

MOOT REPORT 2009-2010

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Over the academic year, mooters participated in a variety of competitions ranging from first time mooters to a competition devoted to international law. The first of these was the 'Beginners Cup', a competition for first time mooters against Exeter University in October. The cup was brought back to Plymouth for the second time in two years with all participants putting in incredibly strong and confident performances making Plymouth the natural winners. There were special mentions for Michael Glanton (GDL) and Nicholas Schwaderer (LLB year 1) for their performances with Michael clinching the title of overall winner out of all the competitors.

The next external competition was the Weekly Law Reports National Mooting Competition which we hosted in Plymouth Combined Court in December with His Honour Judge Darlow judging the round. We put forward a team of two mooters, David Murray (year 2) and Marc Harris (year 3), both confident and experienced mooters who put in numerous hours to their arguments. Unfortunately we were knocked out of the competition in the second round by Exeter University whom we were beaten by a mere 4 points.

The final external competition that we decided to enter a team into was the 'Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition'; this was the first time that the University of Plymouth had entered such a competition.. The competition is now in its 52nd year of running and is sponsored by White & Case, a major international law firm. One of the factors that make this competition so prestigious is the judges, they are all lawyers in the field of international public law, some of whom have been in the profession for the past 20-30 years. This means that all participants demonstrate their knowledge and skills to the best in the field. This is an international competition with teams produced from over 80 countries and over 500 law schools from around the world making it one of the largest established mooting competitions. A team of three was produced, once again David Murray, Alexander Rose (GDL), and Joshua

Lintern (year 1). A number of challenges arose with this competition, arguably the main one being that as international public law is not a module which is taught at the University the team, along with the help of a few of the law lecturers, had to learn the subject area themselves from scratch. This also meant that the time taken to prepare certain parts of the moot, including the memorials, a form of skeleton argument, and their actual submissions, took considerably more time but the team worked hard with each member contributing substantial amounts of their time and all the deadlines were met. The competition took place at Gray's Inn, London, over a period of four days in February with the competitors having to participate in a total of four moots. Although the Plymouth Law School did not come home with any awards or trophies the team were praised by a number of the judges for their abilities and were surprised when they were informed that this was the first time the University had entered such a competition and that international public law was not a taught module.

As well as the three external competitions, the internal moot competition was also run throughout the year; 40 initial teams were whittled down to one successful finalist over 5 rounds. It was great to see the participation of many first time mooters and a substantial number of teams from the First year entering the competition. Each round presented a new question and challenge for the participants to moot with the first two rounds revolving around contract law, the next two focussing on tort and land then finally a criminal law question. The competition proved to be intense from the first round on with many participants showing a lot of potential and drive. The final round of the competition was the most thrilling of all with the two teams consisting of Laura Offer (year 2) and Iain Henning (year 2) against Michael Glanton (GDL) and Sarah Flanagan (year 3). It was once again a close competition judged by Judge Taylor, Piers Nosworthy from Devon Chambers and Ali Rafati from Kings Bench Chambers with the winners being announced as Laura and Iain. The internal competition relies heavily on the time and participation of lecturers and local legal professionals, from writing the moot problems to judging each of the rounds so I would like to say a special thank you to those as well as to all the participants.

Internal Competition Final:



Winners Iain and Laura:



Overall we have had a fantastic year with mooting with many students wishing to participate and dedicate their time to the numerous competitions and successes that I am sure will be carried on next year. Thank you again to all those who took part and gave up their time for the events.