**The Western Regional at CSULB:**

**CSULB 2002-2006: Starting and Winning the Regional**

CSULB has hosted every Western Regional Moot Court Tournament. Professor Renee Cramer directed the first four regionals and coached CSULB from 2002-2006. The CSULB team of Hartnett and Hall won the Regional crown in 2002-03 and finished as runner’s up in 2003-04. CSULB students Tyson Thomas and Nina Flores were runners up in 2002-03. In 2003-04 Garciela Almada-Tavlavera and Jalyn Wang reached the tournament’s semi-finals. In 2004-05 Katelyn North and Annmarie Banchero and in 2005-06 Katelyn North and Morgan Wheeler in 2005-06 reached the quarter-finals. In this period the regional was fairly small and featured only a few schools. It typically featured 12-16 teams total and a handful of devoted judges.

**CSULB 2006-2007: The Regional Begins to Grow**

Starting in 2006 Professor Lewis Ringel assumed responsibility for the Western Regional and the CSULB program. The first two years of his tenure saw CSULB have to compete for bids to the national tournament as the American Collegiate Moot Court Association shifted from an invitational final to one that required earning bids. In 2006-07, the hybrid team of Michalyn Thomas (CSULB) and Will Glaser (Patrick Henry College) made it to the regional semi-finals. In 2007-08, a hybrid of Mason Lawrence Taylor (CSULB) and Anna Accomazzo (Patrick Henry College) reached the regional’s quarter-finals. That same year, three CSULB teams advanced to the regional’s sweet sixteen. These teams paired Paige McCormack and Muhammad Ataya, Melissa Sanchez and Ted McNamara, and Cody Fitch and Ryan Mommaerts. In this period the regional began to grow in size both with respect to teams competing (18 in 2006 and 26 in 2007) and in the number of schools and judges participating. Glaser was named the top orator both years.

**CSULB 2008-2010: The Era of Appelbaum and Abboud and an Expanded Regional**

At least two important events occurred between 2008 and 2010. One, the regional grew to 32, 34, and then 38 teams and the number of judges proliferated to over 100 per tournament. The regional became known for seven and nine judge out-round panels and for the involvement of federal and state jurists as well as for the appearance as Chief Justice in 2010 of former Governor George Deukmejian. Two, the arrival and development of Tim Appelbaum and Reema Abboud. Appelbaum and Abboud each competed in three regionals and a combined fourteen tournaments. They qualified for elimination rounds in all fourteen and along the way helped to mentor new teammates and develop what the style that CSULB attempts to teach its mooters. While the era featured a great many outstanding mooters and teams, Appelbaum and Abboud merit special recognition for their many successes and contributions toward CSULB’s successes at the regional.

In 2008-09, CSULB had two teams advance to the quarter-finals and a third reach the round of 16. Those three teams took all but one of the 28 ballots cast in their Friday rounds. The quarter-finalists were Heather Pegg and Tim Appelbaum and Laila Nikaien and Reema Abboud. The additional CSULB team to reach the elimination rounds was that of Nicole Wilson and Edgar Gutierrez. In 2009-10, CSULB advanced a record five teams to elimination rounds PLUS a hybrid of Katie McHale (CSULB) and Kyle Lee (Chapman University). The team of Tim Appelbaum and Reema Abboud, which finished third, became the first CSULB team since 2003-4 to advance to the semi-finals. Appelbaum and Abboud became just the second and third students in CSULB history to earn multiple bids to the national tournament and the only two CSULB students to earn multiple automatic bids to the national tournament. CSULB students Jillian Ewan/Ryan King, Richard Bosanko/Kyle Bourne, Ashlie Brillault/Jose Reynoso, and Katie McHale (along with Chapman University’s Kyle Lee) advanced to the Elite Eight. Also advancing to elimination rounds were Amy Price and Matthew Gunter. 2010’s Western Regional was a regional to remember: it featured rain, a power outage, a visit from former Governor George Deukmejian, and another strong performance from CSULB. Four CSULB teams and a CSULB-Chapman hybrid advanced to elimination rounds. Jillian Ewan and Aaron Sibley reached the semi-finals. Tim Appelbaum/Alex Lohman and Reema Abboud/Andrew Klein advanced to the quarter-finals. Matthew Gunter/Jose Reynoso and Richard Bosanko/Kyle Lee qualified for the sweet 16. Appelbaum and Abboud earned bids to their third national tournament. Both Appelbaum and Abboud finished their careers unbeaten in the nine regional preliminary rounds that they competed. In fact, both Appelbaum and Abboud captured all but ONE of the 30-32 ballots cast in the nine preliminary rounds in which they competed between 2008 and 2010.

