

# TRIAL ADVOCACY AT STETSON: THE FIRST 100 YEARS

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Stetson University College of Law's trial advocacy program has gained much national attention and acclaim during the last decade of the school's first century, but excellence in trial advocacy is not something new for its graduates. Long before *U.S. News & World Report* named Stetson's Trial Advocacy program number one in the nation,<sup>1</sup> Stetson was producing some of the most capable and successful trial lawyers found in any court system. This Article primarily addresses the trial advocacy program at Stetson for the past twenty years, the time frame most familiar to the Author. Nevertheless, it is important to note that Stetson produced many great trial lawyers and judges long before the more recent national attention to our program, alumni who in no small part have contributed to the position of prominence that Stetson's trial advocacy program enjoys as it begins its next 100 years.

## THE EARLY YEARS

"Old-timers" (and that includes anyone the Author's age or older) tell us that Stetson has long been known for concentrating on educating the best "practitioners" in the State — not academics, business leaders, or politicians, though Stetson has produced its share of each.<sup>2</sup> Rather, Stetson graduates are distinguished as great

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1. *America's Best Graduate Schools*, 122 U.S. News & World Rpt. 67 (Mar. 10, 1997); *America's Best Graduate Schools*, 120 U.S. News & World Rpt. 82 (Mar. 18, 1996); *America's Best Graduate Schools*, 118 U.S. News & World Rpt. 84 (Mar. 20, 1995); *Best Graduate Schools*, 128 U.S. News & World Rpt. 56 (Apr. 10, 2000); *Best Graduate Schools*, 126 U.S. News & World Rpt. 95 (Mar. 29, 1999); *Best Graduate Schools*, 124 U.S. News & World Rpt. 77 (Mar. 2, 1998).

2. Examples in the academic field include Richard T. Dillon, dean of Stetson University College of Law, 1968–1981; Bruce R. Jacob, thirty-five years in legal education and dean of Stetson, 1981–1994; and Dr. Karl M. Cuttler, Jr., president of St. Petersburg Junior College since 1978. Examples in business include Roy M. Speer, Jr., a 1959 graduate and founder and

“practitioners,” and by that it is meant graduates with the skills to practice in a general way the profession of law, which in those early years mandated having the necessary skills to conduct oneself effectively in the courtroom. How did Stetson earn its reputation for being a great law school for “practitioners?” Being there first was certainly helpful. We must remember that for the first decade of our first century, Stetson was the only law school in the State.<sup>3</sup> But besides that advantage, there appears to have been an early interest in lawyering skills at Stetson, especially trial skills. For those who believe the most widely used method today to train law students in trial advocacy, simulated jury trials, is of recent origin, consider the following from Stetson’s 1917 yearbook, written by a member of the law school’s junior class:

I regret to say that in the moot court proceedings we were represented in rather ignominious fashion. Two of our members were convicted of murder, one of larceny and one for gross negligence. But let’s cheer up; next year we will sit in judgment over the rats. We also did jury duty; and here again we made proof that we are full-blooded Americans: The jury agreed in five minutes that the accused was guilty, but they wrangled for half an hour as to who should be foreman! And, I suppose, they never would have agreed on that point if it hadn’t been for the supper bell!<sup>4</sup>

### THE NEW CAMPUS IN GULFPORT

The law school moved from the DeLand campus in 1954 and by 1958 had established itself at its present location and dedicated the first of three new buildings to house the new law center, including the new Charles A. Dana Law Library. At the library’s dedication in March 1958, Governor Leroy Collins addressed the gathering of dignitaries. He noted that three Stetson graduates were then

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retired Chief Executive Officer of Home Shopping Network, Inc. Examples in politics include David Sholtz, Governor of Florida, 1933–1937.

3. W. Gary Vause, *Foundations for Excellence — The History of Stetson University College of Law*, 16 Stetson L. Rev. 295 (1987).

4. *Oshihiyi* vol. 10, 41 (1917) (Stetson’s yearbook). The junior class in 1917 consisted of thirty students, the largest ever at that time. One of its members was William Arthur Kelly, who practiced law in Akron, Ohio, 1919–1962, and argued two cases in the United States Supreme Court.

serving on the Florida Supreme Court,<sup>5</sup> providing proof that Stetson indeed for the first half of its 100 years was producing practitioners skilled in the law and ready to assume the leadership roles in our justice system.

After the move to Gulfport, Stetson announced a “unique program” of legal education for its new and improved campus, which in addition to the new library and classrooms, included living facilities for many of its students and a model courtroom. The program was described in its annual bulletin as follows:

### *STETSON'S UNIQUE PROGRAM*

The College operates under a somewhat different concept of legal training from that found in most law schools. The distinctive feature of Stetson's program is its adaptation of the British system of legal education to the conventional American system. For centuries legal training in England has been built around close personal contact between law students and successful *practicing* lawyers, through their association in the famous Inns of Court — Gray's Inn, Lincoln's Inn, the Middle and Inner Temples. In these Inns outstanding members of the English Bench and Bar share their wisdom and experience first-hand with embryo lawyers who someday will be expected to succeed them as leaders in their profession.

At the Stetson University College of Law the underlying principles of this English system [are] being applied to the training of “leading lawyers of tomorrow.” At “Stetson Inn” the relationship between the faculty members and their students is unusually close, resembling more nearly that of lawyer and apprentice than of professor and student.

Students not only live and study with members of a distinguished corps of teachers headed by a former Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, they have [the] opportunity to meet scores of other leaders in their chosen profession.

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5. *Bulletin of Stetson University College of Law* 10 (Aug. 1958). Although unidentified in Governor Collins's address, those justices were E. Harris Drew, chief justice at the time; Elwyn Thomas; and T. Frank Hobson. All served as chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court during a portion of their time on the court.

Distinguished jurists also honor the students by their presence from time to time. On some occasions, actual court sessions of the Florida courts are held in the Courtroom of the College.<sup>6</sup>

Stetson's "unique program" was a feature of its *Bulletin* until about 1969, when it disappeared from the publication. Just how effective it was for teaching trial advocacy may be disputed, but several things of importance to the trial advocacy education of Stetson students during this period are worth noting. First, the Public Defender Clinic was established, and the Prosecution Clinic followed soon thereafter. This was true clinical pioneering by the College, and the history of this important boost to the trial advocacy program at Stetson is included elsewhere in this Volume.<sup>7</sup> Second, a formal course in "Trial Practice" was established, with simulated jury trials held in the model courtroom on campus.<sup>8</sup> It can be fairly argued that these programs combined to produce some of Florida's finest trial advocates and jurists.<sup>9</sup>

It was also during this period that the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) was founded. NITA resulted from a recom-

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6. *Bulletin of Stetson University College of Law: Announcements for 1961–1962* 5–6 (1961–1962) (emphasis in original). The "former Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court" referred to in the article was Harold L. Sebring, who became dean in 1955. Bruce R. Jacob, *Remembering a Great Dean: Harold L. "Tom" Sebring*, 30 *Stetson L. Rev.* 71, 137 (2000).

7. Paul Barnard, *Milestones and Memories: Stetson's Public Defender Clinic Faces the Florida Supreme Court*, 30 *Stetson L. Rev.* 177 (2000); Robert E. Jagger, *Stetson: The First Public Defender Clinic*, 30 *Stetson L. Rev.* 189 (2000).

8. "TRIAL PRACTICE. 2 hours. A consideration of venue; service of process; pre-trial procedures; charges; verdicts; new trial; judgment; executions; and practical application thereof at trial court level." *Stetson University College of Law: Catalogue 1960–1961: Faculty & Courses* 21 (1960–1961). By 1977 the Trial Practice course description included separate courses, civil trial practice and criminal trial practice, each for two hours credit, described as follows:

TRIAL PRACTICE (CIVIL). Preparation and trial of civil cases; including preparation of and arguments on pleadings, assembling facts and witness statements, pre-trial conferences, and actual trials before juries of fellow students.

TRIAL PRACTICE (CRIMINAL). Preparation and trial of criminal cases including pre-trial motions and arguments thereon; jury selection and actual trials of criminal cases before student juries.

*Stetson University College of Law: Bulletin 1977–1978* 29 (1977–1978).

