On November 10-11, two UC Davis teams competed in the regional round of the New York Bar Association’s National Moot Court Competition. John Stoller (’12) and Alana Thorbourne (’12) argued well and narrowly missed qualifying for the second day of arguments. Kurt Oldenburg (’12), Jan Roos (’12), and Brittany Sachs (’12) won four consecutive arguments -- two in the Ninth Circuit -- to reach the final round, where a split four-judge panel sided with UC Berkeley by a margin of two points. The team earned Second Place, securing an invitation to represent Northern California and UC Davis in the final round of the National Competition, which were held in New York City at the end of January.

The team also earned Third Place Best Brief and Mr. Roos was named Best Oral Advocate for the preliminary rounds.

At the competition’s finale in Manhattan, NY, the team narrowly missed advancing to final rounds and won praise from presiding judges for outstanding oral advocacy. King Hall’s dominance in the regional rounds and strong presence in New York mark the continued growth of an already excellent Appellate Advocacy Program.

The teams would like to thank their coach, Edward Brown (’12), Professors Noonan, DeSantis, and Larson, as well as recent UCD Alumni Scott Grzenczyk (’11) and Daniel Watts (’11) for preparing them for this competition.
UC Davis Hosts 5th Annual Asylum Moot Court Competition

The UC Davis Asylum & Refugee Law National Moot Court Competition is the only competition in the nation devoted exclusively to the topic of asylum and refugee law. It is also the only immigration law moot court competition on the West Coast. The competition provides law students from across the country the opportunity to participate in a hypothetical appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. Competitors will write a brief as either respondent or petitioner on an issue related to asylum and refugee law.

Shortly after submitting their briefs, students participated in oral arguments. Students' briefs and oral arguments were judged by prominent judges, attorneys and scholars that specialize in the areas of immigration law and/or appellate advocacy.

This year, for the first time, the Asylum & Refugee Law National Moot Court Competition was expanded to a two-day event, and now includes a quarter-final round.

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The first round of oral arguments took place on February 3, 2012, at the law school, with the competition concluding on the following day. The arguments on February 4, 2012, occurred at the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, located at 501 I St. in Sacramento.

The competition this year was fierce with a larger field than any previous year. Competitors came from all over the country, including NYU, Columbia, Cornell, Notre Dame, and UC Hastings, among others. When the dust settled, the team of Nasralla and Schmidt from UC Hastings took first place, with Campbell University and San Joaquin College of Law rounding out second and third place, respectively. The top oral advocate award went to Liya Arushanyan from Santa Clara University and the top brief came from Caitlin Shelter and Ryan Raybould of Notre Dame University.

The Board would like to thank this year's exceptional roster of attorneys and judges who served as our Supreme Court justices and to acknowledge Jason Liu, Chris Magaña, and Denise Mendez for their tireless work in administering the competition.

For more information, please contact the Asylum Chair, Jason Liu, at jasliu@ucdavis.edu.

King Hall Team Participates in Whittier's Juvenile Law Competition

On February 3rd and 4th, 2012, Julia Luster ('13) and Jacques Baritot ('13) competed in the Whittier Law School Juvenile Law Moot Court Competition in Costa Mesa, CA. After two long days of intense questioning and high-energy arguments, Luster and Baritot made it to the quarter finals before being eliminated. The team would like to thank their coach, Denise Mendez ('12), as well as the many people who helped prepare them, including Dean Johnson, Judge Jaime Roman, Judge Petre, Professor Joslin, Professor Mendez, Professor DeSantis, Alex Vahdat ('12), Kurt Oldenburg ('12), Tyler Layton ('12), Scott Judson ('12), Roya Ladan ('12), Cristina Chirica ('12), Joanna Cuevas-Ingram ('12), and Anthony Betten-court ('12).
UC Davis Teams Compete in ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition in San Francisco

From March 1-3, 2012, two teams from UC Davis competed in the American Bar Association’s National Appellate Advocacy Competition in San Francisco. Thirty-two teams from around the country competed in this regional event, held to be the most difficult of its kind in the nation, for four invitations to the national event. This year’s competition was based on a hypothetical patient with autism who was denied Applied Behavior Analysis therapy under his fictional state’s Medicaid waiver program and under his mother’s large group health plan. The teams submitted briefs in January and argued for both sides in the argument rounds in March.

