



ANIMAL LAW MOOT COURT, CLOSING ARGUMENT, AND LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING & LOBBYING COMPETITIONS

HOSTED BY THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR ANIMAL LAW

MOOT COURT AND CLOSING ARGUMENT COMPETITIONS HARVARD LAW SCHOOL FEBRUARY 15-17, 2008

The National Center for Animal Law and the Harvard SALDF will host the Fifth Annual Animal Law Appellate Moot Court and Animal Law Closing Argument Competitions at Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The competitions are essential experiences for law students hoping to use their legal education for animal advocacy. Participants hone their legal writing and oral advocacy skills through challenging problems based on cutting-edge legal issues. Students are guided and inspired by judges who are leaders in the field of animal law.

Registration will open on November 5, 2007 and close on January 4, 2008 or until the schedule fills. Participants are responsible for their own meals (other than the awards banquet), travel, hotel arrangements and expenses.

The schedule allows participation in both competitions.

MOOT COURT COMPETITION

A Moot Court team is composed of two students who have completed one year of law studies from accredited law schools in the United States or Canada. Space is limited to the first twenty teams that register and pay the registration fee. No more than two teams from the same law school may participate.

Registration Fee: \$400 per team

The problems involve timely issues of national importance to the practice of animal law prepared by the Competitions Planning Committee. Problems, rules, and guides will be posted on the website. Each team will write a brief with a 25-page limit. Teams may choose which side of the case to write for the brief, but will argue both sides of the case during the competition. Moot court briefs must be postmarked by Monday, January 14, 2008.

Oral argument will be limited to a total of thirty minutes per team. Each team will argue in two preliminary rounds, once Saturday morning and once Saturday afternoon. The semifinal and final rounds will take place on Sunday. Four teams will progress to the semi-final round. The preliminary round scores will be based upon the brief score as well as combined oral scores from the two preliminary rounds. Scores from the semi-final and final rounds are based only on oral scores.

CLOSING ARGUMENT COMPETITION

The Closing Argument competition is open to students who have completed one year of law studies from accredited law schools in the United States or Canada. Space is limited to the first twelve students who register and pay the registration fee. No more than two students from the same law school may participate.

Registration Fee: \$200 per participant

Closing argument participants will also be provided with a trial record consisting of a transcript of testimony, documents received in evidence, and jury instructions.

Using the trial record, each participant will prepare a closing argument to be delivered to a panel of six jurors. Participants will be allowed a maximum of fifteen minutes to present their arguments. At the conclusion of the preliminary round, the total score for each participant will be calculated. The top four participants will advance to a final round.

LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING & LOBBYING COMPETITION GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW MARCH 29, 2008

On March 29, 2008, the National Center for Animal Law and the GW Law SALDF will host the Second Annual Legislative Drafting and Lobbying Competition at The George Washington University Law School in Washington, DC.

The competition is meant to be a fun and educational opportunity for those students interested in influencing local, state, and federal legislation. Students need not have past experience, and will be provided all of the tools necessary to effectively and successfully participate in the competitions.

Students will argue in three preliminary rounds and the top three contestants will move on to a final round, all taking place on Saturday afternoon. Judges will be lobbyists from national animal advocacy organizations and a member of Congress and their staff (based on availability).

During the rounds, students will have to persuade legislators to either sponsor, co-sponsor, or vote for their proposed bill based on their presentations and fact sheets.

Registration Fee: \$150 per participant

For more information, please visit www.lclark.edu/org/ncal/competitions.html or contact Laura Ireland Moore at (503)768-6849 or ncal@lclark.edu.

“The NAAC are carefully planned, expertly run, and attract gifted participants and judges alike. It represents a milestone in the development of the academic discipline of animal law.”

Steven M. Wise, professor of animal law, President for the Center for the Expansion of Fundamental Rights, author of *Drawing the Line: Science and the Case for Animal Rights* and *Rattling the Cage: Toward Legal Rights for Animals*, and judge of the Competitions