9. It was the original intention of the Author to list the most prominent and respected Stetson trial lawyers and judges, but after consultation with a number of individuals in a position to provide such advice, it became obvious that the candidate list was so large that it was essentially inexhaustible, and the attempt was abandoned. The reader is invited to create his or her own list, but is cautioned that it will always remain incomplete since it obviously will continue to expand into the new century.

mentation of a special American Bar Association task force, which found there was a need for better trial advocacy training for lawyers. Soon after its founding in 1970, NITA developed a “learning-by-doing” methodology for teaching trial advocacy skills and began training lawyers throughout the United States employing this new-style training. Students were taught in small groups by experienced trial lawyers, with the students acting as counsel and performing short exercises involving the various phases of a jury trial. Individual exercises were followed by critiques, often with video playback and review. Building upon these exercises, the students would proceed to conduct a complete simulated jury trial, again followed by individual critiques. Once the NITA programs became well-known and accepted by the legal profession, law schools found that NITA-style training could be adopted for law school trial advocacy classes.

Its big drawback was the cost associated with the required smaller class size. But with increasing pressure from the law school accrediting agencies<sup>10</sup> for all law schools to strengthen and enhance their skills training programs, Stetson hired two additional full-time professors to begin in the 1979 Fall semester.<sup>11</sup> A NITA-style trial advocacy program, using NITA material, was instituted, with sufficient classes available so that every student who desired to take the course could do so.

### *THE NEW TEACHING METHODOLOGY*

The NITA-style program proved to be both popular and effective on the Stetson campus. Initially, each Section was limited to sixteen students, but more recently the maximum Section size was reduced to twelve students. An experienced full-time professor or adjunct professor, who is usually an experienced trial lawyer or judge, is provided for each Section. Adjunct professors are necessary to augment the full-time professors teaching the course to offer enough classes to maintain the twelve student limit. While the course is not

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10. The American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools were the accrediting agencies.

11. The new professors were Jonathan L. Alpert, now a prominent civil trial attorney in Tampa, Florida, and William Eleazer, Author of this Article, who retired from Stetson in 1999.

mandatory, each semester approximately eighty-five to ninety percent of eligible students have enrolled in the course.<sup>12</sup>

The course, and the philosophy behind it, have not significantly changed since the NITA-style methodology was introduced in 1979. Stetson's policy is that every student who wants the opportunity to learn the skills involved in actually trying a case before a jury should have that opportunity. The hands-on, "learning-by-doing" teaching methodology, similar to that used by NITA in its residence courses, is still employed by the trial advocacy instructors. This method is premised upon repetitive student participation in a simulated courtroom environment.

Students are eligible to take Stetson's basic trial advocacy course upon completing Evidence; most students register in the second semester of the second year. Along with a commitment to provide every student the opportunity to take the course is the commitment to provide well-equipped courtroom facilities for a simulated courtroom environment during all instruction. The facilities have grown from the one model courtroom in the 1950s to four well equipped courtrooms at the present time. Each has video equipment for recording student performances and facilitating the critiques, and two have jury rooms with video equipment that may be used to record jury deliberations to provide further feedback to the students.<sup>13</sup> One courtroom, built in 1976, is named in honor of Dean Harold L. Sebring. The largest courtroom, beautifully designed with light oak paneling, is the Carey and Florin courtroom, named for the law firm by that name and dedicated in 1984.<sup>14</sup>

A structured approach is maintained in all trial advocacy classes, ensuring that all students are instructed in jury selection, opening statements, direct and cross-examination of witnesses, making and meeting objections, motions in limine, handling exhibits, examining expert witnesses, impeachment methods and techniques, preparing the "trial notebook," and closing arguments. Instructors also ensure that students are made aware of courtroom

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12. Although Trial Advocacy is not a required course, it is one of the courses available to the students to satisfy the school's "skills requirement" for graduation.

13. The Author believes, after consulting with many trial advocacy professors and trial team coaches, that no other law school in the nation has four courtrooms on campus for use in teaching trial advocacy — certainly not four so well-equipped with video cameras.

14. Members of the law firm who contributed a total of \$250,000 to the building of Carey and Florin courtroom were Thomas Carey, Wil H. Florin, Thomas D. Roebig, Jr., Michael L. Walker, and Dr. James Huddlestun. All but Thomas Carey are Stetson graduates, and Mr. Carey has been a long time supporter of Stetson University College of Law.

courtesies, ethics, and professional responsibility at each stage of instruction. Both civil and criminal trial problems are used in the course. During the latter part of the course, each student participates in a short (two-hour) trial, and finally, a four-hour simulated jury trial presided over by a judge from the local courts.

The *goal* of Stetson's basic course in trial advocacy has remained the same over the past twenty years since the NITA-style methodology was initiated to prepare every student who successfully completes the course to be sufficiently competent in trial skills to perform adequately in the common situations lawyers face everyday in our trial courts. In addition to the basic course, Stetson offers courses in advanced trial advocacy and specialized litigation to enable students who expect to concentrate on litigation and trial practice to receive additional instruction.<sup>15</sup>

As has been shown, Stetson has had a strong trial advocacy program and has produced many outstanding trial lawyers during its 100 years, so national recognition for excellence in teaching trial advocacy should not have come as a surprise. Nevertheless, when in 1995 *U.S. News & World Report* named Stetson's program the number one program in the nation in its first ranking of the top ten law school trial advocacy programs, it did somewhat overwhelm the Stetson community that this honor had been bestowed on our law school by such a prestigious national news magazine. And since then, *U.S. News & World Report* has continued to rank Stetson's trial advocacy program in the top ten in the nation each year; and in four of those years, Stetson has been ranked number one.<sup>16</sup>

The question often asked is, "Just how did Stetson's trial advocacy program obtain such continuing high national honor?" In addition to its long tradition of producing outstanding trial attorneys, Stetson's unprecedented success in national-level trial competitions is given much credit for this ranking. Despite its relatively small student enrollment, during the past twenty years, Stetson has won first place in eighteen national-level trial competi-

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15. See *infra* note 59 for a list of available specialized litigation and advanced litigation courses.

16. Stetson was ranked number one in the nation in 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998. *Supra* n. 1. In 1999 Stetson was ranked number four in the nation. *Best Graduate Schools*, *supra* n. 1, at 95. In 2000 Stetson was ranked second in the nation. *Best Graduate Schools*, *supra* n. 1, at 128.

tions — more than *any other law school in the nation*.<sup>17</sup> In addition to these eighteen national championships, Stetson has won twenty regional competitions and twenty-five state competitions. During one three-year period in the 1990s, Stetson won more national-level trial competition championships than all other law schools in the nation *combined*.

It seems appropriate to trace the history of Stetson's trial competition program and identify some of the coaches and team members responsible for its success. Trial competitions on a national level began in the 1970s. Initially there were only two, but the number has grown now to seven major national trial competitions.<sup>18</sup> These competitions require law students to demonstrate

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17. The eighteen Championships are as follows:

**The National Trial Competition:** 1989 (team members Carol McMurry (now Bishop) and Charles Samarkos); 1990 (team members Marie DeMarco, Jennifer Eden, and Doug Noah); and 1994 (team members Angelo Patacca and Karen A. Williams).

**ATLA's National Student Trial Advocacy Competition:** 1993 (team members Paul Cavonis, William Dickerson, Patrick Gorman, and David Holmes); 1994 (team members Andres Alos, Jennifer Monrose, John Sawyer, and Bram Scharf); and 1996 (team members Lee Coppock, Sarah Crossman Sullivan, Garvin Bowden, and Kristin Demers).

**The National Invitational Trial Competition "Tournament of Champions":** 1989 (team members Marie DeMarco, Jennifer Eden, and Doug Noah); 1991 (team members Rob Blank, Amy Peavyhouse (now Quezon), Mike Ciochina, and Lydia Dempsey); 1993 (team members Shirin Mohammadbhoy Vesely, David Paul, Robert Tetreault, and Karen A. Williams); and 1994 (team members Julie Fox, Ken Gerber, Tom Harmon, and Angelo Patacca).

**The Cathy E. Bennett National Criminal Trial Competition:** 1992 (team members John Grant, Shirin Mohammadbhoy Vesely, Tammy Giroux, and David Paul); 1993 (team members Andres Alos, Stacy Bohlman (now Strolla), Angelo Patacca, and John Sawyer); and 1995 (team members Tangelo Hopkins, Jason Recksiedler, Sarah Crossman Sullivan, and Maria Tejedor).

**The National Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition:** 1993 (team members John Grant, Shirin Mohammadbhoy Vesely, Mike Rachel, and Steve Berkeley); 1994 (team members Mark Calvin, Richard McKyton, Brian Tannebaum, and Tom Willis); 1998 (Garvin Bowden, Todd Miller, Jennifer Sloane, and Creighton Shafer); 1999 (team members Ken Foote, Caroline Iovino, Kyle Pennington, and Ayenn Stark); 2000 (team members Chinwe Okpechi, Courtney Smith, Mark Stallworth, and Julissa Rodriguez).

