

The Boalt Trial Advocate



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL MOCK TRIAL SEASON AT BOALT HALL

Boalt's Growing Program

This was another excellent year for Boalt's trial teams. We competed in six outside tournaments and started a new intra-Boalt trial competition for 1Ls and 2Ls. Our outside competition teams had 31 participants, and our inaugural internal Bales competition had more than 60 participants, for a total of nearly 100 Boalties engaged in competitive trial advocacy.

The rapidly growing student interest in trial practice at Boalt has continued developing thanks to the efforts of Bill Fernholz, John Hullverson, and John Steele over the past six to seven years. Now it needs its own voice. To develop institutional history, build contacts with Boalt's many alumnae who try cases, and to connect each generation of trial teams to those who came before and will come

after, an annual (or bi-annual, depending on your author's workload) newsletter seemed in order.

Enter, humbly, *The Boalt Trial Advocate*.

Our '08 - '09 Successes

San Diego Defense Lawyers Invitational:

Boalt got off to a fast start to the season in this mid-October competition. Our all-veteran team included Warren Ko, '09, Samad Pardesi, '09, Valerie Rose, '10, and Meghan Bordonaro, '09, and squared off in the 18-team field. Successfully advancing past the preliminary rounds, and into the sudden-death part of the competition, Boalt reached the round of the top 4 teams.

San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association:

Boalt made its 4th consecutive appearance at this excellent San Francisco tournament. Sandhya Ramadas, '09, and Bryan Heckenlively, '09, put forth incredible effort working up this mock wrongful death case. Their preparation included consulting expert witnesses in the fields of immunology and neurosurgery to prepare both sides of the case. Their efforts resulted in a 3rd place finish.

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'08 - '09

1:1

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American Association for Justice National Trial Competition:

In February, Boalt sent two teams to the AAJ Competition with a mix of veteran and new members including Samad Pardesi, '09, Valerie Rose, '10, Milad Hassani, '10, James Rapore, '11, Dan Strong, '10, Susy Hassan, '10, Krista Kshatriya, '10, and Jade Jurdi, '10. The teams bonded over strategy and four days of stiff competition from the region's best trial teams. All team members honed their skills directing and crossing a clueless hotel manager, a grieving widow, and two very clever expert witnesses.

Texas Young Lawyers Association National Trial Competition:

Also in February, an all-veteran group of two teams competed in the NTC hosted by TYLA. Boalt's competitors included Sandhya Ramadas, '09, Josh Keesan, '09, Josh Templet, '09, Bryan Heckenlively, '09, J.P. Cart, '09, and David Keller, '09. The team was a model of painstaking preparation, having completed multiple practice trials in advance of competition. In the competition, both teams advanced to the semifinal rounds, a feat Boalt has accomplished 5 of the 6 opportunities it has had in the last three years.

Thank You, John Steele

John Steele has been a tireless booster of Boalt trial advocacy for several years. He always included a section for trial advocacy in his legal ethics class, and put



John Steele

on the annual trial skills weekend for ILS. He coached several of Boalt's teams, and generally brought the experience of a high-stakes trial lawyer to Boalt. He persistently pushed for more trial advocacy opportunities

at Boalt, often at the expense of his own free time, and served as the director Boalt's trial advocacy teams.

John is now embarking on a new path in his career, working as a sole practitioner in the fields of legal ethics and litigation (he can be reached at john.steele@johnsteelelaw.com). Thank you, John Steele, for everything you have done for

trial advocacy at Boalt. You will be missed.

Where Are They Now?: Audrey Mink, '07

Audrey Mink, now actually Audrey Mink Vartabedian, was in Boalt's class of 2007. She competed in the TYLA NTC competitions in 2006 and 2007, reaching the regional final round in 2007. She and partner Spencer Pahlke, '07, won the SFTLA tournament in the '06-'07 season. Audrey's contributions, through competing and holding leadership positions, are a major reason for Boalt's recent trial advocacy resurgence.



