

Moot Court

During The Law School's Winter Quarter, the Hinton Competition sponsored its fourth round of intramural moot-court arguments, a round in which eight teams of second-year students participated in qualifying contests, while two teams of third-year students fought for the annual prizes which the program offers. As in previous rounds, the arguments were based on transcripts culled from the files of the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Each team, acting as counsel for a party to one of these transcripts, was required to prepare a brief and to argue orally before a tribunal composed of top third-year students, members of the Faculty, and visiting members of the bar. Winners were chosen on the quality of their arguments rather than on the legal merits of their particular case.

The most august of the tribunals that sat during the Winter Quarter comprised the Honorable Walter Schaefer, '28, of the Supreme Court of Illinois; the Honorable Luther Swygert, of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana; and Dean Edward Levi, of The Law School, who heard the third-year prize competition. The case used for this final argument involved the attempt of a Lithuanian immigrant to obtain a declaratory judgment exempting him from liability



Mr. Robert Park makes a difficult point in the Moot Court competition.

under the draft laws. The decision rendered by the Court of Appeals when the case was actually tried is reported as *Rumsa v. Hershey* 212 F. 2d 927 (C.A. 7, 1955).

The fact that Judge Schaefer was a member of the bench hearing this prize argument, the first that the program has sponsored, was particularly appropriate, since he had a direct part in launching the Hinton Competition during the Winter Quarter of last year. When the nine-man student committee that had conceived and designed the program set out to enlist participants, it called on Judge Schaefer and on Mr. James Dooley of the Chicago Bar, to address the first- and second-year classes on the art of advocacy, and incidentally to recommend moot-court training as a means of acquiring an advo-



Mr. Myron Burnstein argues in an early round of the Moot Court competition. Presiding, Mr. Max Swiren, '27.

cate's skills. As a result of Judge Schaefer's and Mr. Dooley's talks, which were transcribed in Volume 3, Number 2, of the *Law School Record*, and of the committee's work, thirty members of the then second-year class signed up for the program and participated in qualifying contests during February and April of last year.

Although the program did not get started last year until the Winter Quarter, now that it is in full swing second-year teams are required to participate in qualifying rounds during each quarter of the school year. On the basis of the results they achieve during these qualifying rounds, four of the teams are chosen to argue in third-year semifinals. Of course, the winners of these semifinals are later pitted in the prize competition.

The entire moot-court program is directed by a student committee whose task it is to select transcripts, obtain judges, and administer the actual arguments. Professor Soia Mentschikoff has been the Faculty sponsor of this committee since the competition was first conceived.



Student Standau Weinbrecht arguing in the semifinal round of the Moot Court competition. On the bench, presiding, The Honorable James Emmert, Justice of the Supreme Court of Indiana; on the left, Mr. A. J. Bowe, of the Illinois Bar; on the right, Mr. Ben Heineman, of the Illinois Bar.