

The Prize



Moot Court Trials

A University of Wisconsin law student team emerged as the best in the country in the National Moot Court Tournament in New York, December 15-17, 1969. The award for being the national championship team is based on a composite score for the written brief and oral argument. The Wisconsin team also won the awards for best oral argument as a team, and Eldon Silverman, Prairie Village, Kansas, won the prize for the best individual oral argument. The other members of the team were: Joe Thrasher, Stone Lake, Wisconsin, and Howard Eisenberg, Madison.

The competition is sponsored annually by the prestigious Association of the Bar of the City of New York, with the cooperation of other bar associations and of law schools throughout the country, to give law students the valuable experience of briefing and arguing difficult cases as though they were before the United States Supreme Court. Sitting as judges on the final argument (the fifth round in the New

York competition) were Justice Potter Stewart of the United States Supreme Court, presiding; Judge Leonard P. Moore of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit; Federal Judge Edward Weinfeld of the Southern District of New York; two former presidents of the American Bar Association, Whitney North Seymour and Orison S. Marden; Boris Kostelanetz, distinguished New York practitioner; and Professor H. Richard Uviller, Columbia University School of Law.

Teams from 120 law schools entered the tournament. The two best teams in each of 13 Regions competed in New York. The Wisconsin team had won the Regional Championship in Milwaukee in November, in a Region comprising the law schools in the states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska.

The case argued this year involved numerous procedural and substantive constitutional issues arising out of a disciplinary hearing which followed a student protest demonstration at a private university.

In the past eleven years, a University of Wisconsin team has several times reached the regional fi-

nals and participated in the New York rounds. In New York it once reached the quarter-finals, and another time the semi-finals.

For some years the faculty advisers for the moot court activity have been Professors Samuel Mermin and Abner Brodie. During Professor Mermin's absence in 1968-69, Mr. Scott Van Alstyne replaced him as advisor.

Awards to members of the championship team consist of numerous books donated by law book publishers, including some valuable multi-volume sets. Mr. Silverman as best oralist will in addition receive a silver tray and a complete set of American Jurisprudence, 1st and 2nd series. The law school itself receives one year's possession of a silver cup honoring the three students as winners of the championship on a composite brief-and-argument basis (John C. Knox award). In addition the law school receives several awards from the American College of Trial Lawyers: a year's possession of a silver cup for the best team oral presentation in the final argument (John W. Davis award); permanent possession of a silver tray; and a cash award to help "further the skills of advocacy."



Moot Court Championship Team I. to r., Howard Eisenberg, Justice Potter Stewart, Joe Thrasher, Eldon Silverman.