**CSULB 2011: Staying the Course and Rebuilding**

In 2011, the Western Region again featured 38 teams for the second year in a row and the number of judges stayed at well over 100. Again, it featured 3-judge preliminary round panels and 3-9 judge out-round panels. 2011 was a rebuilding year for CSULB’s teams. Nine students from CSULB competed with six (three teams) qualifying for the elimination rounds. Peter Vasilion and Andrew Kemper finished in the elite 8. Juniors Yasmin Manners and Ryan Chapman qualified for the sweet 16. Both teams earned bids to the national tournament. Wyatt Lyles and Taylor Carr (CSULB’s tops scorers) were eliminated in the round of 20.

**2012: A Return to Winning**

In 2012, the Western Region featured 34 teams. The number of judges stayed at well over 100. Again, it featured 3-judge preliminary round panels and 3-9 judge out-round panels. The final panel was presided over by the Dean of the UCI School of Law, Erwin Chemerinsky. In the Fall of 2012 CSULB captured its second Western Regional Championship when Adria Bonillas and Krist Biakanja, the 18th seed, won five straight split decisions en route to their first tournament title. CSULB placed four teams in the elite eight. These included Ashley Hall and Kyle Maury, Ryan Chapman and Yasmin Manners, and Brianna Wilbur and her teammate from Patrick Henry College Rebecca Sampayan.

**2013: Falling Short**

In 2013, two CSULB teams advanced to the Semi-Finals. These teams, Ashley Hall and Kyle Maury and Asmita Deswal and David Casarrubias fell to teams from Patrick Henry College. Hall and Maury lost to the eventual national champion, Kayla Griesemer and Blake Meadows. Ironically, the two teams would square off in the national finals six weeks late. CSULB also placed a hybrid team of Amethyst Jefferson-Roberts and Greg Brown of CSU Fullerton into the Elite Eight.

**2014: Biakanja and CSULB Wins Again**

Krist Biakana and Ashley Hall reclaimed the Western Regional Title in a thrilling decision over Katie Tipton and James Compton of Patrick Henry College. The match featured two former national finalists (Tipton, the national champion from 2012-13, and Ms. Hall). Ironically, as in 2014, there would be a re-match of the Regional finalists at nationals, with the PHC team again prevailing. Amethyst Jefferson-Roberts and Dominique Noble and Julieta Hernandez and Chris Nielson also advanced to the Elite Eight.

**2015: The Regional Heads to Anaheim**

Westwood College hosted the 2015 Western Regional. CSULB’s Myles Cheney was named the top orator – this ended a run of best orators from Patrick Henry College that stretched back a decade. CSULB teams earned two bids as Cheney (CSULB) and Sarah Geesaman (Patrick Henry College) and Mindy Vo and Diego Duarte (both of CSULB) advanced to the quarter finals.

**2016: The Regional Goes to Fresno**

CSU Fresno hosted the regional. Sarah Geesaman was the top orator. CSULB’s Chaney, Mondragon, Daniel Ishu, and Nancy Gomez also won speaker awards. Geesaman and Chaney earned a bid.

**The Western Regional: Annual Results:**

The Western Regional has historically between very competitive and has earned a reputation as one of the best in the nation. In fact, in the years since its inception of the Western Regional has produced five national champions in 2003, 2004, 2006, 2012 and 2014 (no other regional has produced more than four), eight finalists (2003, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2012, 2014, and 2105), three runners up (2008, 2014, and 2016), and eleven semi-finalists (2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, two in 2010, 2012, and two in 2013, and 2016). To date, the regional has hosted teams from California, Utah, Idaho, Virginia, Minnesota, Texas, Iowa, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, Florida, North Carolina, Montana, Washington, and Georgia.