18. The seven major competitions are as follows: The National Trial Competition, sponsored by the American College of Trial Lawyers and the Texas Young Lawyers Association; the National Student Trial Advocacy Competition, sponsored by the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA); the National Invitational Trial Competition,



their advocacy skills during a simulated jury trial of three to four hours, during which they are evaluated by experienced trial lawyers and judges. This is a significant test of the students' trial advocacy skills and, when applied over a period of years, is arguably the truest evaluation of how well trial advocacy skills are being taught in a particular law school. The two oldest, largest, and most prestigious student trial competitions are the National Trial Competition, sponsored by the American College of Trial Lawyers and the Texas Young Lawyers Association, and the National Student Trial Advocacy Competition, sponsored by the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA). These competitions, which are open to all nationally accredited law schools, begin with regional trial competitions from which the regional winners and co-winners proceed to the National Finals.

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"Tournament of Champions," sponsored by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy; the Cathy E. Bennett National Criminal Justice Trial Competition, sponsored by The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; the National Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition, sponsored by the Criminal Justice Section of the American Bar Association; the National White Collar Crime Trial Competition, sponsored and hosted each year by Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.; and the William W. Daniel National Mock Trial Competition, sponsored by the Younger Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia.

The National Invitational Trial Competition, "Tournament of Champions," now sponsored by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, was originally sponsored by the Ohio Trial Lawyers Association. The often-told story of why it was established is interesting. It seems that the National Trial Competition, which is held annually in Texas, was usually won by one of the schools from the South, and the perception by some was that southern schools had an advantage in Texas that would disappear if the competition were to be held in the North. Thus, the challenge was issued to the law schools across the nation with the best trial competition records to meet in Akron, Ohio for three days of trial competition. The Ohio Chapter of the American College of Trial Lawyers sponsored the competition, which became known as the "Tournament of Champions." Invitations were extended to sixteen representative law schools, with at least one from each federal judicial circuit to ensure a good cross section of the country. The question to be answered was whether trial teams from the law schools of the South — the usual winners in Texas — could stand the test of "true trial advocacy skills" when judged by trial lawyers from the North, more specifically Ohio trial lawyers. The answer came when the semifinalists were announced after the first four rounds of the competition: Stetson, Wake Forest, Georgia State, and Texas Tech. Stetson went on to defeat Georgia State in the final round to win the first "Tournament of Champions" and put to rest the perceived unfair advantage of southern schools in the National Trial Competition because of its Texas location. Texas or Ohio — location simply makes no difference to Stetson trial teams.

*STETSON'S TWENTY YEARS OF TRIAL COMPETITIONS*

Stetson entered a regional competition for the first time in 1981.<sup>19</sup> This was a regional competition of the National Trial Competition held in Fort Lauderdale, which featured law schools from the southeastern United States. Although Stetson did not win at this first opportunity, the team did reach the semifinals and left with a determination to help build a winning program at Stetson.

The team fared a bit better in the same competition the following year, 1982, advancing as co-winners of the regional competition to the National Finals in Texas.<sup>20</sup> The regional success continued in 1983, with the team again a co-winner and advancing to the Semifinal round of the National Finals in Houston, Texas.<sup>21</sup> The following year, 1984, Stetson improved further, winning the regional of ATLA's National Student Trial Advocacy Competition and advancing to become a finalist in the ATLA Nationals in Washington, D.C.<sup>22</sup> This was the beginning of many years of success by Stetson in the ATLA competition. During the next fifteen years, Stetson teams won three ATLA National Championships<sup>23</sup> and

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19. The members of the first Stetson team (1981) were Kay Blanco, Baron Given, Robert Paver, Charlie Roberts, and Tom Whitaker. The greenhorn coach was the Author of this Article. After graduation, the team members frequently returned in the fall semester to assist in the selection of the new team and, in the case of Robert Paver, to coach.

20. Members of the 1982 Stetson team, who were co-winners of the regional competition, were Pam Cole Bell and Brian Bolves. Pam Cole Bell later returned to Stetson as an adjunct professor teaching trial advocacy and to help coach the Stetson trial teams. Many other team members would also return to help with the coaching of the Stetson trial teams, including Marie DeMarco, Kristin Demers, Jaime Eagan, John Grant, Jay Hebert, Kathy Tourville Hessinger, Bob Lang, Shirin Mohammadbhoy Vesely, Robert Paver, Don Pumphrey, Mike Rachel, Brent Rose, Fred Schaub, Stacey Schroeder, Robert Tetreault, and Karen A. Williams.

21. Members of the 1983 Stetson team were Randy Brennan, Thomas DeCarlo, and Mirella Murphy (now James).

22. Members of the 1984 Regional and National Finalist team were Robley (Matt) Miles, Joe Stewart, and Tim Moorhead. Caroline Kapusta (now Black) was also a member of the regional team. Professor Jerome Kramer was the coach.

23. Stetson won the National Championship in the ATLA competition in 1993 (team members Paul Cavonis, William Dickerson, Patrick Gorman, and David Holmes; Coach Professor McKinley Smiley); 1994 (team members Andres Alos, Jennifer Monrose, John Sawyer, and Bram Scharf; Coach Kathy Tourville Hessinger); and 1996 (team members Lee Coppock, Garvin Bowden, Kristin Demers, and Sara Crossman Sullivan; Coaches Shirin Mohammadbhoy Vesely and Robert Tetreault). Additionally, in 1984, 1992, and 1997, Stetson finished in second place in the ATLA Nationals.

produced eight teams that were winners or co-winners<sup>24</sup> in the regionals of this competition.

Stetson's regional and national success in the early 1980s was complemented by Stetson winning the first Florida State Bar Trial Competition in 1983 — a trial competition open to all accredited Florida law schools and renamed the following year as the “Chester Bedell Memorial Trial Competition.” This was the start of Stetson's dominant reign in the State Bar Competition. Stetson has won first place in that competition for fourteen of the eighteen years of its existence.<sup>25</sup>

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24. Winning Regional Teams, ATLA National Student Trial Advocacy Competition:

**1984:** (team members Robley (Matt) Miles, Joe Stewart, Tim Moorhead, and Caroline Kapusta (now Black));

**1990:** (team members David Anhorn, George Guerra, Jay Hebert, and Amy Koltnow; semifinalists in the Nationals; Coaches Professor Charles Waygood and Brent Rose);

**1992:** (team members Gina Fridella (now Jung), Chris Sabella, William Dickerson, and Teri Wendt were finalists at the Nationals; Coaches Jay Hebert and Professor Charles Waygood);

**1993:** (team members Paul Cavis, William Dickerson, Patrick Gorman, and David Holmes, who went on to win the National Championship; Coach Professor McKinley Smiley. Another Stetson team of John Dill and Karen A. Williams finished as finalists in the Regional; Coach Jay Herbert; Best Advocate Karen A. Williams);

**1994:** (two Stetson teams were co-winners: the team of Andres Alos, Jennifer Monrose, John Sawyer, and Bram Scharf went on to win first place in the Nationals; the team of Stacy Bohlman (now Strolla), Mark De Sisto, Robert Tetreault, and Pam Woolley finished as quarter-finalists in the Nationals; Coach Kathy Tourville Hessinger);

**1996:** (team members Lee Coppock, Garvin Bowden, Kristin Demers, and Sarah Crossman Sullivan; Coach Shirin Mohammadbhoj Vesely);

**1997:** (team members Kristin Demers, Andrew Foster, Jessica Halperin, and Monique McCloud). The team won second place in the Nationals, with Leslie Miller substituting as a team witness at the last minute when McCloud became ill. During the preparation of this Article, the 2000 ATLA regional competition was held and both Stetson teams finished as finalists in the double-bracketed competition (team members Geno Odom, Monica Rose, Ayenn Stark, and Deanne West; the other team members, Michael Henderson, Chinwe Okpechi, Dora Rodrigues, and Courtney Smith; Coaches Jaime Eagan and Stacey Schroeder).

25. Stetson's eighteen-year history in the Chester Bedell Memorial Trial Competition, with team member advocates, coaches and best advocates, follows.

