

CSUF Moot Court A Mock Supreme Court and Supreme Court Simulation

Moot Court is an undergraduate class course that improves communication skills, enhances critical thinking and improves legal research and writing skills. This course also gives students the opportunity to network with many people in the legal, academic and political community.

In this course students get the opportunity to mock a court proceeding. Students team up and become contestants in “the competition case” where students research the cases and laws cited in this competition and argue a hypothetical legal case.

The judges in Moot court ask students questions and grade them based on their knowledge of the case, their response, their forensic skills and their expression.

Amy Bailey’s Experience

Partner: Jessica Roundy

Issue Argued: 4th Amendment, Is there privacy in chat room conversations?

Placement at Regionals: Quarter-finalist, 20th Top Orator

Placement at Nationals: Octa-finalist, 13th Top Orator

CSUF’s Moot Court program has been building momentum. Our program began as sort of the “under-dogs” in a competition that was largely dominated by private universities. This year CSUF really came into its own. Every single one of the CSUF teams made it to the elimination rounds at the regional tournament. Many of those teams went on to compete in the final rounds of competition and won speaker awards for individual merit. CSUF proceeded to send 5 of its own teams to the national tournament; we were one of the biggest groups of competitors at this event. Additionally, each member of CSUF’s Moot Court class was required to write a merit brief or a 20 page written version of our oral argument. CSUF won many honorable mentions as well as the top award in the merit brief competition. It’s safe to say the former “under-dogs” have become a driving force in the Moot Court community.



“This year the Moot Court team took a total of seven full teams to the regional competition held at Cal State Long Beach”



All of these accomplishments did not come easily. We spent countless hours reading through Supreme Court cases, met with teammates multiple times a week to polish our arguments for our weekend practices. Each weekend we ran mock rounds that simulated actual regional and national competition. Many professors from the POSC and CJ departments came to judge these rounds. Our success is, without a doubt, owed to the professors that took their weekends off to help us prepare. Additionally, many local attorneys and judges spent their weekends in University Hall accompanying those professors. Moot Court also owes a lot of its success to Brian Del Vecchio and Sabrina Jangda, both former CSUF moot courters. Their experience with moot court must have somehow trickled down. But, the program could not survive without the tireless efforts of our moot court coach and mentor, Dr. Pamela Fiber-Ostrow.

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She spent numerous hours scheduling and recruiting judges for our weekend practices, planning for the regional and national tournaments and, of course, teaching this course. Our success will forever be a product of the support we received from these individuals.

Enrollment

Contact Professor Pamela Fiber-Ostrow

Via e-mail: pfiber@fullerton.edu; by phone (657) 278-3467 or stop by UH 532. This course is only offered during the Fall semester and prepares students to compete at the regional and national tournaments.

POSC/CRJU 471.

Legal Practicum: Moot Court (3)

Prerequisites: Completion of any law class on this campus. Students will need to have the basic understanding of the judicial system and law.



For more information on the American collegiate Moot Court Association please see

<http://falcon.fsc.edu/mootcourt/>.

For more information on the regional competition please see

<http://www.csulb.edu/colleges/cla/departments/polisci/mootcourt/>

For more information on Moot Court please see

<http://falcon.fsc.edu/mootcourt/whatis.shtml>.

To access the Competition Case please see

<http://falcon.fsc.edu/mootcourt/>