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Newsroom

March 7, 2016

Strong Finish for Admiralty Team in SFO

RWU Law's Admiralty Moot Court Team finished second among 26 schools in the 23rd Annual Brown Admiralty Moot Court Competition, March 3-5.



BRISTOL, R.I., March 7, 2016: This weekend, Roger Williams University School of Law's Admiralty Moot Court Team traveled to the other "city by the bay" to finish second among 26 schools in the **23rd Annual Judge John R. Brown Admiralty Moot Court Competition**.

The competition was held March 3-5, 2016, in San Francisco, at the **United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit**, with top honors going to defending champions Louisiana State University (LSU). The final score was close: 87.2184 for LSU, to 86.4877 for RWU Law, with one of the three judges dissenting in RWU Law's favor in the final round.

RWU Law's team consisted of **3Ls Brett Beaubien, Adam Pike** and **Bill Burnham**, ably coached by [Professor Jonathan Gutoff](#) and [Adjunct Professor Robert Falvey](#).

"The 3L team went 3-0 in preliminary rounds, defeating a team from the University of Miami School of Law in the first round, Charleston School of Law in the second round, and Florida Coastal School of Law in the third round," Burnham noted. "We went on to defeat the host school, the University of San Francisco School of Law, in the quarter final, and then South Texas College of Law in the semi-final before losing to Louisiana State University in the final."



"We were all ecstatic to make it so far in the competition," Pike said. "We've all been working really hard on this the last couple of months and it was just so rewarding to have all of that hard work pay off. The team would never have made it so far without our coaches, Professor Falvey and Professor Guttoff, and would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to them. We were ultimately just glad that we were able to make some noise at the competition and represent RWU."

"The continuity and camaraderie of the admiralty bar is remarkable," Burnham added. "The sheer number of participants – both competitors and judges – and the sense of community between them, both in and out of the courtroom, really struck me. It was great networking with like-minded students from all over the country. I am incredibly grateful for this experience, and am thrilled that we performed well enough to bring home something to illustrate how strong the admiralty and maritime law programs are at our school."

This is the second consecutive year the RWU Law team returned from the competition with hardware. Last year's team won a Best Brief award, and [the 2013 team shone as well](#). The competition was established in 1993 in memory of the Honorable John R. Brown, who served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit for nearly four decades and was one of the nation's most prominent admiralty judges. In fact, RWU Law founding faculty member, [Professor Louise Ellen Teitz](#), clerked for Judge Brown early in her career.

RWU Law's 2L team – consisting of 2Ls Austyn Carolin, Jamison Jedziniak and Brett Hargaden – will be returning to the 24th annual Judge John R. Brown Admiralty Moot Court Competition, to be held next year in New Orleans. During this year's competition, the 2Ls defeated Boston University School of Law in the first round and University of Richmond T.C. Williams School of Law in the second round before falling to the University of California Hastings School of Law in the third round.