



COMPETITIONS GUIDE 2024

TASMANIA UNIVERSITY LAW SOCIETY

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Introduction

Welcome to the 2024 Competitions Guide

We are William, Anoushka, Jasper and Amie, your Competition Directors for 2024 and it is with great pleasure that we launch this year's Competition Guide. We thank our predecessors Mia Grant, Rebecca von Samorzewski and Ava Drew for their hard work and commitment to the competitions program in 2023. This year, we aim to continue to encourage students to get involved in competitions by offering a wide range of opportunities designed to engage students at every year level.

Each of us strongly believes that oral and written advocacy is a core aspect of law school, and competitions are an invaluable opportunity for students to develop their skills. Additionally, competitions are an excellent means of connecting with other legal professionals and students across Australia. We can personally attest to the fact that participating in competitions has enriched our law school experience, and would like to encourage everyone to try out regardless of their year level and experience.

We would also like to acknowledge the Palawa people, the Traditional Custodians of lutruwita (Tasmania), and pay our respects to elders past, present, and emerging. We recognise with deep respect the laws and customs of First Peoples which have existed for thousands of years and continue to recognise this throughout our work in and beyond the law school. We also cherish the diversity of our law faculty and commit ourselves to delivering an inclusive program which is welcoming and supportive of all students.

Skills Development

This year there will be ample opportunity for students to learn and develop their oral and written advocacy skills. We offer a series of mooting workshops to be held on Thursdays at 5pm in the Moot court, starting on the 7th of March. These workshops are easily accessible for first-time mooters and provide students with an informal opportunity to understand what mooting is and the process involved. Additionally, we will be holding a Skills Workshop Night on Thursday the 21st of March. Students will be guided by legal practitioners to understand Witness Examination, Client Interview and Negotiations. Participating in the Skills Night is a prerequisite for competing in Witness Examination, Client Interview or Negotiations in the internal competitions.

Internal Competitions

The Preliminary rounds for the TULS internal competitions will be held on Saturday, 6th April. The Grand Finals will be held on Saturday, 27th April at the Supreme Court. The competitions include a Junior Moot, a Senior Moot, Client Interview, Witness Examination and Negotiations. These competitions are open to all year levels; however, we recommend that you attend the first two mooting workshops before competing in the Junior and Senior Moot. Attending Skills Night is a prerequisite for competing in Witness Examination, Client Interview or Negotiations.

Intervarsity Competitions and ALSA

This year the Australian Law Students Association (ALSA) Conference will be held in Hobart and invites students from across the country to compete in a range of competitions. These competitions reflect the structure of our internal competitions with two moots, Client Interview, Witness Examination and Negotiations. The ALSA Conference is a strong tradition for law schools, and we look forward to hosting the event.

A range of intervarsity competitions will be held throughout the year. Semester 1 will invite students to compete in the UNSW Private Law Moot and a bilateral SULLS x TULS Novice Negotiations Competition. Semester 2 will host a vast range of competitions where students will be able to travel interstate for the Kirby Contract Law Moot, the Gibbs Constitutional Law Moot and the Baker & McKenzie Women's Moot.

Here's to an incredible 2024 competition season!

William, Anoushka, Jasper and Amie

Dean's Welcome

The University of Tasmania Law School has a long and illustrious history when it comes to student competitions, taking on the biggest and best resourced Law Schools in the country. Our successes demonstrate the dedication and commitment of UTAS students.

2023 witnessed the continuation of UTAS Law's strong participation and success in the mooting competition environment. Our team for the Administrative Appeals Tribunal Moot Competition again made it all the way to the semi-finals (well done Jasper Madsen, Jamie Nash and Kate Binstadt!).

Our participants in the Michael Kirby Contract Moot likewise again reached the semi-finals (excellent result Ash Burke, Anoushka Thanikesh and Darcy Heffernan!). Not to be outdone, the UTAS team competing in the Baker McKenzie National Women's Law Moot scored second place in reaching the Grand Final (we are most proud Ava Drew, Lara Gaffney and Charlotte Atwell), with Ava receiving the Best Speaker award for the preliminary rounds!

