

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW MOOT COURT TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

DATE: 25 August 2008

TO: Interested 2nd and 3rd Year Students

FROM: Dean Hill Rivkin
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SUBJECT: Team Selection (3 members) For National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition

The National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition will be held at Pace University School of Law in White Plains, New York, on February 19-21, 2009. In past years, teams from our Law School have advanced to the finals, semi-finals, and quarter-finals of this now 72 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.

The competition problem will be available around October 4, 2008. The brief for the competition, which must be the exclusive handiwork of the team members, is due in early December. Preparation for oral advocacy will begin at the start of the January, 2009, 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 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 close 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.

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 22, 2008, by noon.** I shall announce the team soon after. The announcement (numbers only) will be posted on my bulletin board. If anyone has any questions about this process or the competition, please contact me. Although I'm not in residence this semester at the College of Law, please feel free to communicate with me by email or phone about any aspect of the competition. Sam Evans and Richard Darby, both 3Ls, were members of last year's team and would be happy to share their experiences with you.

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!