

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW MOOT COURT
TEAM SELECTION PROCESS**

DATE: September 2, 2011

TO: Interested 2nd and 3rd Year Students

FROM: Dean Hill Rivkin
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SUBJECT: Team Selection (3 members)

The National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition will be held at Pace University School of Law in White Plains, New York, on February 23-25, 2012. In past years, teams from our Law School have advanced to the finals, semi-finals, and quarter-finals of this now 75 team competition. Our students have been recognized for the high quality of their advocacy, both written and oral. The competition brings together a critical mass of lawyers, judges, law school faculty, and students from around the country for an intensive three-day competition and education in the environmental law field. Last year's Team, composed of Steven Stewart (11), Nathan Tilly (3L), and Spencer Williams (3L), advanced to the Quarterfinals of the competition and won our Law School's award for the Best Moot Court Brief.

The competition problem will be available around October 3, 2011. The brief for the competition, which must be the exclusive handiwork of the team members, is due on November 29, 2011. Preparation for oral advocacy will begin at the start of the January, 2012, semester. In past years, the team has practiced oral arguments before accomplished environmental and appellate lawyers from the community, as well as law school faculty and students.

Because the rules of the competition require the team members to prepare the brief exclusively on their own, in selecting members of the team I have always placed surpassing importance on writing skills. My theory is that, given careful and adequate preparation, all motivated law students with the determination to practice and learn about oral advocacy can and will become competent advocates for the competition. Experience has proven this theory largely to be true. Given the rules and time frame, the same may not be true for the brief-writing part of the competition. Consequently, the three members of the team will be selected based on an anonymous evaluation of two legal writing samples. If you do not have two legal writing samples, you may submit a piece of nonlegal writing. Take strict care to preserve your anonymity.

Also, on a separate sheet, please list all of the Law School courses that you have taken and are taking now. If you are a 2L, you need only list your current courseload. This information will factor into the selection process if my evaluation of the writing samples does not yield three clear candidates for the team. Under these circumstances, preference will be given to students who have taken or are now taking Environmental Law & Policy and/or Administrative Law.

Because I shall evaluate your writing samples anonymously, the Student Records Office will administer the distribution and collection of your packets. They will ensure the integrity of the process (as will I). Your materials must be turned into the Student Records Office no later than Monday, September 26, 2011, by 4 pm. I shall announce the team no later than Oct. 3. The announcement will be posted on my bulletin board. If anyone has any questions about this process or the competition, please contact me, preferably by email. The Records Office will assign you a number to put on your packet. Thank you for your participation. I look forward to working with three of you. Good luck!