

ZJGSU STUDENTS AND STAFF AT THE 12TH MAINLAND CHINA INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION



The 12th Red Cross
International Humanitarian Law Moot Court (2018)
An Inter-University Competition for Mainland China



First Counsel Tshepo Ledwaba addresses the judges

After weeks of preparation, a team of ZJGSU Law School students travelled to Guangzhou to join 33 other teams taking part in the 12th annual International Humanitarian Law Moot Court Competition. It was held over two days from 23-25 November 2018 at the beautiful campus of Sun Yat-Sen University.

These moot court competitions are an integral part of the International Humanitarian Law promotion activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The ICRC's Beijing office organised the first such competition in Mainland China in 2007. The purpose is to promote International Humanitarian Law at university level, and to strengthen teaching and research in this area. The best mooting teams from the Mainland China round will qualify for the Asia-Pacific round which is held in Hong Kong every March. The 12th Mainland China competition was co-organised by the ICRC and Sun Yat-Sen University. This year has seen the largest ever number of universities participating.

2018 is the second time that ZJGSU has sent a team to this competition. Vice-Dean Professor Song Jie coached the team (Tshepo Mpuru Ledwaba as First Counsel, Mao Xiaoyi as Second Counsel, supported by two researchers, Mutsa Courtney and Wu Yue). He also accompanied

them to Guangzhou. Among the teams that they met, Peking University progressed to the top and it was a great experience to debate with them.



The ZJGSU team with the Peking University team



First Counsel Tshepo Mpuru Ledwaba and Second Counsel Mao Xiaoyi enjoying a relaxed moment

Asked about the experience, Tshepo said that ‘It was a honor to just be chosen to participate in this highly regarded nationwide competition. It has taught not only me but my team a lot. We shared the room with judges from all over world and the experience was unforgettable.’ For Second Counsel Xiaoyi,

It was an honor being a part of the ICRC moot court team. The experience was quite special. As a mooter, I tried to learn about IHL which I did not know about before. Fortunately, Professor Song was always willing to help me. Furthermore, Professor Yu also gave me a lot of helpful suggestions on my presentation. Professor Linton also encouraged our team. If possible, I hope Professor Linton can also be our coach to give us more practical advice. The arrangement of the competition was good and the trip in Guangzhou was unforgettable. I am eager to participate in such competitions in the future!

Mutsa, who supported the team with research, also appreciated the experience. She emphasised that

Sharing ideas and learning so many new things from my colleagues was the main highlight. I would like to thank Professor Song and Professor Cathryn for taking their precious time to coach us and make us who we are, and also Professor Linton who pointed us in the right direction for our research. I would also like to thank the Law School for supporting us, above all to Tiffany for assisting us even on short notice and being our go-between with staff. Special thanks to Tshepo for being a good team leader, Mao for being a wonderful pillar and Cheryl for always being the one to calm everyone in times of panic. Guangzhou was a wonderful experience and I hope that the Law School will always support students who have a passion in relevant extra-curricular activities.

Professor Suzannah Linton, who teaches the International Law of Armed Conflict at ZJGSU, also participated in the Competition, as Judge Linton.



Judge Linton chairing a panel



The four members of the ZJGSU team surprising Judge Linton at lunch

The three best teams – from Peking University, the Law School at the China Academy of Social Sciences and Johns Hopkins University – will travel to Hong Kong in March 2019 to represent Mainland China in the Asia-Pacific Competition.



The judges with the three winning teams and the organisers