A further semi-final achievement ensued for the ALSA IHL (International Humanitarian Law) moot, here featuring Zack Stephenson, Kate Cosgrove and Henry Southcott. Another great result! And we offer our congratulations to Reuben Gregg-McQueen, Jessica Pursell and Allie Davies-Knight, who reached the quarter-finals in the tightly contested Gibbs Constitutional Law Moot.

We also had multiple participants with strong performances in the ALSA Championship Moot and the ANU Gender & Sexuality Moot.

A heartfelt thanks to all who participated. I am thrilled to see the number and diversity of students who devote their time to competitions, across multiple year groups and in many and varied subject matters. All have proven excellent ambassadors for the Law School and its values.

Recall that reaching the semi-finals in any given competition means ranking in the top 4 teams (for the quarter-finals, in the top 8). For a small Law school, to consistently be ranking so high, across competitions with such a breadth of legal topics, is little short of remarkable. It would be remiss, in this regard, not to acknowledge and thank our stellar instructor for the 2023 Competition Moot unit, Anja Hilkemeijer, who whether in that capacity or in her own time, repeatedly stepped beyond the call of duty (and thanks also to other academic staff and postgrads who assisted mooting teams).

In 2024, I encourage you to engage in the competitions environment – it provides students with excellent opportunities to develop written and oral advocacy skills, as well as potentially travel and meet budding lawyers from other Law Schools across the country – and thereby continue the long legacy of the UTAS Law School in this space. The skill development, enjoyment and camaraderie gained from these competitions will make you glad to have participated.

Best wishes,

Professor Gino Dal Pont
Dean | Faculty of Law



President's Welcome

The competitions program at the law school is a valuable initiative undertaken by TULS and students benefit greatly from being involved in any and all aspects. Competitions provide students with the opportunity to gain practical experience in the law and develop problem-solving, advocacy, research, and communication skills. Whether you are a first-year law student, or in your final year, there are competitions opportunities available; educational workshops designed to assist students in developing their advocacy skills will be offered throughout the year, in addition to internal and intervarsity competitions.



The law school has experienced considerable success in competitions in recent years. In 2023, the Baker & Mackenzie Women's Moot team progressed to the grand final while the Kirby Contract Law Moot, the Administrative Appeals Tribunal Moot, and the ALSA International Humanitarian Moot teams reached the semi-finals. These results show the calibre of not only the students at the law school but also the teaching staff who assist in developing the students' skills. In particular, the support and guidance provided by Anja Hilkemeijer is a credit to the competitions program and is greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank our four competitions directors, William Heddle, Anoushka Thanikesh, Jasper Madsen and Amie Myhowycz, for creating the 2024 Competitions Guide which informs students of the various opportunities available throughout the year. Additionally, I would like to extend my appreciation to our 2024 sponsors, without whom TULS would be unable to provide such valuable experiences to students.

Put simply, if there is any extra-circular activity to engage in outside of your studies, it is competitions.

Yours faithfully,

Mia Grant
President | Tasmania University Law Society



Frequently Asked Questions

How do I find out about when tryouts and competitions are on?

Check out the TULS year group Facebook pages and your university email for our most recent updates. The Competitions Directors will inform students promptly before any tryouts or development sessions commence.

Can I do more than one competition?

You can try out for as many competitions as you like, but it is important that you do not over-commit yourself. Competitions can be time-consuming. It is recommended that you arrange your study load and other commitments so as to allow sufficient time for competition preparation.

Do I have to be an oralist to participate in competitions?

Students are able to compete without having to moot! Competitions involve crucial research and writing elements, and students who with strengths in these areas are encouraged to participate as solicitors, or in the essay-based competitions. Participants wishing to participate in a solicitor role will be selected based on their team work skills and experience, academic results and prior written work.

How do I sign up for intervarsity competitions?

Students are asked to send in expressions of interest for upcoming competitions as well as a copy of their academic transcript to the Competitions Directors at competitions@tuls.com.au. Depending on the numbers, students will be shortlisted and then invited to participate in a tryout. The Competitions Directors will advertise for expression of interest for each competition.

How much staff support will I receive?

Each team will have a dedicated coach who will provide general guidance and assist teams in structuring their arguments and honing oral advocacy skills.

How are the participants selected?