Audrey Mink, '07

Audrey is now working as an assistant district attorney for the 47th District Attorney's Office in Amarillo, Texas. Her current caseload consists of regular felonies, as well as trying cases involving crimes against children, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, kidnapping, abandonment, and endangerment cases.

In just under one year, Audrey has tried several cases, with excellent results. She has found that working with the children who have been the victims of abuse is both rewarding and challenging. The challenge is that, no matter how much preparation goes into these cases, one can never know how a young child is going to react on the witness stand in front of a judge and a jury. The reward is in the result. As Audrey says, "working with those kids and seeing the people who hurt them brought to justice is by far the best part of my job."

When trying cases, Audrey uses the skills and strategies she learned at Boalt. It has put her a step ahead: "I feel like I'm much better prepared than a person with a similar level of job experience because of what I learned at Boalt." This includes speaking with juries, dealing with witnesses, and working with judges. Even now, she uses the opening statement outline she perfected while a member of Boalt's TYLA NTC teams.

Our '09-'10 Teams:

San Diego Defense Lawyers:

- Josh Russ, '10
- Chase Ensign, '10
- Maeve Granzin, '10
- Jerome Price, '11

TYLA NTC:

- Sarah Ruby, '10
- Valerie Rose, '10
- Aaron Laycook, '10
- Toni Camacho, '11
- Farraz Kahn, '11
- Stephanie Clark, '11
- Coach: Spencer Pahlke, '07

AAJ:

- Jen Goldman, '11
- Jade Jurdi, '10
- Krista Kshatriya, '10
- Jen Middleton, '11
- Justin Chou, '11
- James Rapore, '11
- Aubrie Dillon, '11
- Coaches: Emily Wecht & Sara Peters

McGeorge Ethics:

- Charlie Ainscough, '10
- Sarah Ihn, '10
- Tatiana Cottam, '11

SFTLA:

- Gul Raza, '10
- Milad Hassani, '10
- Coach: Spencer Pahlke, '07

Congratulations to All!

Building Our History

What is the history of trial advocacy at Boalt? Who competed in what tournaments? What classes and professors focused on trying cases? One problem with a 3-year law school curriculum is the difficulty it creates in building institutional history.

If you have any information (no matter how insignificant it may seem) about the history of trial advocacy at Boalt Hall, please send Spencer Pahlke, '07, (spahlke@walkuplawoffice.com) an email. We are trying to compile the history of our program, and your help is crucial!

Next Year '09 - '10

Fall

October, 2009
San Diego Defense Lawyers,
San Diego

November, 2009
San Francisco Trial Lawyers
Association, *San Francisco*

Spring

February, 2009
Texas Young Lawyers
Association, *San Francisco*

February, 2009
American Association for
Justice, *Los Angeles*

March, 2009
McGeorge Ethics Competition,
Stockton



Walkup Melodia Joins Forces with Boalt

Over the past three years, Boalt has built a partnership with Walkup, Melodia, Kelly & Schoenberger, a San Francisco personal injury and wrongful death law firm. Bruce Walkup, '38, the firm's namesake, started the firm in 1959. Since then, it has specialized in litigating and trying cases.

Walkup's contributions to Boalt's trial advocacy programs include speaking engagements put on by Walkup lawyers Mike Kelly and Rich Schoenberger. Partner Khaldoun Baghdadi taught a section of evidence advocacy, and associate Spencer Pahlke, '07, completed his second year coaching Boalt's TYLA NTC and SFTLA mock trial teams. Next year, he will serve as director of Boalt's trial advocacy teams.

Next year, Walkup associates Emily Wecht and Sara Peters will build the partnership further by serving as coaches for Boalt's AAJ teams.



This year was the inaugural Bales Trial Competition. The product of generous donations (and great effort) from Peter Bales, '07, the competition was an amazing success. More than 60 students participated in the multiple-day event. Warren Ko, '09, and Jennifer Middleton, '11, were instrumental in its success.

After many excellent rounds, the winners were Aubrey Dillon, '11, and Toni Camacho, '11, who edged out Aaron Laycook, '10, and Charlie Ainscough, '10, in the tournament's final round.