**1983:** (first place team members Randy Brennan, Thomas DeCarlo, and Mirella Murphy (now James); Coach William Eleazer);

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**1984:** (both teams semifinalists; team members George Sanchez, Carol Draper, Jeff Cosnow, Fred Schaub, Sherrille Diane Akin, and Jim Napier);

**1985:** (first place team members Carol Draper and Steve Hurm; Coach William Eleazer; Best Advocate Steve Hurm);

**1986:** (first place team members John Higgins, Steve Hurm, and Carl Lyle; second place team members Gerald Albrecht, Ted Estes, and Andy Salzman; Coaches William Eleazer and Robert Paver; Best Advocate Steve Hurm);

**1987:** (team members Lawrence Najem and Brent Rose; Coaches Fred Schaub and Robert Paver);

**1988:** (first place team members Carol McMurry (now Bishop) and Charles Samarkos; second place team members Brent Rose and Tracy Sheehan; Coach Fred Schaub; Best Advocate Charles Samarkos);

**1989:** (first place team members Carol McMurry (now Bishop) and Charles Samarkos; second place team members Jeff Brown, Kathy Tourville Hessinger and Mark Kapusta; Coach Fred Schaub; Best Advocate Carol McMurry (now Bishop));

**1990:** (first place team members Marie DeMarco, Jennifer Eden, and Doug Noah; second place team members Paul Buckley, Kathy Tourville Hessinger, and Ken Turkel; Coach Fred Schaub; Outstanding Advocate Marie DeMarco);

**1991:** (first place team members Grady Irvin, Amy Koltnow, and Adam Littman; Coach Brent Rose; Best Advocate Grady Irvin);

**1992:** (first place team members Grady Irvin, Earl Johnson, and Patrick Real; second place team members Amy Peavyhouse (now Quezon) and Rob Blank; Coach Marie DeMarco; Best Advocate Grady Irvin);

**1993:** (first place team members Jennifer Gentry (now Fernandez), Jaime Eagan, and Mike Rachel; second place team members John Grant and Shirin Mohammadbhoy Vesely; Coaches Marie DeMarco, Kathy Tourville Hessinger, and Fred Schaub; Best Advocate Mike Rachel; witnesses Ann Snow, David Paul, Dan Martinez, Macon Clark, and Paul Flounlacker);

**1994:** (second place team members Angelo Patacca, Stacy Strolla, and Brian Tannebaum; Coach Marie DeMarco; witness Robert Williams);

**1995:** (first place team members Ken Gerber, Julie Fox, and Tom Harmon, with witnesses James O'Leary and Lauralee Westine; second place team members Jay Diaco, Richard McKyton, and Stacey Schroeder, with witness Julie Walbroel; Coaches John Grant and Fred Schaub; Outstanding Advocates Tom Harmon and Richard McKyton);

**1996:** (first place advocates Lee Coppock, Jason Recksiedler, and Tiffany Koogler; second place team members Jessica Halperin, Maria Tejedor, and Troy Sellars; Coaches John Grant and Mike Rachel; Best Advocate Lee Coppock; witnesses Tangela Hopkins and Jay Vanderzee);

In 1985 the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers established another important law school competition, the Student Intrastate Mock Trial Competition, open to all Florida law schools. The Stetson Trial Team won first place in this first competition<sup>26</sup> and has continued to win first place for eleven of the fifteen years it has been held.<sup>27</sup>

**1997:** (first place team members Chasity Brooks Branham, Greg Huber, and Tiffany Koogler; second place team members Bob Lang, Jennifer Perrone, and Todd Miller; Coach John Grant; Best Advocate Tiffany Koogler; witnesses Garvin Bowden, Creighton Shafer, Chandra Klipstein, and LeAnne Letize);

**1998:** (both teams semifinalists; team members Vitalia Diaz, Chandra Klipstein, Will Lazenby, Maria DiBlasio, Chris DeBari, Paul Puzanghera, Tammy Denbo, and Don Anderson; Coach Pam Cole Bell);

**1999:** (both teams semifinalists; team members Dawn Heisey, Lance Reins, Lia Diaz, Geno Odom, Monica Rose, and Vince Citro; Coach Bob Lang);

**2000:** (first place advocates Dan Green, Chinwe Okpechi, and Mariela Llanes, with witness Kim Dunn; second place advocates Tauna Bogle, Thea Dalkalitsis, and Courtney Smith, with witness Jim Mancuso; Coaches The Honorable David Demers, Susan Demers, and Kristin Demers, a former Stetson Trial Team member; Best Advocate Chinwe Okpechi).

26. Members of the first (1985) winning team were Frank Beauchamp, Allen Sang, and Dee Mateer (now Setchel); Coach Professor Jerome Kramer.

27. Winning years at the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers Student Intrastate Mock Trial Competition (in addition to 1985) were as follows:

**1987:** (first place advocates William Williams and Michael Carter, with witnesses David Carlton and David Lewis; second place advocates Jaye Ann Terry and Paula Adams, with witnesses Don Fountain and Tom Cooper; Coach Professor Jerome Kramer);

**1988:** (advocates Larry Ringers and Dawn Weiger; witnesses Dan DeMay and Sandra Spoto; Coach Professor Charles Waygood);

**1989:** (first place team members Karen Morinelli, Thomas Schmitt, Sylvia Grunor, and David Kuschel; second place team members Andrea Ubl, Alyson Ziegler, Cathy Goodwin, and William Edwin Litton II; Coach Professor Charles Waygood);

**1991:** (advocates Lisa Kelley and Jeffrey Goodis; witnesses Suzanne Taylor, and Tom Vecchio; Coaches Professor Charles Waygood and Jay Hebert);

**1993:** (first place advocates Stephen Barnes and Casey Shomo, with witnesses Susan Stewart and Robert Tetreault; second place advocates Andres Alos and Rebecca Palmer, with witnesses Dyana L. Petro and Kevin Morris; Coaches Jay Hebert and Professor Charles Waygood);

**1995:** (first place team members Robert Crown, Kelly Feeley, Greg Hengber, and James

Although the early years proved successful for Stetson's trial teams, the year 1989 marked a milestone in Stetson's trial competition program and the beginning of the most successful trial competition program of any law school in the nation. That year, coached by Fred Schaub,<sup>28</sup> the Stetson team won its first national title – first place in the National Trial Competition held in Houston, Texas.<sup>29</sup> The following year, 1990, Schaub coached the Stetson team to another championship in the National Trial Competition, the first time that any law school had won the championship two years in a row.<sup>30</sup> He added to these accomplishments in 1994, when he took two Stetson teams, co-winners of the regional competition, to the National Finals, where they finished first *and* second, the first such finish by any law school.<sup>31</sup> Schaub proceeded to become the most successful trial competition coach in the nation, coaching Stetson

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O'Leary; second place team members Ken Gerber, Maria Tejedor, Julie Walbroel, and Theresa Wigginton; Coaches Jaime Eagan and Mike Rachel);

**1996:** (competition not held);

**1997:** (first place team members Donna Brookes DeVaney, Chandra Klipstein, Creighton Shafer, and Paul Fulmer; second place team members Beth Aronson, Garvin Bowden, LeAnne Letize, and Gregory Zele; Coach Pam Cole Bell; Best Advocate Creighton Shafer);

**February 1998:** (team members Chris DeBari, Paul Puzzanghera, Adrian Soud, and Holly Burke; Coach Robert Lang, assisted by Don Pumphrey; Best Advocate Chris DeBari);

**November 1998:** (first place team members Dawn Heisey, Doug Knehr, Rich Masotti, and Paul Puzzanghera; second place team members Lia Diaz, LisaMarie Freitas, Geno Odom, and Lance Reins; Coach Robert Lang; Best Advocate Geno Odom);

**1999:** (competition not held).

28. Schaub was a member of Stetson's 1984 trial team.

29. Team members of Stetson's 1989 National Championship team were Carol McMurry (now Bishop) and Charles Samarkos.

30. Team members of Stetson's 1990 National Championship team were Marie DeMarco, Jennifer Eden, and Doug Noah. Stetson had two regional teams that advanced to the Nationals that year. The team of Kathy Tourville Hessinger and Ken Turkel were quarterfinalists at the Nationals.

