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Jaeckle Center, Moot Court

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LAW SCHOOL NEWS

Jaeckle Center for State and Local Government Law Provides Continuing Education and Community Service

Created in 1980 by a major gift from Edwin ('15) and Erma ('36) Jaeckle, the Jaeckle Center for State and Local Government Law has served as a focal point for training, continuing education and community service in state and local government law.

The Center's primary objective is to improve the quality of legal services for issues in local government law. The objective is met through research, publications, conferences and the administration of the Law School's unique academic program in state and local government law.

Establishment of the Center was a long-standing goal of the Law School. According to Dean Thomas Headrick, it gave cohesion and structure to what had been diffuse undertakings in teaching and research related to state and local governments.

The Center functions as a semi-autonomous unit within the Law School. In addition to the courses offered through it, it has sponsored several special programs and events. The Fifth Annual Conference on Law and Public Schools was one of its projects, which drew approximately 150 school district officials, lawyers and teachers. Its topics included the role of the school attorney, control of public schools and recent statutes and decisions.

The Center also co-sponsored a conference on New York State trends in Planning, Zoning and Land Development. Held at the Law School and attended by about 75 lawyers, municipal officials and planning professionals, the program included presentations by Law School Professors Alan Freeman and Milton Kaplan.

Approximately five students each year successfully complete a specialized program in state and local government law, which requires, in part, an extensive research project. In recent years, the program has produced study in a variety of topics, including:

- Land Planning in the Town of Brighton;
- Compulsory Interest Arbitration Under the Taylor Laws: An Overview of New York's Evolving Scope of Judicial Review;
- New York State's Water Finance Authority Proposal: An Evaluation;
- A Look At The Buffalo Landmark and Preservation Code;
- Municipal Liability Under The Sherman Anti-Trust Act.

Cable TV Rights Argued in Recent Moot Court

In November, the Moot Court Board once again conducted its annual Desmond Intraschool Competition, drawing 44 participating teams from the Class of '86. This year's issue dealt with the First Amendment rights of cable television stations.

Kathleen Tenney and Matthew Metz narrowly edged out Candace Vogel and Howard Spierer in the finals. Each team of finalists had survived a month-long brief-writing exercise, three rounds of preliminary oral arguments, and two subsequent elimination rounds before presenting their final arguments before a distinguished panel of appellate jurists in the Moot Court Room.

While only one of the teams could win, all participants agreed that the competition was a worthwhile educational experience. In addition to polishing research and brief-writing skills, competing students were coached in oral arguments by senior members of the Moot Court Board.

They were then evaluated by judging panels made-up of more than 400 local attorneys who volunteered their services.

The final night of the competition was capped with a banquet for all participants, sponsored by the Law School Alumni Association and hosted by the Moot Court Board. Awards were presented to the finalists, the best individual oralists and the teams that wrote the best briefs.

The final panel of jurists was presided over by Matthew Jason, currently an associate judge on the New York Court of Appeals. Joining him were Law School Dean Thomas Headrick and two members of the Fourth Department Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Chief Judge Michael Dillon and Associate Justice M. Delores Denman.

Winners of the 1984 Moot Court Competition were:

First Place Team: Kathleen Tenney and Matthew Metz

Second Place Team: Candace Vogel and Howard Spierer

Semi-Finalist Teams: Angus Crane and William Johnson; Jay Goldstein and Roy Mura

Quarter-Finalist Teams: David Cass and Michael Storck; Karen Vance and William Daly; Howard Berman and Jessica Braginsky
Best Brief: Rita Gylys and Laura Washington

Second Best Brief: Howard Berman and Jessica Braginsky

Third Best Brief: Jay Goldstein and Roy Mura

Fourth Best Brief: Karen Vance and William Daly

Fifth Best Brief: Peter Scribner and Paul Korniczky

Best Oralist: Roy Mura

Second Best Oralist: Angus Crane

Third Best Oralist: Arthur Scinta

Fourth Best Oralist: Richard Davies

Fifth Best Oralist: Howard Spierer