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# NATIONAL MOOT COURT TEAM

**COACHES:** Richard Finneran ([refinneran@wustl.edu](mailto:refinneran@wustl.edu))  
Derek Wiseman, Sarah Sherer-Kolburn, Steve Alagna, Cort VanOstran

**ACCOLADES:**

- National Championship in the National Appellate Advocacy Competition (2012), Runner-Up (2018), and five national quarterfinal finishes (2007, 2008, 2009, 2011 (two teams))
- Two National Championships (2018, 2020), Top Speaker (2018), and Top Brief (2020) in the Spong Invitational Moot Court Competition
- National Championship, Top Speaker, and Runner-Up in Evans Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition (2016)
- Three McGee Civil Rights Competition Championships (2009, 2010, 2011)
- Qualified for 11 teams NAAC finals since 2007 – twice qualified two teams in a single year (only twenty-four teams qualify nationwide)
- Five National Top 10 speakers at NAAC Final (1st, 2nd, 3rd, tie for 10th)
- Awarded best advocate in 2008, 2013, and 2019 and best brief in 2013, 2014, and 2018 in NAAC Regionals
- Three McGee Competition top speakers

**COMPETITIONS:** The National Moot Court Team will participate this spring in two major national moot court competitions: the American Bar Association’s National Appellate Advocacy Competition and the William B. Spong Invitational Tournament. The regional competition for the NAAC occurs in late February or early March, with the national the first or second week of April. The Spong Tournament will occur on February 12–14, 2021.

**THE TEAM:** This year, the National Moot Court Team will send at least two teams to NAAC and two more teams to the Spong Tournament. Each team is comprised of three students. Team members must be prepared to dedicate a substantial portion of their winter break to preparing a brief with their teammates. Students must be willing to serve as alternates in competition at the discretion of the coaches, meaning that they will participate in the brief-writing portion of the competition and practice but will not argue in competition. Each team practices between two and three times per week during the spring semester up until competition. Students receive one (1) pass/fail credit for participating in the National Moot Court Team, awarded in the spring.

**APPLICATIONS:** Email a resume, unofficial transcript, and a persuasive writing sample to Professor Finneran before **5:00 PM** on **September 2**, with your last name and “Application” in the subject line of the email. You should also indicate in your cover letter or email your availability to perform an audition between 5:30pm and 9:45pm on September 4 or 8:30am and 5pm on September 5.

Your audition will require you to present one side of an issue and entertain questioning for up to 10 minutes. You may argue either side of last year’s Wiley Rutledge problem, your 1L oral argument problem, or any other legal issue you submit with your application. Alternative audition times are available if needed.