



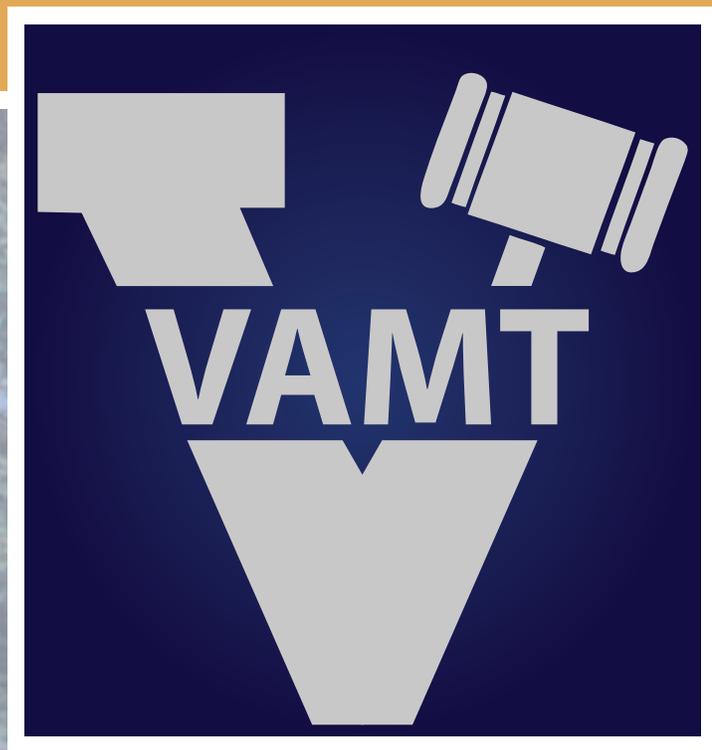
VAMT

# Virginia

Mock Trial

Summer 2013

- [www.virginiamocktrial.org](http://www.virginiamocktrial.org) •
- [www.facebook.com/VirginiaMockTrial](https://www.facebook.com/VirginiaMockTrial) •



## 2013-14 Executive Board

**President**

*Ellen Chapin*

**Executive Vice President**

*Amanda Swanson*

**Treasurer**

*Richard Ressler*

**Vice President for Administration**

*Mackenzie Austin*

**Tournament Director**

*Tanner Pruitt*

**Head Coach**

*Professor Toby Heytens*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT GREETINGS AND THANKS FOR ANOTHER OUTSTANDING YEAR

I feel extremely excited and fortunate to be writing to you as Virginia Mock Trial's new president. I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you enjoy the articles and photos we've included illustrating the success (and fun) we've had over this past year. As we celebrate the end of the year, we are sad but proud to announce the graduation of three of our program members: Mary Kathryn Atkinson, Anya Havriliak, and Megan O'Donnell. They have been invaluable mentors, leaders, and competitors, and we will truly miss each one of them.

This season marked our 16th year of competition since the program's creation. Last year, more than 550 teams competed in intercollegiate mock trial. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of those who came before us, Virginia Mock Trial is currently ranked number four in the United States and was one of only six programs in the country to qualify two teams for last year's national championship tournament. Our new Executive Board and I are already working to ensure that U.Va. remains one of the best mock trial programs in the country and to make the 2013-2014 season our most successful and rewarding yet. As we begin a new year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your efforts and encouragements.

In the same vein, I cannot thank our volunteers, friends, and supporters enough for your help in hosting the 2013 national championship tournament. One of our highest priorities was making sure that hosting did not hurt our competitiveness, and, thanks to you, it didn't. Dr. Frank Guliuzza, the chair of the AMTA committee that oversees nationals, put it well when he said: "[A]s a coach, and one who has hosted a few tournaments, that you were able to host a tournament like that one, and still come within a whisker of winning another national championship, speaks volumes." Our program's past, present, and future success are built on the support you have given us, and we are extremely grateful.

*Ellen Chapin*  
CLAS '14



# National Championship Tournament 2013

Intercollegiate mock trial was born in Iowa. And for nearly 30 years, its national champion had never been crowned in our Nation's Capital. That changed, however, when our program was selected to host the first national championship tournament ever held in Washington, DC.



The firsts didn't stop there. The opening ceremonies began with a surprise appearance by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan. If that weren't enough, it was announced that this would be the first nationals in AMTA history where each preliminary round would have three scoring judges instead of the usual two.

The rounds themselves were held at two courthouses in downtown DC, one of which was home to the Watergate trials and those of Roger Clemens and former Senator Ted Stevens. The national final trial was held in the historic Ceremonial Courtroom of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, the same courtroom where the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in 2001 after an anthrax scare temporarily expelled it from its own building.

The awards were presented at a three-course banquet that included remarks by Secretary of Homeland Security (and UVA Law alum) Janet Napolitano. The final round panel included two federal judges, a two-star Army general, and a former United States Attorney.

All 16 competitors and many of our volunteers got to meet and take photos with Justice Kagan and Secretary Napolitano. You can see a few of the photos in this newsletter and even more on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/VirginiaMockTrial](http://www.facebook.com/VirginiaMockTrial)). We also had two all-program dinners, one at Union Station and one in the heart of Chinatown. More than a dozen program alums joined us for the weekend, including people living in Boston, Richmond, and Palo Alto, and more than 20 parent volunteers from 8 different states traveled to DC to help make the tournament run and cheer the teams on.



**Thanks to everyone who made this a weekend to remember!**

# Year In Review

We began this year by welcoming seven new first-year members into our program: Shivin Agarwal, Mackenzie Austin, Ben Constine, Eashan Kaw, Taylor Krystkowiak, Tanner Pruitt, and Katie Villany.

The program won three of its four fall tournaments, including our own Great American Mock Trial Invitational. After the gavel returned home, our success continued into the spring. The program placed first at the AMTA-sponsored regional and Opening Round Championship Series tournaments, and both teams qualified for the 48-team national championship tournament for just the fifth time in program history.

At nationals, team 972 finished in second place in the Mueller division, just half a ballot (out of 12) behind division champion Rhodes College. This season brought individual success as well. Mackenzie Austin ('16) and Will Cadigan ('15) joined U.Va.'s ranks of All-American competitors, bringing the total of current program members who have earned the honor to four. All told, 11 different program members combined for 23 individual awards this season.



## TOURNAMENT RESULTS

1st – Carolina Classic (Elon, NC)

1st – GAMTI (Washington, DC)

1st – Tobacco Road (Durham, NC)

1st, 2nd – Regionals (Baltimore, MD)

1st, 5th – ORCS (Easton, PA)

2nd – CUBAIT (New York, NY)

2nd – Nationals (Washington DC)

## BY THE NUMBERS

Individual awards: 23

Tournament victories: 5

Program season record: 103-47-6

## Next Season's Outlook

The program is looking forward to next season and its criminal case. The details won't be announced until August, but it promises to bring an exciting roller coaster ride of a year, as the crime scene is an amusement park! Our 2013-14 tournament schedule is still being worked out, but we already know three important things. First, we will be hosting the tenth annual Great American Mock Trial Invitational (GAMTI Ten) in Washington, DC, on November 2-3, 2013. Second, we also will be hosting one of AMTA's Opening Round Championship Series tournaments in DC, most likely on the weekend of March 22-23, 2014. Third, as much as we always hope and plan to be competing at nationals, we have a little extra incentive this year because the 2014 nationals will be held in Orlando, Florida!

**We will keep you updated as we finalize more details. As always, we'd love to see you at any of our tournaments, whether it is to judge, watch some great mock trial, or just catch up.**