Selection generally involves a demonstration of oral advocacy, consideration of team work skills academic marks and any prior competition experience (including participation in the internal competitions). Please refer to the relevant sections in this guide for further detail.

Mooting Workshops

This year TULS are offering a series of mooting workshops, designed to help students develop their oral advocacy skills. These workshops are sponsored by Blumers and are available for all students, regardless of their level of experience. The workshops will progress in difficulty throughout the year as students develop new skills and build on previous workshops.

The first mooting workshop will be held in Week 2 on Thursday the 7th of March from 5pm - 6pm in the Law School. The subsequent workshops will continue to be held on Thursdays at 5pm.

Students who attend at least 6 of the first 9 mooting workshops will receive a Mooting Workshop Participation Certificate which is signed by the Dean and looks incredible on your CV.



SCAN TO SIGN UP FOR WORKSHOP 1

Skills Workshop Night

The 2024 Skills Workshop Night will be held at 6 pm - 8.30 pm on Thursday the 21st of March. The Skills Workshop is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop skills in Client Interview, Negotiations and Witness Examination, with members of the profession coming in to host sessions. Witness Examination is sponsored by Dobson Mitchell Allport, Client Interview by Blumers, Negotiations by Center for Legal Studies (TLPC).

This event is a **prerequisite** for students who wish to compete in Client Interview, Negotiations and Witness Examination in the Internal Competitions in 2024.



SCAN TO SIGN UP FOR SKILLS NIGHT



MOOTING WORKSHOPS

Calendar



Workshop 1
Introduction to Mooting
7 March 2024



Workshop 2
Foundations of Oral Submissions
14 March 2024



Skills Night
21 March 2024 (6 - 8.30pm)



Workshop 3
Making Arguments
4 April 2024



Workshop 4
Social Moot
9 May 2024



Workshop 5
Intervarsity Competitions Information Session
23 May 2024



Workshop 6
Advanced Legal Argumentation
1 August 2024



Workshop 7
Delivering Oral Submissions
15 August 2024

Internal Competitions

TULS' Internal Competitions consist of Witness Examination, Client Interview, and Negotiations as well as a Junior and Senior Moot. The 2024 Internal Competitions will be held across two Saturdays, with Preliminary Rounds taking place in the Faculty of Law on the **6th of April**, and Finals taking place on the **27th of April** in the Supreme Court of Tasmania. Be sure to register if you want to try your hand at competing!

Internal Competitions are open to students at any year level. The Junior Moot is traditionally open to inexperienced mooters, while the Senior Moot is open to students in the later years of the degree. Written submissions are provided for each of the moots so that the focus is solely on oral advocacy. The subject matter of the Junior Moot is accessible and is meant to be a springboard into the wider world of law, so we strongly encourage first and second years to sign up for it. If you have completed Constitutional Law (LAW 250) you are only eligible to compete in the Senior Moot.

All year groups are also welcome to sign up for the Client Interview, Witness Examination, and Negotiations competitions, but we do require you to have participated in the Skills Workshop on Thursday the **21st of March**.

The Junior Moot, Senior Moot, Negotiations and Client Interview competitions will comprise teams of two, while the Witness Examination competition is done individually. All competitions are marked individually.

Students can nominate a partner when they sign up but are also welcome to sign up by themselves and be allocated a partner before the competition. We invite all students wishing to participate in the TULS Internal Competitions to register now.

Students wishing to sign up for Witness Examination, Client Interview or Negotiations are reminded that they must attend the Skills Workshop Night on Thursday the 21st of March from 6 pm - 8:30 pm at the law school.



TASMANIAN LEGAL PRACTICE COURSE

NEGOTIATION

Negotiation can be defined in many ways but ultimately it is a process involving a dialogue or back and forth communication between parties to reach an agreement that each will accept to resolve an issue in dispute. Negotiation is an art. You cannot rely on a pre-prepared script or format. You must be creative, flexible and willing to think outside the box in order to persuade. Negotiation is an important skill in a lawyer's toolkit. It might be by way of direct settlement talks between solicitors, or it can involve an independent facilitator who assists the parties with the negotiation such as conciliation or mediation. Formal negotiation such as this is now widely adopted, and most jurisdictions have rules and preliminary processes which require parties to mediate prior to a Court or Tribunal listing the matter for hearing.

