

MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2010 4:30 PM LEVINSON AUDITORIUM

# Morris Tyler

## Moot Court of Appeals at Yale Law School

THURMAN ARNOLD PRIZE FINALS



### Snyder v. Phelps (No. 09-751)

The Westboro Baptist Church is a Kansas-based fundamentalist group that believes that God hates homosexuality and punishes the United States, particularly its military, for its tolerance of homosexuality. The Church frequently pickets the funerals of American soldiers killed overseas. The father of one such deceased soldier brought suit against the Church and its members for intentional infliction of emotional distress, among other claims.

**1** Whether the First Amendment prohibits a private civil judgment against Westboro Baptist Church and its members for organizing a protest at the funeral of Marine Lance Corporal Matthew A. Snyder, at which Snyder's family constituted a "captive audience."

**2** Whether the First Amendment prohibits a private civil judgment against Westboro Baptist Church and its members for publishing an online "epic" containing specific factual assertions about the life and death of Lance Corporal Snyder.

The decision below is reported at 580 F.3d 206 (4th Cir. 2009).

#### FOR PETITIONER

TRAVIS CRUM '11

ZACH JONES '11

#### FOR RESPONDENTS

TANYA ABRAMS '11

MARK HATCH-MILLER '10

#### PANELISTS

**HON. STEPHEN REINHARDT**  
(U.S. COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT)

**HON. DEBRA ANN LIVINGSTON**  
(U.S. COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT)

**HON. DAVID HAMILTON**  
(U.S. COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT)

This event is open only to the Yale Law School community and invited guests.