justice Anne McLean, (standing from left): Justice Nicole Anderson and Justice Michael Meyers.
We are pleased to welcome incoming Board members Chief Justice Kate Guensburg and Justices Manar Zayed, Megan Ditzler, Josh Smentek, Liz Weir, and Lindsey Claeyssen.

Leonard Mandell Scholarship
Seeks Donations
Thanks to the generosity of Bob Meltzer (’85) and Austin Bartlett (’00), their contributions as lead donors have established the Leonard Mandell Scholarship for students.
Donations are sought to help this scholarship grow and benefit students interested in advocacy.

Friends of Moot Court Society
Seeks Donations
As the number of competitions available to Moot Court Society members continues to grow, so does expenses. Donations can be made to help defray costs such as entry fees, hotel, travel, and other related competition expenses; in addition to the Mandell Moot Court Competition, Awards Banquet, and receptions.

If you are interested in making a donation or a gift-in-kind for one of these programs, please send a check (on memo line, write Mandell Scholarship or Moot Court) to:
Greg Anderson, Director Career Opportunities & Development NIU College of Law DeKalb, IL 60115 phone: 815.753.9604 email: ganderson@niu.edu
2013-14 Competition Schedule

October 2013
24-26 32nd Annual International Moot Court Competition in Information Technology and Privacy Law, Chicago

November 2013
1-2 Appellate Lawyers Association Moot Court Competition, Chicago
TBD National Moot Court Competition

February 2014
TBD NIU Law Lenny B. Mandell Moot Court Competition - First & Second Round Preliminary Arguments
TBD NIU Law Lenny B. Mandell Moot Court Competition Semi-Finals

March 2013
1 NIU Law Lenny B. Mandell Moot Court Competition Finals and Awards Banquet

2013-14 External Moot Court Competition

Teams Named

National Moot Court Competition
Lindsay Claeyseen, Anthony Gough & Amanda Wielgus

International Moot Court Competition in Information Technology and Privacy Law
James Lindstrom, Alexis Simmons & Matt Nagy

Appellate Lawyers Association Moot Court Competition
Megan Ditzler & Elizabeth Weir

Please check the NIU Law website at www.niu.edu/law for updated information and specific dates as they become available.