31. Members of Stetson's 1994 first place team were Angelo Patacca and Karen A. Williams; members of the second place team were Shirin Mohammadbhoj Vesely and David Paul, who was named Best Advocate of the competition. Karen A. Williams joined the Stetson faculty in the fall of 1999 as a full-time trial advocacy teaching fellow.

teams to six national level championships,<sup>32</sup> as well as three second place finishes,<sup>33</sup> two quarterfinalist finishes<sup>34</sup> in national level competitions, ten regional championships or co-championships,<sup>35</sup> and six state championships.<sup>36</sup> Many other Stetson Trial Team coaches would join Schaub in bringing state, regional, and national trial competition championship trophies back to the campus, and their accomplishments served to establish and maintain Stetson's dominance in trial competitions. The phenomenal records established by these coaches deserve special note. These coaches include Marie DeMarco,<sup>37</sup> Kathy Tourville Hessinger,<sup>38</sup> Shirin

32. The 1989, 1990, and 1994 National Trial Competition (team members listed *supra* nn. 29, 30, and 31); 1989 National Invitational Trial Competition, "Tournament of Champions," (team members Marie DeMarco, Jennifer Eden, and Doug Noah; Best Advocate Marie DeMarco); 1993 National Invitational Trial Competition, "Tournament of Champions," with Marie DeMarco (team members Shirin Mohammadbhoy Vesely, David Paul, Robert Tetreault, and Karen A. Williams); 1993 ABA National Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition, assisted by Kathy Tourville Hessinger (team members John Grant, Shirin Mohammadbhoy Vesely, Mike Rachel, and Steve Berkeley).

33. 1988 National Trial Competition (team members Bryan Caulfield and Brent Rose); 1994 National Trial Competition (team members Shirin Mohammadbhoy Vesely and David Paul); 1995 National Trial Competition, with John Grant (team members Joseph Diaco, Thomas Harmon, and Stacey Schroeder).

34. 1990 National Trial Competition (team members Kathy Tourville Hessinger and Ken Turkel); 1993 National Trial Competition (team members Jaime Eagan and Jennifer Gentry (now Fernandez)).

35. Winning Regional team members by year: 1987 (Maggie McCall, Fred Pearson, and Mike Walker); 1988 (Bryan Caulfield, Brent Rose, and James Hall; Best Advocate Brent Rose); 1989 (Carol McMurry (now Bishop) and Charles Samarkos); 1990 (two teams, Marie DeMarco, Jennifer Eden, and Doug Noah, and co-winners, Kathy Tourville Hessinger and Ken Turkel); 1991 (Amy Koltnow and Grady Irvin); 1992 (Robert Blank and Amy Peavyhouse (now Quezon)); 1993 (Jaime Eagan and Jennifer Gentry (now Fernandez)); 1994 (Angelo Patacca and Karen A. Williams, and co-winners Shirin Mohammadbhoy Vesely, and David Paul); 1995, with John Grant (Joseph Diaco, Tom Harmon, and Stacey Schroeder).

36. Schaub coached Stetson's winning teams in the Chester Bedell Memorial Trial Competition in 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1993, and 1995. See *supra* note 25 for team members on each team.

37. Marie DeMarco was a member of the Stetson team that won the first annual National Invitational Trial Competition, "Tournament of Champions" (1989). She was also a member of the Stetson trial team that won the 1990 Chester Bedell Memorial Trial Competition and the 1990 Trial Advocacy Competition, and was named Best Advocate in both. She coached several very successful Stetson trial teams, beginning the year following her graduation from Stetson — 1991 first place in the National Invitational Trial Competition, "Tournament of Champions" (team members Rob Blank, Amy Peavyhouse (now Quezon), Mike Ciochina, and Lydia Dempsey); 1992 first place in the Chester Bedell Memorial Trial Competition (first place team members Grady Irvin, Earl Johnson, and Patrick Real; second place team members Amy Peavyhouse (now Quezon) and Rob Blank); 1992 first place, Cathy E. Bennett National Criminal Trial Competition (team members John Grant, Shirin Mohammadbhoy Vesely, David Paul, and Tammy Giroux; Best Advocate John Grant); 1993 first and second place in the Chester Bedell Memorial Trial Competition (with Kathy Tourville Hessinger and

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Mohammadbhoy Vesely,<sup>39</sup> John Grant,<sup>40</sup> Jaime Eagan,<sup>41</sup> Pam Cole

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Fred Schaub; first place team members Jennifer Gentry (now Fernandez), Jaime Eagan, and Mike Rachel; second place team members John Grant and Shirin Mohammadbhoy Vesely; witnesses David Paul, Dan Martinez, Macon Clark, Paul Flounlacker, and Ann Snow); 1993 first place in the National Invitational Trial Competition, "Tournament of Champions," assisted by Fred Schaub (team members Shirin Mohammadbhoy Vesely, David Paul, Robert Tetreault, and Karen A. Williams).

38. Kathy Tourville Hessinger was a member of a number of Stetson teams, winning in the Regional of the 1990 National Trial Competition and reaching the quarter-finals of the Nationals. She returned to coach a number of championship teams. These include: 1993, first place in the Chester Bedell Memorial Trial Competition (with Marie DeMarco and Fred Schaub; first place team members Jennifer Gentry, Jaime Eagan, and Mike Rachel; second place team members John Grant and Shirin Mohammadbhoy Vesely; witnesses David Paul, Dan Martinez, Macon Clark, Paul Flounlacker, and Ann Snow); 1993 first place in the ABA National Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition (with Fred Schaub; team members John Grant, Shirin Mohammadbhoy Vesely, Mike Rachel, and Steve Berkeley); 1993 first place in the Cathy E. Bennett National Criminal Trial Competition (team members Andres Alos, Stacy Bohlman (now Strolla), Angelo Patacca, and John Sawyer; Best Advocate Andres Alos); 1994 first place in the ATLA's National Student Trial Competition Regional (the two Stetson teams were co-winners) as well as first place in the National Finals. The team of Andres Alos, Jennifer Monrose, John Sawyer, and Bram Scharf won the Nationals. The team of Stacy Bohlman (now Strolla), Mark De Sisto, Robert Tetreault, and Pam Woolley advanced to the semi-finals of the Nationals. 1995 National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Cathy E. Bennett Memorial Trial Competition (team members Tangela Hopkins, Jason Recksiedler, Sarah Crossman Sullivan, and Maria Tejedor).

39. Shirin Mohammadbhoy Vesely was a member of two national championship teams while a student at Stetson — the 1992 Cathy E. Bennett National Criminal Trial Competition and the 1993 National Invitational Trial Competition "Tournament of Champions." She was also on Stetson's 1994 National Trial Competition team that reached the final round of that competition before losing to the other Stetson team — the first 1-2 finish for any school in that competition. She returned to coach a number of winning Stetson teams in both regional and national competitions: 1996 first place in the Regionals as well as in the Nationals of the ATLA National Student Trial Advocacy Competition (with Robert Tetreault; team members Lee Coppock, Garvin Bowden, Kristin Demers, and Sara Crossman Sullivan); 1997 first place in the Regional of the ATLA National Student Trial Advocacy Competition (with Robert Tetreault; team members Kristin Demers, Andrew Foster, Jessica Halperin, and Monique McCloud). The team won second place in the Nationals, with Leslie Miller substituting as a team witness at the last minute when a witness became ill. Another Stetson team, composed of Tangela Hopkins, Jennifer Sloane, Leslie Miller, and Karim Mitchell "Mitch" Espat, advanced to the final round of the regional competition); 1998 first place in the ABA National Criminal Justice National Trial Competition (team members Garvin Bowden, Todd Miller, Jennifer Sloane, and Creighton Shafer). She also coached the four ABA student advocates for the National Trial Competition Regional in 1998, where they were finalists.

