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This competition draws together in one place the records and briefs as well as related organizational materials which comprise the National Moot Court Competition. The Young Lawyers Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and the American College of Trial Lawyers sponsor the national competition each year to enable law students throughout the United States to match their abilities as appellate advocates against one another and to bring together law students, practicing lawyers, legal scholars, and judges to exchange ideas and attitudes and to compare notes.

The competition requires teams of students to research briefs and then orally argue cases. In 1946 the Committee on Junior Bar Activities of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York worked out the plans for a Moot Court Competition between law schools. In 1947 the first Inter-Law School Court Competition was held between Columbia and Yale; the winner challenged Harvard. It was then decided to extend the invitation to compete to other law schools in the area, and the competition grew to nine schools in 1948.

In 1950 the committee elected to put the competition on a national basis, and more than 40 law schools participated. The country was divided into “circuits” roughly corresponding to the Federal Circuits. Sponsoring organizations conducted competitions in each region, and the winners then came to New York City to participate in the Final Rounds.
Regional winners compete in a national championship, with the winning team's selection based on forensic ability, reasoning, logical presentation, ability to answer questions, acquaintance with the law, evidence of research, and general courtroom manner. Thousands of law students and professionals from around the country have competed in or have been involved with the National Moot Court Competition since its inception in 1947.

The American College of Trial Lawyers became co-sponsor of the Competition in the early 1970s. This work will enhance the law student's ability to grasp the practical side of the law field by presenting award-winning responses to real-life problems.

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