

Appellate Litigation Clinic records three wins

The School of Law's Appellate Litigation Clinic continued to represent clients during the 2018–19 academic year, which resulted in three courtroom wins and several oral arguments.

Members of the clinic – third-year students Wade H. Barron, C. Daniel Lockaby and Sarah A. Quattrocchi and second-year student Addison Smith – won a case before the Board of Immigration Appeals for a client who fled his country when the Russian Supreme Court banned his religion. While an immigration judge initially granted the client asylum, the Department of Homeland Security appealed, arguing that the client was not credible and that the judge should have required corroboration of his religious status in the form of a letter from his congregation. The BIA rejected the government's argument, siding with the clinic's client.

The clinic also prevailed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

The case *Smith v. Dewberry* involved whether the client was in imminent danger at the time he filed his complaint such that he could bypass the three-strike rule under the Prison Litigation Reform Act. Third-year students M. David Boyer II and Megan Cambre and 2018 graduates Holly M. Boggs and Ryan L. Giles assisted with the case.

The third victory came in an excessive-force case before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. In *Altony Brooks v. Captain Jacumin*, the court agreed with all of the clinic's substantive arguments: there was enough evidence of excessive force to make it a jury question; the officer who used a taser on the clinic's client should be brought back into the case; the client should get a copy of the detention center's use-of-force policy and the district court on remand needs to consider appointing



Appellate Litigation Clinic third-year students (l. to r.) Sarah Quattrocchi, Daniel Lockaby and Wade Barron won a case before the Board of Immigration Appeals.

counsel. Barron, Lockaby and Quattrocchi were instrumental in the case.

Additionally, third-year students Christopher "Chris" Kelleher and Alexander "Alex" Weathersby presented oral arguments on the same day in two separate cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Kelleher represented the clinic's client in *Petersen v. Blanton, et al.* and Weathersby argued in the case *Jones v. Secretary, Florida Department of Corrections.*



At the 2019 National High School Mock Trial Championship, where the Casey Scholarship Fund was announced, were: (l. to r.) Director of Advocacy Kellie Casey (J.D.'90), Kevin Epps (J.D.'08), Jeffrey DeLoach (J.D.'03), Adam Hoipkemier (J.D.'08) and Dean Bo Rutledge. Photo courtesy of the State Bar of Georgia.

Law firm establishes scholarship to honor Casey

The law firm Epps, Holloway, DeLoach & Hoipkemier, LLC, has created the Kellie R. Casey Scholarship Fund at the School of Law to recognize Casey's contributions to the school and its storied advocacy program. Starting this fall, a scholarship will be awarded to a law student with a demonstrated interest or achievement in advocacy.

Casey, a 1990 School of Law alumna, has led the school's advocacy program to 25 national championships, more than 40 regional titles and 15 state trophies during her 19-year tenure.

School of Law alumni Kevin E. Epps (J.D.'08), Jeffrey W. DeLoach (J.D.'03) and Adam L. Hoipkemier (J.D.'08) spearheaded the effort on behalf of their law firm, saying that due to Casey's tireless passion and commitment, advocacy students enter into the practice of law "well-prepared to be formidable advocates for their clients."

By a variety of measures, the law school's advocacy program is regularly considered to be among the best in the country, Dean Peter B. "Bo" Rutledge said. "This speaks to the first-rate training our law students receive and contributes to our school's vision of being the best return on investment in legal education."

In honor of their inspirational donation, which was announced during the 2019 National High School Mock Trial Championship held at UGA earlier this year, the office space currently used by the school's advocacy program will be named the Epps, Holloway, DeLoach & Hoipkemier, LLC Student Advocacy Program Suite.