40. While in law school, John Grant was a member of two National Championship teams — the 1992 Cathy E. Bennett National Criminal Trial Competition and the 1993 National Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition. He returned to coach many of Stetson's championship teams, including the following: 1994 first place, ABA National Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition (with Professor Stephen M. Everhart; team members Mark Calvin, Richard McKyton, Brian Tannebaum, and Tom Willis); 1994 first place, National Trial Competition "Tournament of Champions" (with Professor Stephen M. Everhart; team members Julie Fox, Ken Gerber, Tom Harmon, and Angelo Patacca); 1995 first and second



Bell,<sup>42</sup> Professor W. McKinley Smiley,<sup>43</sup> Professor Charles

place in the Chester Bedell Memorial Trial Competition (with Fred Schaub; first place team members Ken Gerber, Julie Fox, and Tom Harmon; second place team members Joseph Diaco, Richard McKyton, and Stacey Schroeder; Outstanding Advocates Tom Harmon and Richard McKyton); 1995 first place, Regional of the National Trial Competition, and second place in the National Finals (with Fred Schaub; team members Joseph Diaco, Thomas Harmon, and Stacey Schroeder); 1996 first and second place in the Chester Bedell Memorial Trial Competition (with Mike Rachel; first place team members Lee Coppock, Jason Recksiedler, and Tiffany Koogler; second place team members Jessica Halperin, Maria Tejedor, and Troy Sellars; Best Advocate Lee Coppock); 1996 first place, two teams were co-winners in the Regional of the National Trial Competition (with Mike Rachel; one team of Tangelia Hopkins, Tiffany Koogler, and Maria Tejedor; the other team of Jessica Halperin, Troy Sellars, and Jay Vanderzee. The Hopkins-Koogler-Tejedor team advanced to the semi-finals in the Nationals and the Halperin-Sellars-Vanderzee team advanced to the quarter-finals); 1997 first and second place in the Chester Bedell Memorial Trial Competition (first place team members Chasity Brooks Branham, Greg Huber, and Tiffany Koogler; second place team members Bob Lang, Jennifer Perrone, and Todd Miller; Best Advocate Tiffany Koogler). Grant also coached the Stetson team in the 1995 National Trial Competition "Tournament of Champions" in which Lee Coppock was named Outstanding Advocate, as well as the Stetson team that advanced to the semi-finals of the 1996 National Invitational Trial Competition "Tournament of Champions" (team members Chasity Brooks Branham, Lee Coppock, Tiffany Koogler, and Troy Sellars).

41. Jaime Eagan was a member of Stetson's winning 1993 Chester Bedell Memorial Trial Competition and the 1993 National Trial Competition Regional team that advanced to the quarter-finals of the Nationals. She has coached a number of Stetson trial teams, including the teams that won first and second place at the 1995 Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers' Intrastate Mock Trial Competition (with Mike Rachel; first place team members Robert Crown, Kelly Feeley, Greg Hengber, and James O'Leary; second place, Ken Gerber, Maria Tejedor, Julie Walbroel, and Theresa Wigginton). One of her notable coaching achievements has been at the National White Collar Crime Competition, where her teams have been national finalists every year since its inception. Team members, by year in this competition were: 1997 (Andrew Foster, Todd Miller, Bob Murphy, and Jennifer Sloane); 1998 (Holly Burke, Ken Foote, Maria DiBlasio, and Adrian Soud); and 1999 (Ken Foote, Caroline Iovino, Kyle Pennington, and Ayenn Stark). Eagan also served as the coach, along with Stacey Schroeder, of the 2000 ATLA National Student Trial Advocacy Competition in which both Stetson teams advanced to the final round of that two-bracketed competition (one team: Geno Odom, Monica Rose, Ayenn Stark, and Deanne West; the other, Michael Henderson, Chinwe Okpechi, Dora Rodrigues, and Courtney Smith).

42. Pam Cole Bell was a member of the 1982 Stetson Trial Team, the first to participate in the National Trial Competition Finals. She returned to Stetson as an adjunct professor of trial advocacy and has coached a number of Stetson's trial teams, among them the winning teams at the 1997 Florida Academy of Trial Lawyers Intrastate Mock Trial Competition (first place team members Donna Brookes (now DeVaney), Chandra Klipstein, Creighton Shafer, and Paul Fulmer; second place team members Beth Aronson, Garvin Bowden, LeAnne Letize, and Gregory Zele). That same year (1997) she coached the Stetson team at the National Invitational Trial Competition, "Tournament of Champions," in which Stetson team member Garvin Bowden was named Best Advocate of the competition. The following year, Bell coached the 1998 National Invitational Trial Competition, "Tournament of Champions," team, which advanced to the semi-final round (team members Chris DeBari, Caroline Iovino, Will Lazenby, and Kyle Pennington). In 1999 she coached Stetson's Championship team at the ABA Criminal Justice National Trial Advocacy Competition (team members Ken Foote,

Waygood,<sup>44</sup> Professor Jerry Kramer,<sup>45</sup> Robert Tetreault,<sup>46</sup> Jay

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Caroline Iovina, Kyle Pennington, and Ayenn Stark). In 2000 she returned to coach Stetson's team in the same competition to another championship (team members Chinwe Okpechi, Courtney Smith, Mark Stallworth, and Julissa Rodriguez; Best Advocate Chinwe Okpechi).

43. Professor Smiley was the founder of the Stetson Trial Advocacy Society, which at the time was one of the largest student organizations at Stetson. He coached a Stetson team to a first place finish in the 1993 ATLA National Student Trial Advocacy Competition (team members Paul Caviconis, William Dickerson, Patrick Gorman, and David Holmes).

44. Winning teams coached by Professor Charles Waygood — 1988 first place, Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers Intrastate Mock Trial Competition (team members Larry Ringers, Dawn Weiger, Dan DeMay, and Sandra Spoto); 1989 first and second place, Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers Intrastate Mock Trial Competition (first place team members Karen Morinelli, Thomas Schmitt, Sylvia Grunor, and David Kuschel; second place team members Andrea Ubl, Alyson Ziegler, Cathy Goodwin, and William Litton); 1990 first place, Regional of the ATLA National Student Trial Advocacy Competition, assisted by Brent Rose (team members David Anhorn, George Guerra, Jay Hebert, and Amy Koltnow; the team advanced to the semi-finals at the Nationals); 1991 first place, Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers' Intrastate Mock Trial Competition (advocates Lisa Kelley and Jeffrey Goodis; witnesses Suzanne Taylor and Tom Vecchio); 1992 first place, Regional of the ATLA National Student Trial Advocacy Competition, (team members Gina Fridella (now Jung), Chris Sabella, William Dickerson, and Teri Wendt; the team advanced to the finals at the Nationals); 1993 first and second place, Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers' Intrastate Mock Trial Competition, assisted by Jay Hebert (first place members Stephen Barnes and Casey Shomo; witnesses Susan Stewart and Robert Tetreault; second place members Andres Alos and Rebecca Palmer, with witnesses Dyana L. Petro and Kevin Morris; Best Advocate Casey Shomo).

45. Professor Jerry Kramer was active in the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers and instrumental in the Academy's decision to establish and sponsor the annual Student Intrastate Mock Trial Competition. He coached the Stetson team that won this competition in its initial year, 1985 (team members Frank Beauchamp, Allen Sang, and Dee Mateer (now Setchel)), as well as the 1987 teams that won first and second place in the competition (first place team members William Williams and Michael Carter as advocates, with David Carlton and David Lewis as witnesses; second place advocates Jaye Ann Terry and Paula Adams, with witnesses Don Fountain and Tom Cooper). Professor Kramer also coached the Stetson team that won the 1984 Regional of the ATLA National Student Trial Advocacy Competition (team members Robley (Matt) Miles, Joe Stewart, Caroline Kapusta (now Black), and Tim Moorhead; the team advanced to finish in second place at the Nationals).

46. Robert Tetreault was a member of the Stetson teams that won the 1993 National Invitational Trial Competition, "Tournament of Champions," and the 1993 Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers' Intrastate Mock Trial Competition. As a coach, his winning teams included the following: 1996 first place in the Regional as well as in the Nationals of the ATLA National Student Trial Advocacy Competition (with Shirin Mohammadbhoy Vesely; team members Lee Coppock, Garvin Bowden, Kristin Demers, and Sara Crossman Sullivan); 1997 first place in the Regional of the ATLA National Student Trial Advocacy Competition (with Shirin Mohammadbhoy Vesely; team members Kristin Demers, Andrew Foster, Jessica Halperin, and Monique McCloud. The team won second place in the Nationals, with Leslie Miller substituting as a team witness; another Stetson team composed of Tangelia Hopkins, Jennifer Sloane, Leslie Miller, and Karim Mitchell "Mitch" Espot advanced to the final round of the 1997 regional competition).

Hebert,<sup>47</sup> Mike Rachel,<sup>48</sup> Bob Lang,<sup>49</sup> Robert Paver,<sup>50</sup> Brent Rose,<sup>51</sup>

47. In addition to serving on Stetson's winning team in the 1990 ATLA National Student Trial Advocacy Competition, Jay Hebert returned to coach other Stetson winning teams, including, 1991 Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers' Intrastate Mock Trial Competition (with Professor Charles Waygood; advocates Lisa Kelley and Jeffrey Goodis; witnesses Suzanne Taylor and Tom Vecchio); 1992 first place, Regional of ATLA's National Student Trial Advocacy Competition (with Professor Charles Waygood; team members Gina Fridella (now Jung), Chris Sabella, William Dickerson, and Teri Wendt; the team advanced to finish in second place at the Nationals); 1993 first and second place, Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers' Intrastate Mock Trial Competition (with Professor Charles Waygood; first place team members Stephen Barnes and Casey Shomo, who was named Best Advocate, with witnesses Susan Stewart and Robert Tetreault; second place advocates Andres Alos and Rebecca Palmer, with witnesses Dyana L. Petro and Kevin Morris).

