

DEBATING AND MOOTING AT THE LAW SCHOOL

In line with the upward trajectory of the Law School, debating and moot activities among law students have come along in leaps and bounds this year. Our students are supported and coached by members of the International Law Department, and have also had the generous assistance of several experienced lawyers who were themselves once active mooters.

Establishment of the Debating Society

International students Donald Tatenda Rushambwa and Charles Owusu Asamoah, both from the class of 14Q, are active public speakers who have been spearheading the establishment of the Debating and Mooting Society. The Society will be launched in the new term starting in March 2018, staffed with an interim committee pending elections later in the year.

This is a natural development, one that is warmly supported by the Law School. It is rooted in the increasing recognition by students of the importance of developing their professional legal skills alongside acquisition of knowledge. The International Students Department of the Law Students Union, currently under the leadership of Maajida Mia, has also been active in hosting debates on issues such as 'Is Euthanasia Justified?' and 'Should the Death Penalty be abolished?'.



Maajida making her case during Debate Participants in the Moot Court room with judges a debate

Inter-university debate: Zhejiang University of Science and Technology, Zhejiang University of Forestry and Agriculture and Zhejiang Gongshang University

On 9 November 2017, four law students participated in the first inter-university debate for international students in Zhejiang province. Law students Donald Rushambwa, Charles Owusu Asamoah, Tshepo Ledwaba and Maajida Mia represented the Law School. The students were tasked to argue for and against two topics: (1) "Is Government intervention is vital in ensuring a positive society"; and (2) "Genetic analysis should be legalized for insurance companies in client risk analysis".

The judges found Charles to be an outstanding speaker and bestowed on him the award of Best Speaker from the Zhejiang Gongshang University team.



Donald in action



Charles with his award, flanked by Donald and Tshepo

11th China round of the 16th International Humanitarian Law Moot Competition



Our first-ever team participated in the 11th Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot Court Competition, Mainland China Round. This was held over 1-3 December 2017 at the KoGuan Law School, Shanghai Jiao Tong University. 33 universities from across China participated this year. The top three teams every year proceed to participate in the Asia-Pacific round co-organized by the Hong Kong Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Hong Kong.

Representing the Law School were Maajida Mia, Donald Tatenda Rushambwa as well as Jiang Jia Ying and Xie Tingwen. Jia Ying and Maajida served as Counsel while Donald and Tingwen were the researchers.



The team with coach Professor Song Jie



Donald representing the team onstage to receive a certificate

Reflecting on the experience, team member Tingwen said that ‘This is my first time to take part in a moot court competition and it was much more challenging than I thought. I knew nothing about IHL at first. But with the help of my teammates and teachers, it seemed that I had a magnificent exploration into IHL. And thanks to the competition, I had a chance to communicate with law students in other great universities. The experience is indeed rewarding and unforgettable.’

International Criminal Court Moot Competition

Having passed a preliminary selection round in November 2017, five ZIGSU law students will be taking part in the China round of the International Criminal Court Moot Competition in Beijing in March 2018. They are Hang Zhelu, Chen Yitian, Ma Zhao, Charles Owusu Asamoah and Nazly Ahmed Amir Hafez Sadik.

The International Criminal Court Moot Competition is organized by the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies at Leiden University with the support of the International Criminal Court. The Law School wishes the team all the very best of luck and hopes that they will be among the top three Chinese teams who will be able to represent China at the international round in The Hague.

Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition

Donald and Charles have also been galvanising students to prepare for the debating and mooting year ahead. ‘All Rise: Journeys to a just world’ is a documentary that followed seven law students from India, Israel, Jamaica, Palestine, Russia, Singapore, and Uganda as they prepared for, and then competed in the long-running Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. The competition turns on a fictional dispute between countries that is litigated before the International Court of Justice. The competition is organised every year by the International Law Students Association and held in Washington, DC, USA. ‘All Rise: Journeys to a just world’ was selected for the DOC NYC film festival in November 2017, and won a Jury Award at the Manchester Film Festival.

The Law School hopes to send a pioneering team to participate in the 2019 China rounds of the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, with a view to being able to represent China in Washington. Donald and Charles organised for 'All Rise: Journeys to a just world' to be screened to interested ZJGSU students on 22 January 2018, and will be screened again in March 2018 after students return from the Spring Festival holidays.



A rapt audience of would-be Jessup mooters watches 'All Rise: Journeys to a just world'