Negotiating settlement and agreements form part of the core competency standards for Practical Legal Training (PLT) courses across Australia. To satisfactorily complete a PLT course trainees must demonstrate capacity in this area. Negotiation skills can be broken down into a series of subskills including listening, verbal and written communication, problem solving, analytical skills and empathy. The development of these skills is critical in law and are skills that are transferrable to other professional roles.

At the Tasmanian Legal Practice Course (UTAS GDLP) the development of strong negotiation techniques is emphasised. You will have unparalleled access to the legal profession allowing trainees to develop and put into practice negotiation skills across several jurisdictions. You will run a Supreme Court personal injuries file which culminates in a mediation, you will be involved in preparing documentation and participating in or observing a Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) process and you will directly negotiate with colleagues in commercial and property law matters.

To learn the art of negotiation today, consider enrolling in the Tasmanian Legal Practice Course for completion of your Practical Legal Training. For more information see [here](#) & [here](#).



Centre
for
Legal
Studies



ALSA Conference

The Australian Law Students' Association (ALSA) Conference is a highlight for many law students around the country. In 2024 the Conference will be hosted in Hobart.

What is ALSA?

The conference consists of five different competitions: Witness Examination, Negotiations, Client Interview, the Championship Moot and the Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot. Preparation for the conference generally begins in May. The competition aims to attract all law students from all year groups and has a broader appeal than just mooting.

Please visit <https://alsa.asn.au/what-is-alsa> for more information.

Selection Process

The winners of the TULS Internal Competitions will represent the university in the Witness Examination, Negotiations and Client Interview competitions.

Expressions of interest for the ALSA Championship Moot and the ALSA Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot will open in early April. We will notify students of the specific tryout date when we send out expressions of interest.



ALSA Conference

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

Kate Cosgrove, International Humanitarian Law Moot participant, 2023

I was fortunate enough to be able to participate in the IHL moot in 2023. I found that the area of law was incredibly fascinating, and this made the research process and drafting of submissions fairly smooth for my team and I. The issue we worked on was centred around the war crimes related to transfer of population and intentionally causing excessive damages, contained within article 25 of the Rome statute. Given the ongoing war in Ukraine, the international relevance of our problem could not have been more timely.

After an enjoyable preparation period, we flew to Sydney to compete in a series of moots, and were lucky enough to make it to the semi finals! The whole completion was such a wonderful experience and taught me so much about mooting. On top of that, it was a great week full of meeting new people and attending some pretty cool events! I would strongly recommend the experience to anyone interested.



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ALSA Conference

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

Jesse James, ALSA Championship Moot participant, 2023

The ALSA Championship Moot was my first ever moot, but I was encouraged by staff and my peers to seize the opportunity to learn, foster a new skill set, and put my mental fortitude to the test.

The area of law my submissions focused on was relatively foreign. It took me weeks of preparation to understand the law regarding the possession of dead bodies and the pertaining duties. The process from research to completing written submissions took place over our semester break, so it was timely to ensure we could dedicate uninterrupted efforts to the task. However, I did neglect my studies when the semester started (sorry, lecturers) and completed several practice moots a week in preparation.

I was blessed with the wonderful Natalie Size as team solicitor and the experienced Miles Kahles serving as Senior Counsel. My mooting experience has been a highlight of my studies. Mooting isn't just about arguing a case; it's about honing your advocacy skills and growing your confidence to stand before a panel of judges and my peers to show the best of your hard efforts.

My journey into mooting began with a mixture of trepidation and curiosity, but it quickly evolved into a passion and a time of my life punctuated with pride for my team's hard work. Through countless hours of research, preparation, and rigorous practice sessions, I've deepened my understanding of the law and sharpened my ability to think critically and articulate arguments persuasively.

The most rewarding aspect of my mooting experience extended beyond academics but was found in the friendships I made. After spending hours with my team and other ALSA competitors, I feel support and gratitude I hold onto long after our moot's conclusion.

