



1983

# From the Law School: Moot Court Teams

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### Recommended Citation

(1983) "From the Law School: Moot Court Teams," *University of Baltimore Law Forum*: Vol. 13: No. 2, Article 12.  
Available at: <http://scholarworks.law.ubalt.edu/lf/vol13/iss2/12>

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## University of Baltimore Qualifies for National Championship for Second Straight Year

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The University of Baltimore School of Law has qualified for the national championship rounds of the seventh annual National Appellate Advocacy Competition. The right to go to the "nationals" was based upon placing in the top two teams among the fifteen teams competing in regional competition held at the Delaware Law School on March 5 and 6, 1983.

The University of Baltimore team was composed of **James Helfman** (captain), a second year day student, **Cynthia Raposo**, a third year evening student and **Jay Young**, a second year day student. In the regional competition, the team posted a 4-1 record by defeating Vermont, Pittsburgh and Boston University, and splitting two rounds against Delaware. With only thirty-minutes advance warning as to which side of the case to argue, the team represented the petitioner three times and the respondent twice.

The University of Baltimore School of Law was one of approximately twenty teams qualifying for the national championship from among the approximately one hundred and fifty teams competing throughout the country. Last year, the University of Baltimore, which has been coached by **Professor Byron L. Warnken** for the past five years, placed fifth nationally among one hundred and thirty seven teams.

The National Appellate Advocacy Competition began in 1977 and is co-sponsored by the Law Student Division of the American Bar Association, the American Bar Association Section of Litigation and the American Bar Association Appellate Judges' Conference.

The 1983 competition was based on a fictional case in the area of products liability. In that case, a fictional federal statute preempted all state products liability law and its statute of limitations was applied retroactively to preclude recovery by an individual allegedly injured as the result of a defective motorcycle helmet and brake pedal.

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## University of Baltimore Wins National Client Counseling Competition

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On March 5, 1983, the University of Baltimore hosted the Mid-Atlantic Client Counseling Competition sponsored by the American Bar Association. The competition is held in a team format giving students a chance to develop their skills in proper interviewing techniques—formulating questions, determining the validity of information provided by the client and learning how to provide counseling without committing oneself to a position before all the facts are available.

Two students working as a law firm must elicit from the client "operative facts" as opposed to extraneous information and counsel the client as to the attorney's role in the case and the fee structure. As a result, the student lawyers are judged on their practical approach to the problem which includes their interviewing and counseling skills.

**Joan Taranto Sargent** and **Meg McKee**, both second-year University of Baltimore law students, won the intra-school competition held in February. This success earned them the right to represent the University of Baltimore in the regional competition. On March 5, 1983, Joan and Meg won the Mid-Atlantic regionals championing the University of Pittsburgh team, last year's national championship winner. Ms. Sargent

and Ms. McKee went on to compete in the National Championship competition held March 25 and 26, 1983, in New Orleans where they again placed first. **Professor Arnold Rochvarg** acted as both the faculty advisor and coach for the client counseling competitions.