The Western Regional began in 2002 with ten teams (all from CSULB). Professor Renee Cramer was the Chair or Director and Professor Lewis Ringel was the Vice-Chair or Deputy Director. There were about 15 to 20 judges and the entire event was finished in one evening. All ten teams earned prizes. The winning team of Tommy Hartnett and Ja’Nene Hall defeated Tyson Thomas and Nina Flores. Hartnett and Hall went on to finish first at the American Collegiate Moot Court Association National Championship. Subsequent regional champions have come from University of Texas at Arlington (2003), Patrick Henry College (PHC) (2004-2005, 2008-2011, 2013, and 2015), Weber State (2006), Drake (2007), and CSULB (2003, 2012, and 2014).

The teams of Hartnett and Hall (CSULB 2002-03), Andrew Stubblefield and Mark Melton (UTA 2003-04), Brian Wright and Rachael Williams (PHC) (2005-06), JC Cartee and Andrew Ferguson (2011-12), and Kayla Griesemer and Blake Meadows (2013-14) have been crowned as national champions. Hartnett and Hall and Wright and Williams are the only teams to reach the Western Regional finals in consecutive years and Knight and Williams are the only Western Regional champion to successfully defend their title. The Weber State team of Danielle Stout and Veronica Lynaugh, an eight-seed after the preliminaries, won the 2006 title after completing three straight upsets in the quarter-finals. A Drake team of Katherine Wiley and Siva Kasinathan captured the 2007 crown in a thrilling 5-4 ruling that featured a court of two federal judges and one state judge. 2008 featured an all PHC finals. Will Glaser of PHC won his second straight top orator titles. The ten seed, Paul Sellers and Jenna Lorence, defeated the number two seed of Rachel Blum and Noah Oberlander. In 2009, the PHC team of Brianna Edelblut and Joseph Alm defeated fellow PHC teammates Robert Kelly and James Mieldling. CSULB’s Appelbaum and Abboud finished third, while Noah Oberlander (in his third straight Western Regional final four) and Stephanie Monk finished fourth. In 2010, PHC won its third straight (and fifth overall) Western Regional. The final four was diverse – featuring teams from PHC (Logan Speena and Adam Fisher), CSU-Fullerton (Amy Bailey and Steven Simpson), The College of the Holy Cross (Erica Rocha and Jeff Lord), and CSULB (Jillian Ewan and Aaron Sibley). Judges included former Governor George Deukmejian. PHC extended its run of Western Regional titles to four in 2011. Eventual national semi-finalists Kayla Griesemer and Micah Walters edged the eventual national champion JC Cartee and Andrew Ferguson in a split decision. The other semi-finalists were from CSU-Fullerton (Greg Washington and Colby Johnson and Michelle Freeman and Catherine Sauter). CSULB snapped PHC’s run of four titles with a thrilling split decision in which Adria Bonillas and Krist Biakanja bested James Nelson and John Ehrett. The other semi-finalists were Kayla Griesemer and JC Cartee (PHC) and James Compton and Samuel Johnson. Adria Bonillas and Krist Biakanja were the 18th seed. They won five straight elimination rounds on the final day of the tournament en route to victory. PHC reclaimed its title in 2013 by closing out the regional. Samuel Johnson and Elizabeth Ertle defeated the eventual national champions, Kayla Griesemer and Blake Meadows (2013-14), in a split decision. The semi-finalists were CSULB’s Ashley Hall and Kyle Maury (the 2014 ACMA runner’s up) and CSULB David Casarrubias and Asmita Deswal. Griesemer became the second oral advocate to win the region’s top orator award in consecutive seasons. The other is PHC alum Will Glaser. In 2014, CSULB’s Krist Biakanja and Ashley Hall bested Katie Tipton and James Compton of Patrick Henry College. PHC produced the other Semi-Finalists: Samuel Johnson and Elizabeth Ertle and Lauren Mitchell and Olivia Monroe. In 2015, the Patrick Henry College team of Ashyn Olsen and Jacob Van Ness (which ultimately finished second in the nation) beat the CSU Fullerton team of Chris Hon and Jamie Butts in a 2-1 decision. The other semi-finalists were also from Patrick Henry College and CSU Fullerton. The regional hit 39 teams (to date its highest number) and sent teams to nationals from Patrick Henry College, CSU Fullerton, Morehouse College, University of Tampa, and CSULB. In 2016, 24 teams competed in Fresno. Patrick Henry College defended its title. Jacob Van Ness (the 2015 champion) and William Bock bested Myles Chaney and Sarah Geesaman in a 4-3 decision. Fullerton and Colorado Christian University, PHC, and a hybrid of PHC-CSULB earned bids.