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GSU MOOT COURT TEAM WINS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

For the first time in the 38 year history of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York's Annual National Moot Court Competition, a Georgia law school became the national champion. The Georgia State University team of Linda G. Birchall, L. Craig Dowdy and Rebecca Jones is this year's national championship team.

In the late summer of 1987, one hundred and fifty law school moot court teams from throughout the nation began preparing their briefs and arguments for the regional round competitions held last November.

The GSU team competed with three other Georgia schools, five Florida schools, and the University of South Carolina in the southeastern regional competition held in Atlanta under the auspices of the Younger Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Georgia.

Georgia State University defeated law school teams from the University of Oregon, Suffolk University, Georgetown University and Fordham University before meeting South Texas College of Law in the final round on Thursday evening.

In defeating South Texas College of Law in the final round, Georgia State became this year's national champion. In addition to winning the championship, GSU team member Rebecca Jones was declared best oralist; Rebecca Jones and L. Craig Dowdy were named best oralist team; and Georgia State University received a plaque honoring its second place brief.

According to faculty advisors Norman A. Crandell and Steven Kaminshine, "Ours was truly a team effort. Linda had major responsibility for the brief and Craig and Rebecca argued most of the rounds in the final competition. These three have worked closely together for more than six months and their dedication showed in winning the nation's most prestigious national moot court competition."

The team members were honored by Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young at City Hall and were presented to the members of the Georgia General Assembly.



left to right: REBECCA JONES, L. CRAIG DOWDY AND LINDA BIRCHALL

MOOT COURT TEAM MEMBERS ... A PROFILE

- Linda Birchall -

Linda is a third year law student from Tuscaloosa, Alabama. She graduated from the University of Alabama majoring in History, Speech and Dramatics. After living in Hawaii for seven years, where she became involved in the real estate business, Linda moved to Atlanta.

Winning the National Moot Court Competition has been the highlight of Linda's law school career. She feels "...the College of Law is finally receiving the recognition it deserves."

As a team member, Linda's primary responsibility was writing the brief which won second place nationwide.

Linda is an active law student. She is President of the Moot Court Society, secretary of the Student Bar Association and ranks in the top 10% of her class. After graduation, Linda looks forward to working with Powell, Goldstein, Frazer and Murphy as an associate in litigation.

- L. Craig Dowdy -

Craig Dowdy, originally from Montgomery, Alabama, graduated from Auburn University with honors in Electrical Engineering.

He is Manager of Business and Product Planning for Westinghouse, and has responsibility for offices in Athens and Jefferson City, Missouri. Craig states that "balancing work, travel and law school responsibilities has been a tremendous challenge."

As a member of the National Championship team, Craig argued in every round of the regional and national competitions. He was awarded Best Oralist for his argument at the regional finals.

- Rebecca Jones -

Rebecca Jones, a native of Savannah, GA, graduated with honors from Mercer University. She received a B.A. degree with a double major in English and Psychology.

Her prime considerations for selecting GSU College of Law were "the flexibility offered by a day/night course of study and the advantages of an inner city law school located in close proximity to federal and state courts."

Rebecca has participated in an externship program with the Supreme Court of GA and held membership on a Student Bar Association Special Committee, Phi Alpha Delta Legal fraternity and the Association of Women Law Students.

During her second year at GSU, she was selected as a member of the Moot Court Board and has participated on several competition teams. In the 38th Annual National Competition finals in New York, the team took first place and Rebecca was selected Best Oralist in the nation.

Moot Court Faculty Advisors

- Norman A. Crandell, Sr. -

Professor Crandell has worked with the GSU Moot Court Board since its inception in 1984. He and Professor Kaminshine have worked tirelessly to prepare GSU students for the competitions in which they have been successful. Under their leadership, they produced the City Bar Association of New York's National Moot Court Champions for 1988.

"The success of the program will mean that law firms in Georgia will recognize that the students of GSU are being trained for the practice of Law in Georgia courts," says Professor Crandell.

Professor Crandell came to GSU from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. His legal background is varied and includes an Assistant Deanship, Professor of Law (Contracts, Equity and Legislation) former Director of Continuing Legal Education, Bar Review Director and other positions. He graduated from Marshal-Wythe School of Law, College of William and Mary - BCL (Bachelor of Civil Law) and the University of Illinois College of Law, LL.M., where he was a teaching fellow.

The 1988 National Championship was made possible not only by participating students and faculty advisors, but also by dedicated faculty members who gave their time by acting as judges in oral argument practice rounds. "Professors Emanuel, Milich, Sobelson, Urbonya, Wiseman and others are to be commended," according to Professor Crandell, "for their assistance to the GSU Moot Court Program."

- Steven Kaminshine -

Professor Kaminshine teaches and researches in the areas of labor law, labor arbitration, collective bargaining, appellate advocacy and employment discrimination law. He came to Georgia State after service with the National Labor Relations Board and four years of private practice. His J.D. degree is from DePaul University School of Law. Professor Kaminshine has completed a major publication, "Workers' Compensation in Georgia," for the Methods of Practice treatise by West Publishing.

As co-faculty advisor of the GSU Moot Court team since 1985, Professor Kaminshine states, "Of all the accolades bestowed on our national winners, the most significant to me was that our brief was touted as the second best brief in the country. In the real world, the brief is crucial in winning appellate arguments."

"Our students' success through development of the Moot Court Program have demonstrated to the legal community what we already know - that we have and will continue to have a solid educational program."

GSU MOOT COURT SOCIETY HISTORY

- Fall 1984 Runner-up brief in their first Regional Round of the City Bar Association of New York National Moot Court Competition.
- Spring 1985 Outstanding Orator, Randall Allen, in the Intra-state Moot Court Competition.
- Fall 1986 3rd place, Fall Regional Competition, City Bar Association of New York National Moot Court Competition in Atlanta. Team members: C. J. Becker, Lee Grant and Stefan Ritter.
- Winter 1986 1st place team in the ABA Southeastern Regional National Moot Court Competition in Tallahassee.
- Spring 1986 5th place team at the "Wagner Cup" National Labor Law Competition held in New York City.
- Summer 1986 One of twenty finalists nationwide competing in the Final Rounds of the ABA National Moot Court Competition. This team defeated Yale University and lost to Stanford University by a narrow margin in the qualifying rounds.
- Spring 1987 2nd place in the Younger Lawyers Section Intra-state Moot Court Competition.
- Fall 1987 1st place team in the Southeastern Regional Rounds of the 38th National Moot Court Competition of the City Bar Association of New York. L. Craig Dowdy was named Outstanding Oralist. Runner-up - Best Brief.
- January 1988 National Championship Team of the 38th National Moot Court Competition - Linda Birchall, L. Craig Dowdy and Rebecca Jones. Rebecca Jones was named Outstanding Oralist in the Final Rounds. Runner-up - Best Brief.