



**Susan J. Ferrell
International Moot Court Competition**

Inaugural Competition 2006

Best Team

Winner of Susan J. Ferrell Trophy

St. Thomas University School of Law

First Runner-Up

Florida Coastal School of Law

Best Oralists

1. Rachel Williams, Florida Coastal School of Law
2. Rachel Ordu, St. Thomas University School of Law
3. Cosmin Corendea, St. Thomas University School of Law
4. Sharleen Noy, Florida Coastal School of Law
5. Valmiki Reyes, City University of New York School of Law

Best Memorials

1. Florida Coastal School of Law
2. St. Thomas University School of Law

The Inaugural Susan J. Ferrell Human Rights Moot Court Competition took place on January 28-29, 2006. Its thematic focus was on human and indigenous peoples' rights, in honor of Susan J. Ferrell, an indigenous rights advocate who was tragically killed in the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995. The Tournament's Best Oralist Award went to Rachel Williams of Florida Coastal, followed by Rachel Ordu (STU), and Cosmin Corendea (STU). The Best Memorial Award was presented to Florida Coastal School of Law. The Best Team Award went to St. Thomas University Law School.

"This competition goes back to a student initiative of four years ago when former law students Jelitza Willems, Francisco Novoa and Edward Tapanes proposed to create our own international law moot court competition in an area of our specialization," said Professor Siegfried Wiessner, IMC faculty advisor, about the Tournament's beginnings. "They drafted a problem at the cutting edge of human rights law and proposed to name the competition after Susan Ferrell, one of the co-founders of the tribal sovereignty symposium."

The International Moot Court (IMC) Board, including President and Competition Chairperson Jeanne Bennett, worked tirelessly since mid-2005 to make this event a success. In preparation for the Tournament, IMC created a Competition website and later hosted a variety of special side events, including an awards banquet in downtown Miami. The judges were mostly expert lawyers and scholars from the U.S. and Canada who were also speakers at the tribal sovereignty symposium.

IMC President Jeanne Bennett concluded, “Hosting a moot court competition is a daunting challenge. I was extremely fortunate to have the support of both the IMC Team and the School of Law. Despite being forced to cancel the tournament due to Hurricane Wilma in November of 2005, everyone did a great job of staying motivated and ensuring that the visiting teams were properly accommodated. I think the Tournament’s success was well worth the hard work.”

Aja Pardini, speaking for the CUNY team, added, “we all had an amazing experience and learned so much about each other, ourselves, and most importantly indigenous rights. The comments from the judges are very helpful to each of us in furthering our education in lawyering skills. We had a wonderful time and I would be happy to pass on the information to other schools in the area and let people know about what a fantastic competition you put together. Thank you again for being steadfast in your mission and planning such an impressive symposium and competition.”