



SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



Mock Court Martial Competition Launched in US

A pioneering mock court martial trial competition for law students has been announced through a partnership of the Charleston School of Law and the United States Coast Guard.

Understood to be the first such competition in the United States, the initiative was unveiled at a recent event at the Law School, which brought together senior officers from the Coast Guard, current and former externs, and faculty and leadership of the Law School.

Charleston School of Law dean, provost and Professor of Law Larry Cunningham described the competition as further delivering on the Law School's community-focused goals.

"We forged this partnership for the benefit of not only the students, but the community itself," he said.

"We're excited to be able to expose students from around the country to the court martial process and provide them the opportunity to try a court martial case."

Mr Cunningham said the Law School would host the early rounds of the competition with the finals being held at the Coast Guard Judge Advocate General, Office of the Chief Prosecutor in North Charleston.



Attendees at the ceremonial signing of the new competition

The ceremonial signing of the competition agreement – which was held in the Law School’s recently-constructed Moot Court Room – also memorialised the two parties’ successful externship programme, advised the Law School.

It is understood this programme includes second-year and third-year law students assisting the local Staff Judge Advocate at the Maritime Law Enforcement Academy by providing legal services to the Coast Guard in North Charleston.

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