

## FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENT

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4 January 2006

### **IP Academy to Sponsor NUS Team in IP Moot at Oxford**

As part of its mission to broaden the knowledge and capabilities in the protection, exploitation and management of intellectual property (IP) in Singapore, the IP Academy will sponsor a team from the NUS Law Faculty to participate in the 2006 International IP Mooting Competition at Oxford. This is the first time that Singapore will be represented at an international IP mooting competition.

The 4th Annual International IP Competition will take place at Oriel College, Oxford on 1-2 April 2006. The IP Competition is jointly organized by the Oxford Intellectual Property Research, and the Intellectual Property Institute, London.

Now in its fourth year, the IP Moot at Oxford is becoming established as a highly competitive event on both Mooting and Intellectual Property calendars. One of its aims is to inspire students to pursue careers in IP law. During its first three years almost all of the teams participating in the moot were from the United Kingdom. The NUS Faculty of Law was invited to participate in the moot by Professor David Vaver, the Director of the Oxford Intellectual Property Research Centre at St Peter's College. Professor Vaver was a Visiting Professor at the NUS Faculty of Law in Semester 2 of AY 2004-5.

Like most international moot competitions, the Oxford IP Moot Competition is based on a hypothetical case before a court, and consists of a written phase and an oral phase. The hypothetical case is sent to invited universities in December. In February, each team must submit two written pleadings, one on behalf of the appellant and one on behalf of the respondent. The oral arguments are then held at Oxford in early April.

The written pleadings and oral arguments are judged by practitioners, judges or academics knowledgeable in IP law. Practitioners from many of the leading London law firms serve as judges. The final round is heard by a panel of three English judges. In 2005 the final round was judged by Lords Justices Mummery and Jacob and Mr Justice Pumfrey.

The NUS team consists of two students, Suegene Ang and Felicia Tan. Suegene is a final year LLB student. Felicia did her first degree at LSE, and is currently in the Diploma in Singapore Law course at NUS. Assoc Prof Eleanor Wong is serving as their coach.

The IP Academy is a national initiative that was established in January 2003 with the aim of becoming a leading think tank in Asia for IP research and education.