

FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENT

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NUS is Runner-Up in Maritime Arbitration Competition

The University of Technology Sydney (UTS) defeated the National University of Singapore (NUS) in a very close round to emerge champions in the 5th International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot Competition. NUS, attempting to win the Competition for the third time, had to settle for the prize for Runners-Up.

The teams from NUS and UTS took home most of the prizes in the Competition. NUS won a prize for being the top-ranked team in the General Rounds. Each team won a prize for the best written memorandum submitted in the Competition. NUS won the prize for the Best Claimant's Memorandum, and UTS won the prize for the Best Respondent's Memorandum. In addition, speakers from the two schools won two of the Best Oralist prizes. Michelle Quah of NUS won the prize for the Best Oralist in the Final Round, and Sarah Talbert was the Runner-up. Tony Brennan of the University of Queensland won the prize for the Best Oralist in the General Rounds.

The Final Round was held in the historic City Hall Chamber in the Supreme Court. It was 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.

The NUS team consisted of Colin Chow, Victoria Xue, Tan Mingfen, Sue Ann Gan and Michelle Quah. Colin is a Third Year LLB student and Mingfen and Victoria are Final Year LLB Students. Michelle and Sue Ann are students in the one-year Diploma in Singapore Law programme. Associate Professor Eleanor Wong, the Director of the Legal Writing Programme at NUS and a former Jessup moot participant, coached the NUS team.

The oral hearings in the competition took place over a 4-day period. Each of the 8 law schools participating in the Competition argued 4 times in General Rounds, twice for the claimant and twice for the respondent. Each round was judged by a panel of three arbitrators. At the conclusion of the General Rounds, the 4 schools that were ranked the highest proceeded to the Semi-Final Rounds. In the Semi-Final Rounds the UTS defeated the University of Queensland, the defending Champions, and NUS defeated the University of Indonesia. NUS then went on to face UTS in the Final Round.

The oral rounds in Singapore were the culmination of 6 months of work for the 8 participating schools. The moot problem was distributed in early January. Each participating team was required to research the legal issues and submit a written argument, called a memorandum, on behalf of either the Claimant or the Respondent.

This was the first time that this competition was held in Singapore. The NUS Faculty of Law were the hosts for the competition, but they received very strong support from many institutions in Singapore, including the Supreme Court, the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC), the Singapore Maritime Foundation, law firms and Informa Publishing. The oral hearings were held in meeting rooms in the Supreme Court, and the SIAC supported the competition by volunteering the use of its premises and staff. In addition, many of the leading maritime law experts in Singapore volunteered their time to serve as arbitrators.

The competition has been organised by the Maritime Law Centre of the University of Queensland since 2000. NUS were champions in 2000 and 2001, and the University of Queensland were champions in 2002 and 2003.

Related news:

[Singapore's Maritime Arbitration Community Provides Strong Support for Moot Competition Hosted by NUS](#)