• **What is Moot Court?**

  o Moot court is a competition in which undergraduates engage in simulated legal argument before a hypothetical appellate court reviewing a fictitious case. Students draw on a limited number of actual appellate court decisions to support their arguments.

  o UTA has sent students all across the country competing in the American Collegiate Moot Court Association tournament, founded by the late UTA professor, Dr. Charles Knerr and prominent Dallas attorney Andrew Sommerman. Our students have also successfully gone on to compete internationally in Vienna, Austria through the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition.

  o Students participating in moot court competitions learn to advocate on behalf of important issues while interpreting precedent set by the U.S. Supreme Court and other jurisdictions. Moot court provides perhaps our best pedagogical tool in preparing undergraduates for law school, graduate school, or the many career opportunities offered by government and interest groups.

• **History of UTA Moot Court**

  o **2017-2018 SEASON IN REVIEW**

    In 2017, students, under the leadership of continued leadership and mentoring of UTA Alum and Coach Andrew Stubblefield participated in 3 tournaments during the school year. In the first of which, students Richard Miller, Jr and Mark Streiff competed at St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, TX. Immediate following, 3 teams competed in the first UTA Invitational Moot Court Tournament in more than 10 years. Student teams included Sophia Melendez and Isra Alnator, Mickaela Alves and Jordan Tambara, and Richard Miller Jr. and Mark Streiff. The season was wrapped in Fort Worth, TX at Texas A&M School of Law’s final regional tournament where Micka Alves and Jordan Tambara broke into the top 8 teams!
2016-2017 SEASON IN REVIEW

In 2016, students returned to participate at the UNT Dallas College of Law Invitational Tournament as well as the Texas A&M Regional Moot Court Tournament hosted by the Texas Undergraduate Moot Court Association, founded by Dr. Charles Knerr and UTA Alum Andrew Sommerman. At the Regional tournament, veteran seniors Ana Gonzalez and Zari Brown advanced past the Sweet Sixteen and into the Round of Eight where they finished in the top 6 teams! The two advanced to the National Tournament held at Stetson University School of Law in Gulfport, Florida in January 2017. The two did very well overall!

2015-2016 SEASON IN REVIEW

In 2015, the College of Liberal Arts expanded the moot court program yet again by converting the course from a one credit hour course to a three credit hour course. Students enrolled and practiced as many as 20 hours per week both in class and in outside team practices. For the first time, students attended the inaugural UNT Dallas College of Law Invitational Moot Court Tournament, teams led by veteran Ian Klein. At the Texas A&M Regional Tournament, students Ian Klein and Giovanny Torres advanced to the Sweet 16 where they finished in the top 11.
2014-2015 SEASON IN REVIEW

The 2014-2015 season looked to be a very successful season with the expansion of Moot Court program. With local attorneys directing the fifteen enrolled students during their biweekly practices, UTA's upcoming competitions at Texas Tech (November 7-8), Texas A&M (November 14-15), and Long Beach State (November 21-22) promise to be effective showcases of the team's forensic ability. Bhavik Patel and Davinder Jassal, who helped relaunch the team in 2012-2013, are returning as team president and vice president, respectively. In the Spring of 2015, students Ramon Hernandez and Ian Klein advanced to the national tournament in Florida.

2013-2014 SEASON IN REVIEW

In Fall 2013, the Pre-Law Center sent 9 students to Long Beach State University to compete in a national qualifying meet. The cost of the trip for the students was underwritten by a generous donation from alumnus Andrew Sommerman, whose support and guidance has been instrumental in relaunching Texas-Arlington's Moot Court program. Although no students advanced to the nationals in this extremely rigorous event--considered by many to be the most difficult regional in the nation--nearly all of the students saw their scores improve from round to round. Davinder Jassal, a returning student from the 2012-2013 Moot Court team, posted a record of 6-1-2 in head-to-head competition against experienced competition. While in the Los Angeles area, the students toured Venice (Muscle) Beach, Rodeo Drive, Mulholland Drive, and Hollywood. Read more about the 2013 Long Beach State Invitational by clicking here. In spring 2014, Jassal and Angela Coward competed in a scrimmage at SMU Dedman School of Law in which neither student relied on written notes when arguing.
2012-2013 SEASON IN REVIEW

In October 2012, two teams from UTA (consisting entirely of first-time Moot Court participants) competed in a standalone event at the South Texas College of Law. Jaclyn Sugg and Bhavik Patel advanced to the Round of 16, where they lost by a narrow margin to a team from Texas Christian University. Sugg was named one of the "top orators" at the event, with Patel, Danielle Garcia, and David Marrufo also turning in strong performances. Along with new members Carolyn Ruiz (currently attending Harvard Law School) and Davinder Jassal, Marrufo and Patel thereafter participated in a nationals qualifying meet at Texas Tech School of Law that took place in mid-November 2012. Marrufo and Patel bettered their individual scores from the South Texas meet, and Ruiz and Jassal advanced to the Round of 16. Jassal, Patel, and first-time participants Mark Cantrell, Andre Raymond, Trae’Vorris Canady and Jacob Surratt completed the Moot Court season with a Spring 2013 scrimmage at Texas Wesleyan University.

Prior to 2012, Moot Court was a student club.

- How Can I Participate?
  
  - Students interested in participating in Moot Court should register for the course in the Fall - HIST 4302. It is open to all majors and students with 30+ credit hours.

- Moot Court FAQs
  
  - How much time will I spend outside of class preparing?
    
    For students who want to be successful and learn skills that will carry through to law school and beyond, a significant amount of out-of-class preparation is necessary to grow and develop.
  
  - Do law schools consider moot court experience in making admissions decisions?
    
    Absolutely! Law schools consider any oral advocacy experience to be a plus on law school applications, particularly if you do well at competitions. Many law school programs will extend special scholarships to those students with demonstrated oral advocacy abilities.
Richard Miller and Mark Streiff at St. Mary’s Moot Court Invitational competition

Jordan Tambara and partner Mickaela Alves advanced to quarterfinals at Regionals. Alves also won a Top Speaker award

Angela Coward and partner preparing for tournament in California

Competitors Natalie Thomas and Scott Kim at TAMU Regionals

Ana Gonzalez, Tristan Ludwig Neal, Natalie Thomas and Giovanny Torres
2015-2016 Moot Court teams at competition

Ana Gonzalez being presented with a Top Oralist award

2013-2014 Moot court teams at competition

Jacob Surratt, Mark Cantrell, and Angela Coward wanted to express their thanks to alumnus Andrew Sommerman for subsidizing the cost of their trip to Los Angeles.

Moot Court team members Gabriel Alonso (left), Jacob Surratt (center), and 2013-2015 Goolsby Scholar Mark Cantrell (right) enjoy a relaxing breakfast before the Long Beach State Invitational Tournament.
Jaclyn Sugg (left) was named one of the "top orators" at the South Texas College of Law's Fall 2012 Undergraduate Moot Court competition. Noted Texas trial attorney, UTA alumnus, and American Collegiate Moot Court Association co-founder Andrew Sommerman is on the far right.

The spring 2013 UTA Moot Court team (left to right): Jacob Surratt, Trae'Vorris Canady, Mark Cantrell, Andre Raymond, and faculty advisor Dr. Oliver Lee Bateman.

Trae'Vorris Canady (left) and Mark Cantrell joined the Moot Court team in spring 2013.

Davinder Jassal (left) and Andre Raymond competed together at the Texas Wesleyan School of Law's spring 2013 scrimmage.