DATE: Spring 2012

TO: Moot Court Applicant

FROM: Nadege Souvenir and Joshua Dorothy, Coaches

RE: National Moot Court Competition Team Tryouts

What is Moot Court?

Moot Court is an extracurricular activity in which students take part in simulated court proceedings - drafting briefs and participating in oral arguments.

What is the National Moot Court Competition?

The National Moot Court Competition ("NMCC") is an appellate advocacy competition sponsored by the New York City Bar and the American College of Trial Lawyers. Participants in NMCC present oral and written arguments about a constitutional question. Every year, over 150 law schools compete in the regional rounds throughout the U.S. and the winners advance to the final rounds held in New York City.

Hamline typically fields two 2-3 person teams for this competition. For 2-person teams, students are jointly responsible for the team's brief submission. Additionally, each oralist will argue an issue during the oral argument competition. For 3-person teams, one student serves as the Team Writer. The Team Writer is ultimately responsible for the team's brief submission; while this student does not argue at competition, they play an integral role in the Team's preparation for the oral argument phase of competition. The other two Oralists are expected to actively assist the Team Writer with researching and writing the competition brief.

The schedule for the NMCC team is as follows: 1) midsummer brief writing exercise, 2) team meeting in late August/early September, 3) problem is released mid-September; teams have approximately one month to write their briefs, 4) oral argument practice begins in mid-October; teams generally practice 3-4 times a week, 5) regional competition is the week before Thanksgiving, 6) National finals are in the last week of January or first week of February; the advancing team would also have January practice obligations.

How do I try out?

To try out, please submit your LRW brief or previous moot court brief (please indicate which issue you wrote) and cover letter to both coaches (in one email): Nadege Souvenir (nadege.souvenir@maslon.com) and Joshua Dorothy (jadorothy@yahoo.com). The cover letter must address the following issues:

- 1. Your preferred e-mail address and phone number
- 2. Your interest in the National Moot Court Team

- 3. All other moot court teams you are trying out for
- 4. Any other major time commitments for this summer, this fall, and late Jan/ early Feb.
 - a. NOTE: Because of the timing of the competition, Team members are strongly discouraged from taking the November MPRE. We encourage you to plan accordingly.
- 5. Prior experience you have with public speaking/performance and writing
- 6. If you only want to be considered for the Team Writer position
- 7. Available oral argument tryout times on Saturday, April 14 between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.; if you are completely unavailable during these hours, please propose alternate tryout times, consisting of weekend evenings and weekend mornings/afternoons you are available between April 7 and April 20. (We acknowledge that weekend students may have oral arguments on April 14. Please simply note that this is the nature of your conflict and propose alternate tryout times within the guidelines of this paragraph.)

Applications are due by 12:00 p.m. on Friday, March 30. Applicants selected for tryouts will be notified via email by Friday, April 6. Tryouts will be held on Saturday, April 14. Each tryout will last approximately 15 minutes.

Questions?

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. So that we can be responsive to your questions, please email any questions to both coaches (in one email).

We look forward to reviewing your applications. Good luck!