

UB Law Forum

Volume 17
Number 1 *Fall 2004*

Article 19

10-1-2004

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Recommended Citation

UB Law Forum (2004) "Holding Court in Buffalo," *UB Law Forum*: Vol. 17 : No. 1 , Article 19.
Available at: https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/ub_law_forum/vol17/iss1/19

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Photo by Don Darmecker

The Temple University Law School team, left, proved victorious, defeating a team from Creighton University Law School.

Holding court in Buffalo

One of the biggest moot court competitions in the nation came to Buffalo and UB Law School from Oct. 8 to 10, 2004. The inaugural Buffalo-Niagara Invitational Mock Trial Competition hosted 34 four-person teams, representing 23 local schools from nine states and Puerto Rico.

The competition was the first entirely organized and hosted by UB Law, said Buffalo City Court Judge Thomas P. "Tim" Franczyk, who worked with a group of law students to organize the event.

UB Law's team was one of 26 that were eliminated after the competition's preliminary rounds, held at Buffalo City Court. The Temple University Law School team proved victorious, defeating

a team from Creighton University Law School. State Supreme Court Justice John Lane presided over the final round, held in the Francis M. Letro Courtroom at the Law School; a team of six attorneys sat in the jury box, awarding grades based on the quality of the advocacy.

The case, prepared by Franczyk, was based on the real-life story of a man who survived an unprotected plunge over Niagara Falls, but it added a charge of felony murder based on the fictional death of a rescue worker who suffered a fatal fall during the subsequent rescue.

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