

SCOTT MOOT COURT PROGRAM INFORMATION

(FAQS)

What is Scott Moot Court?

Scott Moot Court is two things: (1) The Scott Moot Court Competition-the intra-school moot court competition (2 units p/np) held in the spring semester where LLS students compete against each other to win awards and compete for a spot on the Scott Moot Court Honors Board; and (2) The Scott Moot Court Honors Board –the nationally-recognized and award-winning Appellate Advocacy program of Loyola Law. The members of the Honors Board are students have previously participated in the Scott Competition and on other LLS moot court teams. Board members represent Loyola and compete in moot court competitions against other law schools across the United States and they also run the Scott Moot Court Competition. Honors Board Members serve on the Board for an entire year and are eligible receive a total of 6 (p/np) units for membership. Board membership also satisfies the six-unit experiential course graduation requirement.

Why Should I Want to do Scott Moot Court?

Loyola is for litigators, and Scott Moot Court prepares some of the best appellate litigators around. If your dream is to argue before the Supreme Court one day, or just to be able to handle yourself well doing law-and-motion work before a court on behalf of your firm or agency, then Scott Moot Court can give you the practical skills to become an exceptional advocate.

How Do I Join the Scott Moot Court?

To be eligible, LLS students must complete the Appellate Advocacy course (3 units graded) in summer session or in the fall semester of their second year at law school (or, for Evening Division, in the summer of 1E or 2E or fall of 2E or 3E) and earn at least a B in the course. In the following spring semester, interested LLS students must then register for the Scott Moot Court competition (2 units p/np). In the intramural competition, students compete for a spot on the Scott Moot Court Honors Board. The competition requires the preparation of a competent appellate brief and participation in oral argument. There are two preliminary rounds of oral argument followed by quarter-final round and semi-final round. There are eliminations after each round of the oral competition. After the semi-final round the four competitors with the highest oral scores from the prior rounds are determined and named as the “finalists.” The “finalists” compete in the final round for the award of “Best Oralist” The top scorers from the Spring Competition will become the Scott Moot Court Board for the subsequent school year. (While graduating students, i.e. 3Ls, may compete in the Spring Competition, and even win awards therein, they will NOT be admitted to the Scott Moot Court Honors Board)

What Does the Scott Moot Honors Court Board Do (What Roles Are Available)?

The Board is broken up into two sets of roles: competitive appellate advocacy teams and administrators for Board affairs (a.k.a. the Justices). Justices work year-round in supporting administrator roles to the competitive teams and on the development of the problem for the Spring Competition. The competitive team members split their time between practice for their own competition and, in the off-season, development of the Spring Competition problem and support of other teams.

How Do Scott’s Competitive Appellate Advocacy Teams Work?

The Board will have several competitive teams in a given year, depending on what competitions Loyola has chosen to enter that year. The typical competitive teams include: (a) 1-2 teams for the National Moot Court Competition (fall); (b) 1-2 teams for the National Criminal Procedure Moot Court Competition (fall) or another invitational moot court competition; and (c) 1-2 teams for the American Bar Ass'n Moot Court Competition (spring).

Another team of 2Ls is also a part of the Scott Moot Court Program. The 2L team of 5-9 students are chosen in an open "tryout" at the end of the spring of 1L year. The 2L team must take in Appellate Advocacy during the summer or fall of 2L year; they will represent Loyola to compete in the spring of 2L year in a national or regional moot court competition. Successful 2L team members may also be eligible to be on one of the other Scott Moot Court Honors Board teams the year following the 2L competition.

The Moot Court competitions are generally mock Supreme Court cases where team members are given a problem, take a position, draft a brief in support of that position, and then argue orally to a mock court in support of that position and against that position in "off-brief" rounds. In the competition season for that team, team members spend considerable amounts of time, first researching and writing their legal briefs, and then honing oral arguments for both "hot" and "cold" benches composed of volunteer professors, practitioners, judges, and Board members.

What Is the Difference Between Scott Moot Court and the Byrne Team and Can I do Both?

Byrne is Loyola's Trial Advocacy competitive team. Scott Moot Court is Loyola's Appellate Advocacy team. The general rule is that students are NOT allowed to be on both the Scott Moot Court Honors Board and Byrne simultaneously. Members of the Byrne team are generally selected in the spring of a school year from 1Ls and 2Ls (or Evening Division equivalents). Scott Moot Court Honors Board members are selected during the intramural Scott Competition the spring from 2Ls (and Evening equivalents). So, for example, if you were selected for Byrne team in your second year, you could compete in the intramural Scott Competition in the spring of your second year and then serve on Scott Moot Court Honors Board for your third year; but you could not be on both Scott Moot Court Honors Board and a Byrne team in your third year.

Can I Be on Scott Moot Court and Law Review or other activities (i.e., Field Placements, Clinics, Practica) at the same time?

Yes! Typically, there are Scott Moot Court Board members who are simultaneously on law review, or serve on externships or participate in other programs such as clinics, and the Hobbs Program.

Questions about Scott Moot Court Honors Board, Scott Moot Court Program or any moot court program, contact: Professor Rebecca Delfino (Rebecca.Delfino@lls.edu)