



HTAA

Dear HTAA Alumni,

I hope you have had a happy and healthy holiday season. As we turn towards the upcoming semester HTAA has a slew of exciting opportunities and competitions for our members. But before we look ahead, we must first look back at our fall semester.

This past fall, we had multiple teams excel at their competitions, and multiple advocates won individual awards. The team of Sydney Albert and Collis Gittens were semi-finalists in the inaugural First Chair competition and winners of the tournament's professionalism award, with Collis taking home the award for Most Outstanding Defense Advocate. The First Chair team was coached by HTAA alumni Kaitlyn Flynn, Gabriella Malfi, and Allie Laird. Following her success at First Chair, Sydney returned to compete at the Syracuse National Trial Competition, where she partnered with Anthony Gazzola, Caitlin McDonough, and Brian O'Regan to tie for fourth in the competition. The team was coached by HTAA alumni Helene Weiss, Kyle Schiedo and Julia Iacono. Isaiah Harris took home the award for Best Cross-Examination at the Kelly Trial Competition hosted by Fordham University. The Kelly team of Isaiah Harris and Taylor Mavica was coached by Hofstra Law alumni Jared Rosenblatt, Gabriella Malfi, John Margolies, and Dorothy Cacciopoli.

In addition to competing in multiple interscholastic competitions, Hofstra hosted two interscholastic competitions this semester. In its inaugural year, the First Chair trial competition, which was co-hosted by Hofstra, the University of San Diego School of Law, and the UCLA School of Law, hosted 14 teams at the New York location. In its seventh year, the National Medical-Legal Trial Competition hosted 16 teams, with Hofstra Law alumni, the Honorable Juan Merchan, serving as the presiding judge for the tournament's final round.

This year's intramural competition was one of the largest in recent years, with over 85 law students competing, many of whom participated in mock trial for the first time. This year's final round was presided over by Hofstra University alumni Judge Steven Tiscione of the Eastern District of New York. The round featured three 1L advocates and one 2L advocate, with the team of Rachel Coleman and James Wilson defeating Joe Maiorano and Daniella Diaz. Daniella Diaz (1L) won Best Oral Advocate.

Looking forward to the semester year ahead, HTAA is proud to announce that as of now we will have ten competitors returning from last semester (Sydney Albert, Sarah Bogen, Ruben Cerri-Droz, Hannah Gates, Collis Gittens, Isaiah Harris, Taylor Mavica, Caitlin McDonough, Brian O'Regan, Ryan Stoehrer and MaYa Staton) who will be joined by six new competitors (Briana MacLaren, Joe Maiorano, Marisa Marzolini, James Nolan, Matthew Pemberton, and Alissa Popeck) as the program prepares for their interscholastic competitions this spring.

Important Dates

Interscholastic Competitions (to date)
TYLA – National Trial Competition

AAJ – Student Trial Advocacy Competition

Online National Trial Competition

Queens District Attorney's Office Mock Trial Competition

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Best,
Brian O'Regan