

# NATIONAL MOOT COURT TEAM

**COACHES:** Richard Finneran ([refinneran@wustl.edu](mailto:refinneran@wustl.edu))  
Sarah Sherer-Kohlburn, Cort VanOstran, Derek Wiseman, Chris Collum

**ACCOLADES:**

- National Championship in the National Appellate Advocacy Competition (2012), Runner-Up (2018), and six national quarterfinal finishes (2007, 2008, 2009, 2011 (two teams), 2021)
- Two National Championships (2018, 2020), Two Top Speakers (2018, 2021), and Top Brief (2020) in the Spong Invitational Moot Court Competition
- National Championship, Runner-Up, and Top Speaker in Evans Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition (2016)
- Three McGee Civil Rights Competition Championships (2009, 2010, 2011)
- Qualified for 15 teams NAAC finals since 2007 – qualified two teams in a single year three times (only 24 teams qualify nationwide)
- Eight National Top 10 speakers at NAAC Final (1st, 2nd, 3rd (x2), 6th, 10th (x3))
- Three National Top 10 speakers at 2021 NAAC Final
- Awarded best advocate in 2008, 2013, 2019, and 2021 and best brief in 2013, 2014, 2018, and 2021 in NAAC Regionals

**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 finals occurring in the first two weeks of April. The Spong Tournament will occur on February 17–19, 2023. Both competitions are expected to occur in person.

**THE TEAM:** 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 meets three times in the fall semester and practices approximately two to three times per week during the spring semester up until competition. Students receive one (1) pass/fail credit, awarded in the spring, for participating.

**APPLICATIONS:** Email a resume, unofficial transcript, and a persuasive writing sample to Professor Finneran before **5:00 PM** on **September 7**, 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 9 or 8:30am and 5pm on September 10.

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 designate with your application. Alternative audition times are available if needed.