The team made up of Edward Brown (‘12), Ariel Brownell (‘12), and Christopher Magaña (‘12) went 2 and 1 based on oral arguments, but were knocked out prior to the final rounds. The second team, consisting of Ryan Norman (‘12), Brian Morimune (‘13), and Zachary Schultz (‘13), advanced into bracketing on Saturday afternoon. The team was seeded 12th and went on to defeat the 5th-seeded team from McGeorge School of Law to advance to the final round, where they were narrowly defeated by Baylor Law School.

The team would like to thank their coach, Collin Kilpatrick (‘12), for his help. They would also like to recognize and thank the following people for their assistance: Professors Lisa Ikemoto and Sujatha Branch, Michael Kilpatrick, and Scott Grzenczyk (‘11). A special thanks goes out to King Hall NAAC team alum Ryan McCarroll (‘01) who devoted several late nights to helping the teams polish their arguments.

King Hall 2Ls Compete at Williams Institute, UCLA

On Saturday, March 10, 2012, two Davis teams competed in the Eighth Annual Williams Institute Moot Court Competition at the UCLA School of Law. Thirty-eight teams from around the nation addressed the questions of the judicial impartiality and constitutionality of disclosure laws with respect to sexual orientation. Both teams of Matthew Pearson (‘13) and Jasmine Tzeng (‘13) as well as Mitesh Bhakta (‘13) and Tom Morris (‘13) were narrowly defeated during the quarterfinal rounds.

The teams would like to thank Professor DeSantis and King Hall alumni Sarah Asplin (‘08), Kim Lucia (‘09), Theo Cuison (‘11), Scott Grenczyk (‘11), James Tiehm (‘11), and coach James Beck (‘12), for donating the time to help the teams prepare for their competition.

King Hall Competes in Mardi Gras Sports Law Competition

From February 15-17, 2012, UC Davis students Brandon Shelton (‘12) and Collin Kilpatrick (‘12) competed in The 17th Annual Mardi Gras Sports Law Invitational Competition in New Orleans. Thirty-two teams from around the country competed in the competition which is the only sports law appellate advocacy competition in the country. This year’s competition was based on a labor dispute between a players union and a sports league, and focused on labor and antitrust laws. The team submitted briefs in January and argued for both sides in the argument rounds in February. Both students received exceptional marks from the judges for their oral advocacy and made it out of the preliminary round and advanced to the round of 16. Ultimately, the students were defeated by a narrow margin by a team from Seton Hall School of Law, who were Semi Finalists in the competition. The team would like to thank their coach, Jan Michael Roos (‘12) for his assistance in prepping for oral arguments and overall support.
The Program

Each fall semester, a majority of the law school’s second year students participate in Appellate Advocacy (commonly called “Moot Court”) as an elective, attending lectures on appellate skills and participating in a series of practice oral arguments. The course in the fall culminates in the law school’s annual Intraschool Moot Court Competition, in which the students participate in appellate arguments which are judged and critiqued by dozens of local attorneys and judges who volunteer their time. Students who continue Appellate Advocacy in the spring semester focus their attention on appellate brief writing. The top students each year are selected to participate in the law school’s annual Neumiller Competition, the final round of the law school’s Moot Court Competition.

The Moot Court Board oversees the competitions and assists the Appellate Advocacy professors with the labs and oral argument skill building. The Board is selected from these students, with the top nine advocates automatically receiving an invitation to join. The remaining members are chosen based on applications submitted to the outgoing Board.

A Message from the Chair

Dear Alumni and Volunteers:

The Fall 2011 semester went amazingly well. As you probably have already read (unless you decided to skip straight to the end) the Davis Moot Court Board has been very successful. None of our success is possible without the amazing people who volunteer their personal time to the Board. In the Fall over 80 outside practioners donated their weeknights to judge the Intraschool Competition. The Competition pitted over 150 law students against each other--some doing appellate advocacy for the very first time. In the Spring, over 30 volunteers donated their weekend to the Asylum Competition and were vital in its smooth operation. And throughout both semesters our competition teams benefit from lawyers and judges agreeing to either coach or judge practice rounds. Without the help of alumni and community members like these people Moot Court would fail.

And as we come down the stretch here I hope that you understand how appreciative we are. Thank you.

- John Stoller, Chair