

PRESS RELEASE

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NUS creates waves at international IP mooting competition

First-time contender beats leading universities to win Oxford International Intellectual Property Mooting Competition

The National University of Singapore (NUS) swept aside stiff competition from home team Oxford University and other internationally renowned institutions to take top honours at the recently concluded 4th Annual International Inter-University Intellectual Property (IP) Mooting Competition, held at Oxford University's Oriel College from 1 to 2 April 2006.

Represented by law students Suegene Ang and Felicia Tan, the NUS team was pleasantly surprised by their win as it was the first time that the University was participating in this highly prestigious competition.

Accompanying the team was their coach, Associate Professor Eleanor Wong, Director of the Legal Writing Programme at NUS. Associate Professor Wong said, "The win was particularly sweet as the team had met Oxford in one of the preliminary rounds but had narrowly lost that round, as they were still finding their feet with a relatively new format and different expectations of the judging panels."

Associate Professor Wong is also a former mooter and a member of the 1985 NUS Law team that won the prestigious Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition in the United States.

Organised by the Oxford Intellectual Property Research Centre (OIPRC) and London's Intellectual Property Institute, the Oxford International Intellectual Property Mooting Competition fielded 21 teams including top English universities like Cambridge University, as well as other teams from Hong Kong, Ireland, Sri Lanka and the Ukraine.

NUS beat the University College of London (UCL) to reach the finals, while Oxford beat Cambridge. NUS also had to face Brunel University in the preliminary round and the University College Dublin in the quarter-finals and each time, they impressed the judges and audience with their mastery of the facts and law, their no-notes delivery and good handling of questions.

The finals between NUS and Oxford took place before a brilliant bench consisting of Lord Justices Jacobs and Mummery and Mr Justice Pumfrey. Fortified by prep sessions before NUS' own mooting alumni, the Singapore team exchanged witty repartee with the judges, while getting their case out, answering questions succinctly and never wavering from their position.

The team was privileged to have the opportunity to test their arguments before practice panels that ranged from the NUS IP faculty of Associate Professor Ng-Loy Wee Loon and Assistant Professor Burton Ong, to former mooters now practising IP law at Rajah & Tann and Alban Tay Mahtani & de Silva.

Many of the leading lawyers in Singapore were members of the NUS Moot teams when they were law students. They include judges of the Supreme Court of Singapore Justice Woo Bih Li from Class of '77, Justice VK Rajah from Class of '82 and Justice Sunderesh Menon from Class of '86, as well as Members of Parliament and Senior Counsels Indranee Rajah from Class of '86 and K Shanmugam from Class of '84.

The NUS team's participation in this competition was sponsored by the Singapore IP Academy.