My key message to all law students is to moot at least once in your studies! These competitions are a platform for you to learn and grow. Don't be daunted by your lack of experience or confidence – with time, you'll surprise yourself with your achievements. The ALSA championship moot is particularly great because it often traverses multiple areas of the law you may not have encountered before.



Intervarsity Competitions

Intervarsity Competitions provide students with the opportunity to compete against other law students from other Australian Universities. The competitions on offer in Semester 1 include the UNSW Private Law Moot, and the SULLS x TULLS Novice Negotiations Competition. Semester 2 will see representatives selected for the Sir Harry Gibbs Constitutional Law Moot, the UTS LSS Law and Technology Moot, the Baker McKenzie National Women's Moot, the Administrative Appeals Tribunal Moot and the Kirby Contract Law Moot. Finally, the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition will run in the summer of 2025. The competitions offer a diverse range of legal issues and vary in difficulty in order to appeal to a wide range of students.

Selection Process

In order to participate in an intervarsity competition, students will be required to attend tryouts for team selection. Tryouts will consist of a 3-minute moot or a short interview if you wish to only be considered for a solicitor role. UNSW tryouts will be held on 4 March (Week 2), tryout dates for the competitions in the second semester will be released later on.

Expectations

Participants should be aware that intervarsity competitions require serious commitment. Participants are required to have excellent time management skills to manage normal unit content with the demands of the competition. Students selected for intervarsity competitions are eligible to enrol in LAW349 Competition Moot (more information is found on page 24).



Arnold Bloch Leibler
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UNSW Private Law Moot

TRYOUTS WILL BE HELD ON 1 MARCH 2024

The UNSW Private Law Moot is a prestigious moot competition, focused on topics from private law, including tort, equity, contract and corporations law. As such, this moot allows participants to demonstrate or develop their interest in areas of commercial law.

Often the grand final is judged by senior private law scholars and members of the NSW judiciary. This moot is recommended for third, fourth and fifth year students. Preference will be given to students who have completed LAW251 Contract Law and/or LAW353 Equity & Trusts.

The UNSW Private Law Moot attracts teams from universities across the Asia-Pacific region. Last year the competition was held online and took place over four days. This included two days of preliminary round moots.

Teams usually consist of three to four students. Each team must have at least one female or non-cis male member. Last year UTAS selected 2 solicitors and 2 speakers.

Tryouts: 1 March

Problem released: 18 April

Competition period: 17-21 May



STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

Natalie Size, participant, 2022

The UNSW Private Law Moot was my first mooting experience as a speaker and I recommend it to anyone with an interest in private law, particularly equity.

Our problem had three main issues, which concerned the equitable doctrines of fiduciary duties, undue influence and constructive trusts, as well as the appropriate remedies for each cause of action. I spent countless hours with my teammates – Isabella Waters, Zack Stephenson, and Maddie Webster – researching, writing, and, of course, talking to Gino, while we prepared our submissions.

While it was hard work, the experience was extremely rewarding and a lot of fun!

I'm extremely grateful for the skills I learnt during this moot, which go beyond mooting to extend to other areas of study, work, and life. These skills include problem-solving, public speaking, time-management, teamwork, and a general confidence in myself and my own abilities. Mooting has without a doubt been the best thing I've done at law school, and I recommend everyone should experience it at least once!

Administrative Appeals Tribunal Moot

This moot is run by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and provides competitors with the chance to engage with the various issues which come before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT).

The AAT Moot is an excellent beginner moot, providing a valuable opportunity to gain exposure to an area of law not covered in internal competitions or other intervarsity competitions.

Teams face new problems each fortnight of the competition. There are potentially five rounds of the competition and thus the time commitment is variable. Each round is adjudicated by a member of the AAT.

We congratulate Jamie Nash, Jasper Madsen and Kate Binstadt (left to right) on emerging as semi-finalists in 2023.

Tryouts: June

Competition Period: July - August



STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

Jamie Nash, participant, 2023

I found the AAT moot Competition an intense but rewarding experience. The AAT has a different format to most moot competitions, which made it a particularly interesting moot to participate in. Every two weeks we were presented with a completely new legal problem, sometimes in very different areas of law. We had a week to write submissions and then a week to prepare for oral arguments. This meant we needed to learn everything we needed to know about our case and about the law in a short period of time. In participating in the moot, I learnt a lot about areas of law that I otherwise would not get to experience. A highlight for me was when we were faced with a problem concerning immigration law. I found the intricacy of the law and the human rights issues that it raised was a fascinating topic that I wouldn't have learnt about in as much detail outside of the moot.

