



Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia

News

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Supreme Court to Host WVU College of Law Baker Cup Moot Court Competition

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CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Justices of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia will judge the West Virginia University College of Law’s annual George C. Baker Moot Court Competition on Wednesday, April 9, at the state Capitol in Charleston.

The competition will begin at 2 p.m. Wednesday afternoon in the Supreme Court Courtroom.

“The Supreme Court is honored to host the annual Baker Cup competition,” said Chief Justice William R. “Bill” Wooton. “The competitors and the law school faculty all agree that having the event in the Supreme Court adds an element of gravitas to the competition. And the Supreme Court is particularly protective of this age-old West Virginia law school tradition, primarily because two of its members – Tim Armstead and Haley Bunn – were outstanding Baker Cup contestants when they were law students.”

The annual competition is open to all second-year law students, who are given a fictional court case and must write an appellate brief and present oral arguments on both sides of the issue. The two finalists then argue before the Supreme Court, with the justices adjudicating the appellate advocacy skills of the two students.

The two finalists this year are Aaron Cobb of Winfield and Olivia Giacono-Wright of Willingboro, New Jersey.

This year’s fictional case was selected by the school using a scenario from a law school publication and involves legal challenges to the deportation of an immigrant. One student will represent the immigrant, while the other will argue for the United States government.

The winner will have their name engraved on the prestigious Baker Cup trophy, named after prominent West Virginia citizen and jurist George C. Baker (1862-1943).

The competition is a program of the student Moot Court Board at the WVU College of Law. This year marks the 99th anniversary of the first Baker Cup competition. The cup

was first awarded in 1926 and 1927 to the Poffenbarger Club. It took a hiatus until 1968, when it was revived to become an annual tradition.

The event will be live streamed on the Supreme Court's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@wvsupremecourt>.

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