

# The Advocate

The Polestino Trial Advocacy Institute

Newsletter

2021-2022

## A Message From the E-Board

The **2021-2022 Executive Board** is extremely proud of all the organization's hard work and accomplishments during the Fall semester.

Our goal this year was to transition the program back to in-person events and competitions, preparing our members for litigation in a real-world setting nearly a year and a half since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. While the Fall semester saw mainly a continuation of virtual and socially distanced events, this gave our organization a chance to diversify our outreach and conduct programs that reached a broader, virtual audience.

We are hopeful that all the knowledge we learned and the challenges we overcame will lead to an even more successful Spring semester. This is just the beginning, and we can't wait to see what the Spring semester has in store!



## FALL 2021-2022 HIGHLIGHTS

### External Competition Results

This semester, PTAI was able to send six extremely talented teams to a variety of external competitions throughout the Northeast. While the Fall competitions remained completely virtual, our program continued to excel under the leadership of our experienced and dedicated coaches. This semester, our **Syracuse National Trial Competition** team **advanced to the quarterfinals** in a deeply talented field of schools from across the country. And we are proud to announce that our **All-Star Bracket National Trial Competition** team **finished as regional champions, and advanced to the quarterfinals** of the national championship. We are extremely proud of all of our external competitors, and we cannot wait to see them continue to succeed in the Spring!

### A special thank you to our Fall 2021 externals coaches:

Pat Brand '11  
Joe Calabrese '91  
Scott Davis  
Marlee Galvez '16  
Hon. Gene Guarino  
Brian Hughes '07  
Mike Maffei '10  
Joanna Matuza '17  
Jana McNulty  
Kaitlin McTague '12  
Gabe Mendoza  
Danny Quinn '18  
Burt Ryan '75  
Mike Vicario '09

## New Trial Advocacy Adjunct Professors

At the start of the academic year, The Polestino Trial Advocacy Institute welcomed **Kaitlin McTague '12** and **Gabriel Mendoza** as Adjunct Professors of Trial Advocacy for the pre-session and fall Trial Advocacy courses respectively. Both Kaitlin and Gabe bring a wealth of expertise as experienced litigators, mock trial coaches, and former mock trial advocates. Alongside Brian Hughes, our new professors provided 24 new advocates with a critical foundation in trial advocacy skills. Our program is so fortunate for their passion and continued dedication to the program.



## Edward J. Hart Memorial Internal Competition

This year's internal competition was nothing short of an absolute success! We are so grateful for our alumni coaches and all of the time and effort they put in to making this such a beneficial experience for our members. We were blown away by the talent on each of the six teams who competed, and we are confident that the future of PTAI is looking bright!

## The McKenna Forum

### Alternatives to Incarceration: Life After Sentencing

The Polestino Trial Advocacy Institute's McKenna Forum is an annual forum that seeks to provide a platform for the discussion of current topics in criminal law. This year's panel featured six distinguished advocates whose careers have given them an inside look into the world of alternatives to incarceration. Alternatives to Incarceration are increasingly being used in place of the traditional punishment of prison or jail time for individuals who have committed a crime. However, the variety of alternative punishments, and the determination of when they are most appropriate, continues to be a controversial aspect of the criminal justice system. This year's McKenna Forum panel focused its discussion among prosecutors, defense attorneys and other members of the criminal justice system, on the decision-making process that goes into determining when an offender should qualify for an alternative to incarceration and how the criminal justice system continues to evolve in this sphere.

## 2022 Events

- **Brian Peterson Memorial First Year Competition**  
March 18-20, 2022
- **Peter James Johnson '49 National Civil Rights Mock Trial Competition**  
April 1-3, 2022
- **Advocates in the Spotlight**  
April 12, 2022



## Thank you!

We are so grateful to **all of our alumni** who continue to stay connected and involved with our program, and we would love to expand our alumni network.

## Connect with us

If you are an alumni interested in staying informed about any upcoming events or coaching opportunities, please connect with us on social media or send us an e-mail!

E-Mail: [sjlptai@gmail.com](mailto:sjlptai@gmail.com)



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