One of the other things about the competition was that the judges were all current members of the AAT. They were the real tribunal members who would hear cases in that particular subject area. Each moot was a little daunting at first, as we tried to explain the law that we had been learning for a week to people who had been practicing it for their whole careers, but each moot helped us to learn more about that topic as they explained how they would have decided the case before them.

I found that this was not just a great learning experience, but reinforced the sense that we were participating in a 'real' case. I found that through the moot competition I developed really strong friendships with my fellow team-mates. There were three of us; two counsels, who would do the speaking, and a solicitor who kept us on track as we researched and wrote our written submissions. The intensity of the competition forced us to work together in an efficient way. We got to know the Law School very well as we would often be there after hours working around our various commitments to get our submissions in on time. I remember a number of occasions where the task of writing and submitting our submissions on time seemed completely impossible, but by working together as a team we were able to get everything done on time. Each time the sense of pride in what we had accomplished, as well as a bit of relief, was something I found extremely rewarding about this moot. Outside the moot court, the intensity of the competition helped our group develop friendships that went beyond our moot sessions.

Michael Kirby Contract Law Moot

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

Darcy Heffernan, participant, 2023

In 2023 I was fortunate enough to participate in the Michael Kirby Contract Law Moot. Along with my team members, Ash Burke and Anoushka Thanikesh, we spent two months researching relevant areas of contract law to draft and gradually refine our written submissions. I found this amount of preparation time was generous and allowed me to balance moot preparation with study commitments.

The staff and experienced students at the law school guided us through the process and were more than willing to help us prepare our written and oral arguments. Despite none of the team members having any experience mooting, we felt extremely well prepared to compete in the oral rounds of the competition.

The moot took place in Melbourne over several days, where we competed against a variety of teams from other Australian universities in a less formal tribunal setting. Throughout the competition, our moots were judged by inspiring legal professionals. This saw our legal advocacy skills improve out of sight, culminating in a narrow defeat in the semi-finals.

I consider the Michael Kirby Contract Law Moot to be a clear highlight of my legal studies. It has taught me invaluable skills in written argument development, oral advocacy, and time management whilst providing a fun and memorable week in Melbourne where I made many like-minded friends from all across the country.

The Annual Michael Kirby Contract Law Moot Competition is hosted by Victoria Law School at Victoria University.

It is one of the largest moot court competitions in Australia and it is Australia's only Contract Law Moot. Winners of this competition win prize money and usually go on to compete in international mooting competitions. Teams comprise of 3-4 participants.

Last year the competition was held in person and UTAS delegates got to travel to Melbourne.

We congratulate Ash Burke, Anoushka Thanikesh and Darcy Heffernan (left to right) who emerged as semi-finalists in 2023.

Tryouts: June

Competition Period: September



Baker McKenzie Women's Law Moot

Team sponsored by Boston Consulting Group

The Baker McKenzie National Women's Moot Competition is organised by the Sydney University Law Society and is sponsored by the international law firm, Baker McKenzie.

The moot is only open to female participants. The competition is aimed at encouraging more women to begin their journey to the bar. It is an excellent moot for women looking for a supportive environment to try their hand at mooting.

Last year the competition was held in person and UTAS delegates had the opportunity to travel to Sydney. This year, in addition to the trip to Sydney, the team will be sponsored by Boston Consulting Group and will have the opportunity to practice their oral submissions with the Group.

We congratulate Ava Drew, Lara Gaffney and Charlotte Atwell (left to right) on their grand-final finish in 2023. Ava also received the Best Speaker in the preliminary rounds award.