48. Besides serving on the Stetson teams that won the 1993 Chester Bedell Memorial Trial Competition and the 1993 ABA National Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition, Mike Rachel returned to coach a number of Stetson teams. These included, 1995 first and second place, Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers' Intrastate Mock Trial Competition (with Jaime Eagan; first place team members Robert Crown, Kelly Feeley, Greg Hengber, and James O'Leary; second place team members Ken Gerber, Maria Tejedor, Julie Walbroel, and Theresa Wigginton); 1996 first and second place, Chester Bedell Memorial Trial Competition (with John Grant; first place team members Lee Coppock, Jason Recksiedler, and Tiffany Koogler; second place, Jessica Halperin, Maria Tejedor, and Troy Sellars; Best Advocate Award Lee Coppock). He also coached Stetson's two co-winning teams at the 1996 Regional of the National Trial Competition (with John Grant; one team of Tangel Hopkins, Tiffany Koogler, and Maria Tejedor; the other team, Jessica Halperin, Troy Sellars, and Jay Vanderzee. The Hopkins-Koogler-Tejedor team advanced to the semifinals at the Nationals and the Halperin-Sellars-Vanderzee team advanced to the quarterfinals).

49. Robert Lang's winning teams are as follows: 1998 (February) first place, Academy of Trial Lawyers Intrastate Mock Trial Competition (team members Chris DeBari, Paul Puzanghera, Adrian Soud, and Holly Burke; Best Advocate Chris DeBari); 1998 (November) first place and second place, Academy of Trial Lawyers Intrastate Mock Trial Competition (first place team members Dawn Heisey, Doug Knehr, Rich Masotti, and Paul Puzanghera; second place team members Lia Diaz, LisaMarie Freitas, Geno Odom, and Lance Reins; Best Advocate Geno Odom). Lang also coached Stetson's two teams at the 1999 Regional of the ATLA National Student Trial Advocacy Competition, where one team reached the finals and the other the semifinals (finalist team members LisaMarie Freitas, Geno Odom, Lance Reins, and Monica Rose; semifinalist team members Lia Diaz, Rich Masotti, Adrian Soud, and Vince Citro).

50. Robert Paver was a member of the first Stetson team to compete in a law school trial competition, the 1981 Regional of the National Trial Competition, where his team reached the semi-finals. He returned to assist with the coaching of the Stetson teams that won first and second place at the 1986 Chester Bedell Memorial Trial Competition (first place team members John Higgins, Steve Hurm, and Carl Lyle; second place team members Gerald Albrecht, Ted Estes, and Andy Salzman). Paver coached the winning Stetson team the following year, 1987 (with Fred Schaub; team members Lawrence Najem and Brent Rose). He also coached the Stetson team that advanced to the semi-final round of the 1991 Cathy E. Bennett National Criminal Trial Competition.

51. After serving on Stetson's first place team at the 1987 Chester Bedell Memorial Trial Competition and the second place team at the 1988 National Trial Competition, Brent Rose returned to coach (with Professor Charles Waygood) Stetson's first place team at the 1990 Regional of the ATLA National Student Trial Advocacy Competition (team members David

Stacey Schroeder,<sup>52</sup> Don Pumphrey,<sup>53</sup> and Kristin Demers.<sup>54</sup> Along the way, these coaches were assisted by Professors Stephen M. Everhart,<sup>55</sup> Roberta Kemp Flowers,<sup>56</sup> and more recently, Karen A. Williams,<sup>57</sup> who as faculty advisors and coaches were available to

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Anhorn, George Guerra, Jay Hebert, and Amy Koltnow; the team advanced to the semi-finals at the Nationals). He coached the winning 1991 Chester Bedell Memorial Trial Competition team (team members Grady Irvin, Amy Koltnow, and Adam Littman). Rose also coached the Stetson team that competed in the 1991 ABA National Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition (team members Paul Buckley, Gina Fridella (now Jung), Adam Littman, and Marsha Massey).

52. Stacey Schroeder was a member of the Stetson team that won the 1995 National Trial Competition Regional and advanced to the final round of the Nationals. She served as coach of the Stetson team that advanced to the semi-finals of the 1999 William W. Daniel National Trial Competition—the first Stetson team to compete in that competition (team members Vince Citro, Jerona Maiyo, Carl Mitchell, and Juanita Santiago; witnesses, Sha Daniels, Thea Dalkalitsis, Courtney Smith, and Mark Stallworth). Schroeder also served as the coach, along with Jaime Eagan, of the 2000 ATLA National Student Trial Advocacy Competition, in which both Stetson teams advanced to the final round of that two-bracketed competition (team members included, one team of Geno Odom, Monica Rose, Ayenn Stark, and Deanne West; the other, Michael Henderson, Chinwe Okpechi, Dora Rodrigues, and Courtney Smith).

53. Don Pumphrey was a member of Stetson's semifinalist regional team at the 1996 ATLA National Student Trial Advocacy Competition, and returned to coach the 1998 (February) Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers' Intrastate Mock Trial Competition (with Robert Lang; team members Chris DeBari, Paul Puzanghera, Adrian Soud, and Holly Burke), and the 1999 National Trial Competition Regional team (team members Chinwe Okpechi, Juanita Santiago, and Caroline Iovino were finalists in the competition).

54. Kristin Demers was a member of the Stetson team that won the 1996 ATLA National Student Trial Advocacy Competition and finished in second place at the 1997 ATLA National Student Trial Advocacy Competition. She returned recently to coach, along with her parents (The Honorable David Demers and Susan Demers), Stetson's two teams that finished in first and second place at the 2000 Chester Bedell Memorial Trial Competition (first place advocates Dan Green, Chinwe Okpechi, Mariela Llanes; witness Kim Dunn; second place advocates Tauna Bogle, Thea Dalkalitsis, and Courtney Smith; witness Jim Mancuso; Best Advocate Chinwe Okpechi).

55. Professor Stephen M. Everhart joined the trial advocacy faculty in 1993 with experience as both a prosecutor and assistant public defender, as well as in private practice. Along with John Grant, he coached Stetson's winning teams in the 1994 ABA National Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition and the 1994 National Trial Competition "Tournament of Champions." See *supra* note 17 for team members.

56. Professor Roberta Kemp Flowers joined the trial advocacy faculty in 1993. Coming with extensive experience in the United States attorney's office in Fort Lauderdale and as a prosecutor in Colorado, she has been particularly helpful with the teams involved in the trial of criminal cases and especially the National White Collar Crime Competition. See *supra* note 41 for team results in this competition.

57. Professor Karen A. Williams was a member of Stetson's Championship teams in the 1993 National Invitational Trial Competition, "Tournament of Champions," and the 1994 National Trial Competition. She joined the faculty in 1999, assuming primary responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the Stetson Trial Team. She was the coach of the two Stetson teams that finished as Regional co-winners of the 2000 National Trial Competition. (One team, advocates Thea Dalkalitsis and Carl Mitchell, with Mark Stallworth and Kerri Wright

provide the team members with advice on evidence and procedural questions, as well as to accompany the teams as they traveled, solving the myriad of travel, logistical, and other administrative problems as they arose.

In addition to the national recognition from *U.S. News & World Report*, in 1997 Stetson received additional national recognition for its trial advocacy program. That year, Stetson was honored with the prestigious Emil Gumpert Award. The award is made annually by the American College of Trial Lawyers to a law school selected for its outstanding trial advocacy program. The award is made in honor of the late Honorable Emil Gumpert, chancellor-founder of the College, and comes with a \$50,000 cash award. It was presented by representatives of the American College of Trial Lawyers at Stetson's Spring 1997 graduation.<sup>58</sup>

#### *TRIAL ADVOCACY AT STETSON — THE NEXT 100 YEARS*

Stetson looks forward to the opportunity in the new century, and for the next 100 years, to continue its leadership in the field of trial advocacy. The administration and faculty are committed to build upon this demonstrated strength so that Stetson can continue to be recognized as a national leader in this field. Recently, the faculty approved a "concentration program" in advocacy. To better prepare students for trial, appellate, or litigation practice, the new program permits students to focus their studies in the elective curriculum and earn a certificate along with their Juris Doctor degree. The program requires the students to take a set of "core courses" in advocacy, as well as additional approved elective courses.<sup>59</sup>

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as witnesses; the other, advocates Tauna Bogle and Vince Citro, with Sha Daniels and David Haas as witnesses). She also coached the Stetson team that advanced to the quarterfinals of the 2000 National Trial Competition (team members, Thea Dalkalitsis and Carl Mitchell).

