

FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Singapore's Maritime Arbitration Community Provides Strong Support for Moot Competition Hosted by NUS



Law students from 8 law schools are getting a taste of "the real world of maritime arbitration" at the **5th International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot Competition**, which is being held in Singapore from 2 to 6 July 2004.

This year the Faculty of Law of the National University of Singapore is co-organising and hosting the moot in Singapore for the first time. The Maritime Law Moot has been organised annually since 1990 by the Maritime Law Centre of the TC Beirne School of Law of the University of Queensland.

The Maritime Law Moot involves teams of law school students representing commercial companies in a hypothetical legal dispute involving a cargo claim by one company against the other. The dispute is referred to arbitration, and the teams of law students are required to present arguments on behalf of the Claimant Party and the Respondent Party before panels of three arbitrators.

Because of the strong support provided by the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) and by maritime law experts based in Singapore, the 2004 Maritime Law Moot is giving the teams of students a very realistic view of the world of maritime arbitration. The arbitration hearings are being held in the premises of the Supreme Court, with the assistance of the SIAC. The students present their arguments to panels of three arbitrators. Many leading maritime lawyers based in Singapore have volunteered their time on the weekend to serve as arbitrators. This means that students have the opportunity to test their skills not only against teams from other law schools, but also before many of Singapore's top legal experts in maritime law and arbitration.

The Moot is giving teams from Australia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia and Thailand a first-hand look at what Singapore has to offer as an international centre for maritime arbitration. Judging by comments on the first day, the participants are extremely impressed by the facilities and by the quality of the arbitration panels.

Eight schools are participating in this year's competition. They include the law schools of Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok, Thailand), the University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong), Kerala Law Academy Law College (Kerala, India), the University of Indonesia (Jakarta, Indonesia), Padjadjaran University (Bandung, Indonesia), the University of Queensland (Brisbane, Australia), the University of Technology Sydney (Australia) and the National University of Singapore. Previous winners of the competition include the University of Queensland (2002 and 2003) and the National University of Singapore (2000 and 2001).

This year's competition started with a Welcome Reception at the CJ Koh Law Library, NUS Faculty of Law on Friday, 2 July. Each team has 4 Preliminary Rounds from Saturday 3 July to Monday 5 July,

arguing twice for the Claimant Party in the case and twice for the Respondent Party in the case. The top 4 teams will then proceed to the Semi-Final Rounds on Tuesday morning.

The Final Round will be held at 5.30 pm on Tuesday, 6 July at the historic City Hall Chamber. The finals will be judged by a panel comprising Justice Belinda Ang Saw Ean (Judge of the Supreme Court), Mr Jaya Prakash, a director of Pandisea Pte Ltd (the exclusive correspondents in Singapore for the Britannia P & I Club), and Mr Alan Thambiyah, a leading regional arbitrator. An Awards Dinner will be held in the Singapore Academy of Law following the Final Round.

The competition's sponsors this year include the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) and the Singapore Maritime Law Association (SMLA). Generous support was also received from leading local law firms, The Arbitration Chambers, Allen & Gledhill, and Rajah & Tann, as well as Minter Ellison (a leading Australian law firm), The Federal Court of Australia, and Quadrant Chambers (chambers of Nigel Teare QC), the leading shipping law set in the City of London. Finally, the organisers received very generous sponsorship from Informa Law, the renowned publisher of maritime and arbitration books, journals and looseleaves.

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