

PLYMOUTH STUDENT LAW SOCIETY

MOOTING REPORT 2014

Stephen Gibson with

Charlotte Collard and Danielle Nicholls (Mooting Officers)

Introduction

Mooting is essential in the development of key legal skills, and at Plymouth University, it has never been stronger. Last year saw a large number of students enter to be part of the Plymouth Student Law Society's internal moot competition. Over 5 rounds, teams of mooters put their arguments forward until the field was whittled down to the final two teams. The final was between the team of Miss Danielle Metters and Karen Brown (Appellants) and the team of Miss Charlotte Collard and Miss Lauren Morris (Respondents). The legal problem focused around criminal law and saw the two teams explain and apply the rules of constructive manslaughter. The Plymouth Student Law Society would like to take this opportunity to thank both Joshua Vaughan and Cara O'Donoghue for organising this event, as well as the Right Honourable Judge Taylor, Jason Beale from Devon Chambers and Ali Rafati from Kings for judging the final. Their efforts and support made for an exciting final round that saw the three judges unable to split the two competing teams. Congratulations therefore go to both teams who were, for the first time ever, jointly declared the winners.

Last year, Plymouth University also saw great success in the National Student Law Society Competition. The Plymouth team, consisting of Miss Natasha Mason and Miss Grace Humphries, exceeded all expectations to finish eighth overall. Along the way the team met tough competition, overcoming teams from universities such as Southampton, Liverpool John Moores and Cambridge. They showed great professionalism and conduct when dealing with complicated case scenarios which included issues surrounding human rights, contract law and trusts. In their quarter-final round, after an engaging and closely fought moot over the law of equity, the Plymouth team was overcome by the team from Lincoln's Inn. It should be noted that the Lincoln's Inn team would go on to win the competition. This achievement should not be underestimated and the Plymouth Student Law Society would like to congratulate Miss Mason and Miss Humphries on all their efforts and success.

Following on from the successes of last year, standards are set extremely high for the 2014/2015 Plymouth Internal Mooting Competition. However, after round one, it seems the

standard is set higher than ever. The competition consists of 16 teams from across every year group of Plymouth University's law courses. Round one was based around contract law and a postal rule problem, which was especially challenging to first year students who at this stage have hardly started their contract law studies. Mooting Officers, Miss Charlotte Collard and Miss Danielle Nichols have reported back to the student law committee, stating that they were 'especially impressed with the level of court etiquette and commitment' shown by all teams involved. Also, they would like to congratulate the highest scoring pairs: Neil Trigger and Iain Large and Abigail Payne and Jonathon Yates, who both scored 88 points out of 100 as a combined score.

Moreover, Plymouth again is being represented on the national stage. The Student Law Society has put forward one team to compete in the United Kingdom Law Students Association moot. Our team consisted of Samuel Castlehouse and Jacob Cunningham who were competing against a team from Exeter University. The moot was a particularly complex property issue that required a very high standard of research and advocacy. Unfortunately we did not proceed to the next round, however a very big well done must be given to Sam and Jake for only their second ever moot.

In the National Student Law Society Competition, Plymouth University entered two teams. The moot was a criminal problem surrounding the issue of murder and diminished responsibility. The first team composed of second year law students Stephen Gibson and Akil Eapen. Regrettably, after a valiant effort they did not proceed to the next round, losing out by a single point.

Stephen Gibson and Akil Eapen mooting against Exeter University in the NSLS competition.



Our second team was composed of first-years, Mr Jordan Owen and Mr Thomas Faulkner, who completed and won their first round moot against Exeter University. They had the same moot problem as the first team. This is an especially impressive feat as it was only their second ever moot. They performed extremely well and received a well-deserved win. They will now compete against Portsmouth University in the coming weeks and will undoubtedly represent the University to the best of their abilities. Plymouth University has also entered the Oxford University Press and BPP National Mooting Competition. The Plymouth team, consisting of Mr Iain Large and Mr Ryan Minshull, competed against London based Birkbeck

College. The moot was focused on criminal law surrounding the issue of harassment. The pair worked extremely well and will move onto the second round where they will face new opposition that is still to be confirmed. We wish them, and the pairing of Mr Owen and Mr Faulkner, the very best of luck in the coming rounds.

Plymouth Student Law Society is dedicated to enhancing future opportunities to its members, especially through the various mooting competitions. It is by competing in competitions, such as the ones mentioned, that we form the links necessary for the continued growth of both the society and future mooting events. The most essential part to this potential success is the continued support of both the Plymouth University Law School and the student body. Therefore, the Society's goal is to continue to enhance the level of engagement with these two entities. By ensuing this, we guarantee future opportunities that will help to support our members develop and enhance the essential skills they may require in the future. Furthermore, we hope that development of these skills will result in future success stories for students at Plymouth University at both an internal and external level, as well as in future years.

Stephen Gibson (Health, Safety and Communications Officer)

Charlotte Collard (Mooting Officer)

Danielle Nichols (Mooting Officer)