



PATRICK HENRY COLLEGE

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PRESS RELEASE

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PHC Wins Third National Moot Court Championship

Orange, CA -- For the third time in five years, Patrick Henry College has won the American Collegiate Moot Court Association (ACMA) National Championship.

The College burnished its growing reputation as a legal debate powerhouse by sending the maximum-allowed roster of eight qualifying teams to Orange, CA, and winning *first*, *second*, and *third-place* team trophies in the tournament's 64-team, 128-competitor field. Eighteen of the College's two-person teams had qualified for nationals through regional tournaments, but ACMA rules allow only eight teams per college to compete.

"This was truly an outstanding team, one of our best," said Dr. Michael Farris, PHC's Chancellor and moot court coach. His teams have now won three national titles in nine years of competition, including three of the past five. "I'm not exaggerating when I say that any of our eight teams could have advanced to the final round." Most impressively, only two of the team's 16 members were seniors.

Moot court or "legal debate," puts competitors through an intensive gauntlet of appellate court proceedings, testing competitors' abilities in demanding judicial disciplines – research, brief writing, and debate – while arguing authentic legal cases before judges.

Patrick Henry College is a Christian classical liberal arts college in northern Virginia, near Washington, D.C. It was co-founded by Dr. Farris in 2000 with the aim of recreating the original American collegiate ideal, through a classical focus on truth that prepares students for high-level leadership. Its rigorous academic standards and biblical worldview are modeled on the educational approach that launched many of our nation's founding statesmen.

Winning the ACMA national championship at Chapman Law School, January 17, were PHC juniors **Rachel Heflin** and **Aidan Grano**, who argued successfully "for the plaintiff" in a free speech case. Second place finishers were senior **Joseph Alm** and

junior **Brianna Edleblut**. Tying for third place were juniors **Robert Kelly** and **James Mieding**. Earning fifth place were senior **Rachel Blum** and sophomore **Noah Oberlander**.

By any measure, it stands as one of the most dominating performances by a PHC moot court squad in the program's short, albeit illustrious history. The College won back-to-back national titles in 2005 and 2006, a feat that still hasn't been repeated in the ACMA's nine-year history. In that stretch PHC also defeated England's Oxford University in consecutive duels. Many of the College's moot court alumni now attend top law and graduate schools, including three presently enrolled at Harvard Law School.

The other teams competing at nationals included last year's national champion Wooster College, and distinguished colleges and universities from across the country.

To schedule an interview with Dr. Michael Farris, or with members of PHC's national championship moot court team, please contact David Halbrook, Director of Communications, at 540-338-8727, or e-mail at dwhalbrook@phc.edu.
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