

The 2009 First Amendment and Media Law Moot Court Competition

Teams from four law schools competed in the inaugural Moot Court Competition hosted by the ABA Forum on Communications Law, held in conjunction with the Forum's 14th Annual Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona on February 5, 2009

The winning team of **Jeremy Licht** and **Nathaniel Gleicher**, from Yale Law School, competed in the final round against the Southwestern Law School team of **Derek George Turner** and **Sarah El Ebiary**. The final oral argument – conducted before an audience of over 100 media lawyers -- was heard by an esteemed panel: **Justice Andrew D. Hurwitz** of the Arizona Supreme Court; **Judge Pierre N. Leval** of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit; and **Judge Peter B. Swann** of the Arizona Court of Appeals. Following oral argument, the judges offered feedback to the law student participants and then opened the floor to questions and discussion about effective appellate advocacy.

In addition to the finalists, the following law students competed:

- Sherrice Perry and Christopher Armstead of the University of Wisconsin School of Law
- Chee-Yuen Hung and Deidra Renee Squire of George Washington University Law School
- Daniel David Lewerenz and Nadia Alyedin Elnagdy of the University of Wisconsin School of Law

The preliminary rounds were held on February 5, the morning of the finals, and were judged by experienced media counsel: **Jonathan Avila**, Vice President - Counsel, Chief Privacy Officer, The Walt Disney Co.; **Jay Ward Brown**, Senior Claims Counsel for North America, Hiscox Global Markets; **Guylyn Cummins**, Forum Chair and Partner, Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton; **Leslie Machado**, Partner, Nixon Peabody; **Laurie Michelson**, Shareholder, Butzel Long; **Paul Smith**, Partner and Co-Chair, Appellate and Supreme Court Practice, Jenner & Block; **Sherrese Smith**, Vice President and General Counsel, Washington Post Digital; **Jenell Trigg**, Member, Lerman Senter; and **Steve Zansberg**, Partner, Levine Sullivan Koch & Schulz.

In addition to serving as a judge for oral argument, **Steve Zansberg** contributed greatly to the Competition by creating the challenging written materials critical to the case: the district court order appealed from and the supporting evidentiary materials in the record (affidavits, a news article and a fictional website).

The Competition was administered by a Steering Committee made up of media lawyers **Seth Berlin, Judith Bonilla, Dale Cohen, Karen Henry, Dave Kohler, Natalie Spears, Jenell Trigg, Maya Windholz** and **Steve Zansberg**. The Steering Committee was chaired by **Jeanette Melendez Bead**, who worked tirelessly for over a year to organize and produce a successful event. **Teresa Ucok** of the ABA provided invaluable support during the entire planning process.

HIGHLIGHTS... February 5, 2009



The 2009 Moot Court Competitors



Final Round Debriefing



Judge Swann, Justice Hurwitz, Hon. Pierre Leval



Moot Court Committee Chair Jeanette Melendez Bead, 2009 Winners Nathan Gleicher and Jeremy Licht (Yale Law School), Judge Swann, Justice Hurwitz, Hon. Pierre Leval, Finalists Derek George Turner and Sarah El Ebiary (Southwestern Law School)



Final Round, Scottsdale, Arizona, February 5, 2009



Moot Court Judges Avila, Michelson and Zansberg



Moot Court Judges Machado, Trigg and Cummins



Moot Court Judges Brown, Smith and Smith



Law Student Participants Christopher Armstead and Sherrice Perry



Law Student Participant Daniel David Lewerenz (University of Wisconsin Law School)



Law Student Participant Nadia Alyedin Elnagdy (University of Wisconsin Law School)



Law Student Participant Chee-Yuen Hung



Law Student Participant Deidra Renee Squire



Competition Day, ABA Forum Attorneys Karen Henry and Jeanette Melendez Bead