Supreme Court Institute
CELEBRATING SUPREME COURT ADVOCACY

“The [Georgetown Supreme Court] Institute’s moot court program is highly valued by novice and experienced advocates alike, because of the high quality and skill of the judges that [the] Institute … is able to attract to do the moot courts. These programs have made it easier both for first-timers and experienced advocates to do a more professional job before the Court.”

JOHN G. ROBERTS, JR.
Chief Justice of the United States

The Supreme Court Moot Court Program is the centerpiece of the Supreme Court Institute. The Law Center has become the principal stop of many counsel seeking expert assistance in oral argument preparation prior to appearing before the High Court. During the 2011-2012 academic year, the Institute provided moot courts for advocates in 65 of the 69 cases the U.S. Supreme Court heard in October Term 2011 – 94.2% of the Court’s argument docket. Three former Solicitors General of the United States, Paul Clement, Walter Dellinger, and Seth Waxman, prepared for a total of eight arguments in some of the best-attended moot courts this Term.

Institute Moot Courts offer students a rare chance to “preview” an argument just before it is presented to the United States Supreme Court. Students observe firsthand how an argument is crafted and hear direct critiques from a panel of esteemed Supreme Court practitioners, many from leading DC law firms. Every first-year J.D. has the opportunity to observe the argument preparation of a Supreme Court advocate. All moot courts take place in the Supreme Court Institute Moot Courtroom located on the Law Center campus.

“[One memory] that stands out,” said Kukui Claydon, L’15, “is watching a lawyer moot a case through our Supreme Court Institute which he was to argue at the Supreme Court three days later, and then actually being able to go to the oral argument at the Supreme Court to see how the arguments played out. Incredible!”

The Law Center’s close proximity to the Court – only a ten-minute walk – makes the Court a virtual classroom for students who attend oral argument and enroll in Court-related classes, and facilitates collaboration and close contact among Supreme Court practitioners, faculty, and students.