Tryouts: July

Competition Period: September- October

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

Ava Drew, participant, 2023

Competing in the Baker McKenzie National Women's Moot Competition has been a highlight of my university experience. This moot, hosted by the University of Sydney, has run for many years with the aim of addressing equity issues facing women at the Bar. It was an amazing experience to share with my teammates, and a wonderful opportunity to connect with legal professionals and law students from across the country. Our moot problem related to private international law and concerned the enforceability of a class action waiver clause and an exclusive jurisdiction clause in an American contract for a tour to the Women's Soccer World Cup in Australia and New Zealand. This was a really interesting problem given it was based on a case before the High Court concerning novel issues.

The moot ran across four days, with three preliminary rounds taking place in the first two days. It was incredibly exciting when we progressed to the semi-finals, and then to the grand final held at the Supreme Court where we were awarded national runners-up. We were also very fortunate to have the Honourable Justice Julie Ward, President of the New South Wales Court of Appeal, as one of the grand final judges. Having female academics, barristers and Supreme Court judges adjudicate our moots was incredibly valuable. The opportunity to moot for such experienced legal professionals, and to receive their feedback, was a real privilege and highly rewarding.

Whilst the moot was very challenging at times, I learned so much and my oral advocacy skills have developed further as a result. We also had a fantastic time sight-seeing in Sydney, visiting the Baker McKenzie law firm and attending the Gala Dinner. My involvement in competitions has been such an enriching part of my law school experience, and has developed my critical thinking, teamwork and communication skills, and ability to make strong legal arguments. This has been very valuable for my own studies and has given me greater self-confidence, especially in considering possible career opportunities. I would highly recommend this competition to any students who are interested!

Sir Harry Gibbs Constitutional Law Moot

The Sir Harry Gibbs Constitutional Law Moot is hosted by Melbourne University in conjunction with Melbourne University Law Students' Society ('MULSS').

The moot is ideal for students who enjoy Constitutional Law. This is a challenging but rewarding moot, with the final often being judged by a current or former member of the High Court.

Teams usually consist of three students, and the subject and nature of the moot means that this is a competition best suited to law students in their penultimate and final years of study.

We congratulate the 2023 team consisting of Allie Davies-Knight, Jessica Pursell and Reuben Gregg-McQueen (left to right) on reaching the Quarterfinals.

Tryouts: July

Competition Period: September - October



STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

Jessica Pursell, participant, 2023

If you have an interest in constitutional law and are keen to challenge your mooting skills, the Sir Harry Gibbs Constitutional Law Moot competition ("the Gibbs Moot") provides an excellent opportunity.

In 2023, I competed as an oralist in this competition, alongside another oralist and solicitor. We were tasked with two interesting constitutional law problems. One issue concerned procedural fairness as it pertained to the release of reasons for a government decision to revoke an individual's passport. The other concerned a state government scheme which held individuals in prison beyond their criminal sentences.

For both issues, my team prepared opposing submissions, one on behalf of the government and the other on behalf of an affected individual. This challenged us to wrestle with the complex balancing of public interest concerns against the rights and freedoms of individuals. My skills were stretched, both in legal research and in creatively characterising and applying the same decisions and facts in converse ways.

With the support and guidance of our coach, my team spent weeks researching, crafting written submissions, and rehearsing our oral delivery. This saw us each hone our written and oral mooting skills, as reflected in our successful advancement through the preliminary rounds, into the quarterfinals. In addition, the Gibbs Moot also allowed an opportunity for friendship and networking, with my team-mates, our web of support, and students from across the country.

Although the Gibbs Moot necessitates dedication of a substantial amount of time and hard work, the range of benefits garnered through the entire process, from preparation thoroughly to competition, make it thoroughly worthwhile.

ANU Gender Identity and Sexuality Moot

WILL NOT BE OFFERED IN 2024

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

Gloria Jeziel, participant, 2023

The ANU Gender and Sexuality Moot was an educational and enthralling experience for myself and my teammates, Dara Campbell, and Georgie McDermott. The competition had an incredible set of problems surrounding the compatibility of commercial surrogacy arrangements with international human rights law.

Initially, I was concerned with the complexities that were presented within the question, and I was nervous to meet Dara and Georgie. However, this anxiety was quickly dispelled from our very first meeting, with us all becoming fast friends and great teammates. In retrospect, I would not want to do this with anyone else.