58. The award process is lengthy. Stetson applied in 1994. In 1995 representatives of the American College of Trial Lawyers (an "On-site Committee," which included Stetson alumnus Robert T. Scott) visited the law school campus to inspect the facilities, speak with faculty and students involved in the trial advocacy programs and learn first hand the true strength of the trial advocacy program. After the visit, the "On-site Committee" submitted a report to the full Gumpert Award Committee. In 1996 Stetson submitted a supplemental report to the Gumpert Award Committee. At its 1997 Spring Meeting, the Board of Regents of the American College of Trial Lawyers, acting on recommendation of the Gumpert Award Committee, voted to confer the 1997 Gumpert Award upon Stetson.

59. A minimum total of twenty-one hours of credit in the program is required. In addition, the student must fulfill the skill requirement and written requirement within the concentration field, and in the last semester, complete a writing assignment describing the

The new “concentration program” is just one more reason to be optimistic for Stetson’s continued trial advocacy leadership as it begins its next 100 years. All the other factors that have vaulted Stetson into preeminence in trial advocacy remain in place. Among these are the continued support of the law school’s administration;<sup>60</sup> a strong, innovative, and committed trial advocacy faculty; outstanding physical facilities that include four well-equipped courtrooms; a long-standing commitment by the faculty to provide sufficient trial advocacy classes so that every student will have the opportunity to enroll in the basic trial advocacy course before graduation; and a strong and varied advanced advocacy curriculum taught by experienced and dedicated adjunct and full-time faculty. Add these qualities to a 100-year tradition of producing great trial lawyers and a 20-year tradition of outstanding student performance in state and national trial competitions, and one must have a feeling of great confidence that Stetson will continue to excel in trial advocacy teaching and practice. Stetson’s trial competition teams are already doing their part, starting off the century by winning first and second place in the 2000 Chester Bedell Memorial Trial Competition,<sup>61</sup> by winning the regional of the 2000 National Trial

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student’s career plans and reflecting upon the preparation the student received in the concentration program. A cumulative grade point average within the concentration field of 3.0 or higher is required. The required “core” courses include: Trial Advocacy; Interviewing, Counseling, and Negotiation; Pretrial Practice; Appellate Advocacy; and one of the following: Prosecution Clinic, Public Defender Clinic, State Judicial Internship, Supreme Court Internship, or Second District Court of Appeal Internship.

Courses available to complete the required twenty-one hours of credit include, Advanced Criminal Evidence; Advanced Criminal Trial Advocacy; Alternative Dispute Resolution; Client Counseling Competition; Complex Litigation; Conflict of Law; Criminal Procedure I; Criminal Procedure II; Directed Research approved by the Director of the Advocacy Certificate Program; Family Law Litigation; Florida Civil Practice; Moot Court Board; Trial Team (Mock Trial Board); Negotiation Skills Competition; Probate Litigation; Remedies; and Securities Litigation.

60. In 1981, when Stetson first began its entry into law school trial competitions, Dean Richard T. Dillon pledged his full support. This full support was continued by Dean Bruce R. Jacob, Dean Lizabeth A. Moody, and more recently by Dean W. Gary Vause. The Author’s extensive contact with coaches and faculty members of other law schools indicates that such broad and sustained administrative support is the exception rather than the rule for most law schools. Without this support, Stetson’s national reputation in trial advocacy most certainly would never have occurred.

61. Stetson’s two teams finished in first and second place at the Mid-Winter Bar Convention held in Miami, January 12–13, 2000. See *supra* note 25 for names of students and coaches.

Competition,<sup>62</sup> and by bringing home the championship trophy from the 2000 National Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition, the third consecutive championship for Stetson in this competition.<sup>63</sup>

### CONCLUSION

In this Article, I have attempted to provide a historical overview of Stetson's trial advocacy program during its first century. So much of this Article deals with the last twenty years of the century, because those were the years that the Author taught trial advocacy at Stetson and obviously the only years with which he was personally familiar. The earlier years, however, continue to speak for themselves through the large number of outstanding trial lawyers who earned their law degrees while studying at Stetson. The College of Law must have been doing something right for the school to have had such an impact in the trial lawyer community. In more recent years, Stetson's national reputation for excellence in trial advocacy can be traced in large part to the dedicated students and coaches of Stetson's winning trial competition teams. Stetson's number one ranking by *U.S. News & World Report* and the honor of the Emil Gumpert Award from the American College of Trial Lawyers likely came from its reputation for winning, year after year, state, regional, and national trial advocacy competitions. It has been my pleasure to be associated with the students and coaches who brought these honors to Stetson, and I have attempted to list in the various footnotes all the trial team members who were first or second place winners. There were, of course, many other students who contributed to these winning teams who also deserve credit. Some were on teams that advanced undefeated through preliminary rounds, only to lose a very close decision in the semifinal rounds. Some worked very hard on practice teams, providing the necessary opposition to prepare the competition teams. But they all were important to Stetson's overall competition success.<sup>64</sup>

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62. Stetson's two teams emerged as co-champions in the Regional Competition held in Tampa, February 3–5, 2000. One team was composed of Tauna Bogle and Vince Citro, the other of Thea Dalkalitsis and Carl Mitchel. The Dalkalitsis-Mitchel team advanced to the quarterfinals of the Nationals, held in March 2000, in Texas.

63. Chicago, April 6–8, 2000. Team members were Chinwe Okpechi, Courtney Smith, and Mark Stallworth, with witness Julissa Rodriguez. Chinwe Okpechi was named Best Advocate. This was Stetson's fifth championship in this competition since 1993.

64. Stetson is very proud of all of its students who helped provide its winning tradition – those who experienced the exhilarating experience of being pronounced “the winner” and those who did not. In any case, most were on teams that won more trials than they lost, and

Though I have tried to list in one or more footnotes each Stetson Trial Team member, coach, and team during the years I was associated with the teams, twenty years is a long time to recall; memories fade and I likely have omitted some who were most deserving of being included. Should this have occurred, it certainly was unintended, and I would appreciate being notified of the error

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that is a pretty good record. Most have already been listed in other footnotes. Additional trial team members, by year of graduation are as follows:

**1982:** Michael Schwartzberg, Jack Neilly;

**1983:** Wade James, Joseph Fasi;

**1984:** Brian Deeb;

**1985:** Keith Carter, Florence Werner (now Foster), John Cacciatore;

**1986:** Phyllis Chew, Eileen McGlinchey (now Fahey), James Bonaquist, Marina Taylor, Trudee Anderson-Gurley, Robert DeLoach;

**1987:** Thomas Mann, David Eaton, John Dannecker;

**1988:** Pedro Raul Alvarez, Steve Burton;

**1990:** Edwin Saar, Robert Rossitto, William Wyrrough, Leon Hillary Jones;

**1991:** Cheryl Wilke, Anthony Zinge, Douglas deVlaming, Robin Hoyle, Desiree Coppinger, Kevin Kapusta, Leslie Klinger, John Richardson, Rich Nummi, Margaret Racaniello, Marsha Massey;

**1992:** C.J. Smith, Carla Townsend, Wendy Coxhead, Brenda Bayly, Geoffrey Sessions, Daniel Rigo;

**1993:** Natalie Everett, Johanne Valois, Susan Meade, John Rogers, James Harris, Joe Guggino, John Dill;

**1994:** Jennifer Monrose, Jenny Valdes, Joseph Heimovics, Amie Denise Miller, Sharon Cook, Cordel Batchelor;

**1995:** James M. Byrne, Mark Hamilton, Kathleen Smiley Cleveland, Theresa Wigginton, Joseph Bodiford, Harry L. Coe, IV, Bora Kayan, Joseph Montrone;

**1996:** Misty Deakins, Leon Armbruster, Dan Clark;

**1998:** Christopher DeCarlo, Sharon Meckel, Jody Staples, Alexandra Bates;

**1999:** Jacqueline Buyze, Luciano Lama;

**2000:** Jason Bavol, Todd Migacz.



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so that I may correct it should I be asked to write a follow-up article at the beginning of Stetson's third century.