The competition took place over zoom, and we were given a short amount of time to prepare our written and oral submissions. This proved to be a far more challenging task than what was expected, due to a few unexpected roadblocks. Despite this, our team managed to persevere, and we were able to support each other through this time. We were also very fortunate to be able to practice our oral submissions in front of legal professionals and other Moot veterans, which helped us sharpen our skills and be prepared for anything and everything.

The support we received throughout the competition was incredible, something I will always be grateful for. The support from the faculty made it possible for us to participate in the competition and juggle our other units. If you are thinking or unsure about doing your first Moot, I hope that this has swayed you towards a yes. It is an extremely rewarding experience, and you learn so much in such a short amount of time.

The ANU Gender and Sexuality Moot is focused on legal issues faced by LGBTQIA+ people in Australia and beyond. This is an important and evolving area of law. All are welcome to participate, not just members of the LGBTQIA+ community. Novice mooters are particularly encouraged to participate in this 'supportive and untraditional' competition.

The final rounds are traditionally judged by senior members of the Australian judiciary. The Honourable Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG (HonLLD'14) judged the grand final in 2021. Winners of the competition receive prize money to make a donation to a charity working to improve conditions for LGBTQIA+ people anywhere in the world. Teams nominate their chosen charity upon registration for the competition.

We commend Gloria Jeziel, Georgie McDermott and Dara Campbell (left to right) for their efforts in 2023.





Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition

The Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Competition is the most prestigious and oldest international law moot in the world. The moot simulates a dispute between countries brought before the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

This moot is ideal for students who have a passion for international law and human rights. This is the most competitive and time-intensive moot offered available. Jessup participants work over the summer break from 9 am – 5 pm preparing submissions for national rounds in February.

Teams are comprised of two to five members. Tryouts and selection will be held in October 2024, Participants must undertake the Jessup moot as an elective due to the workload and commitment of the unit.

Tryouts: October 2024

Competition Period: January 2025



STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

Hannah Lawrence and Kevin Toman, UTAS delegates, 2021.



Problem question

Our problem in 2021 was inspired by headlines, touching on pandemics, consular asylum and the legality of shooting down planes. The problem was useful in forcing us to consider the international legal ramifications of what, were then, current events - whether that be COVID-19 or Julian Assange's detention in the Ecuadorian embassy. One thing that prospective Jessup participants should remember is to read, reread and then read the facts again as the best advocacy weaves facts into their application of the law to create a shawl of impenetrable arguments.

Time commitment

Jessup is a big commitment but you get out what you put in. You basically 'live' at the law school in Room 225, with your own desk and computer 9-5 everyday, so it's like a full time job. But don't let that discourage you, there is flexibility to allow for other life commitments, i.e., part time work and hobbies. Remember it's a marathon and not a sprint - so it's all about balance!

Benefits

Jessup turned us from shabby researchers who mostly used Google to people who knew how to get the most out of a database. This was really useful when putting together our honours papers. You learn so much about international law and get to spend time becoming an 'expert' in your area. After Jessup, normal subjects seem like (a bit more of) a breeze! You'll learn life lessons about teamwork and the joy of going down international law rabbit holes - which could become a lifelong passion!

You don't need to do the international law unit before Jessup but it does help. Regardless, the first few weeks are a crash course of reading ICJ decisions and getting up to speed on jus cogens, opinio juris, and obligations erga omnes!

Jessup is a chance to make lifelong friends. The shared commitment of the project means that you'll spend long hours debating topics, laughing at jokes and eating various takeout meals with your teammates. If you're a top notch team you'll have a Jessup plant (duly watered with coffee grinds - ours was called 'Filo the III Hero of Segura' - named after a province in the problem), and you'll feel like part of the law school furniture forever!

Bring on Jessup 2024/2025!



Elective Unit

LAW349 Competition Moot

Semester 2 Elective

The Competitions Elective Unit will be available for enrolment in the second semester. This unit allows students to replace a law elective unit with the Competition Moot Elective, reducing the student's overall workload. The Competition Moot Elective is worth 12.5 Credit Points, just like any other elective. For students competing in an intervarsity competition in Semester 2, we strongly recommend taking up this elective to be able to receive credit for your research, planning and submissions. In addition to preparing written and oral submissions, students completing this elective will be required to reflect on their experiences throughout the competition.



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