

## PHILIPPINE PARTICIPATION IN VARIOUS MOOT COURT COMPETITIONS

The University of the Philippines team emerged as champions of the 12th Annual Price Media Law Moot Court Competition which took place in Oxford, England on Apr. 8-12, 2019. Mark Xavier Libardo was awarded Best Oralist and Julianne Angela del Rosario was recognized as the Best Oralist in the final. The Lyceum of the Philippines University team reached the quarterfinals of the international rounds. The 2019 international rounds had 36 teams, representing a diverse range of countries, who argued a complex competition case on free speech, privacy, and the regulation of social media and the obligations of States under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights before distinguished benches of lawyers, academics, and practitioners from the media industry serving as judges.<sup>16</sup>

Two teams from the Philippines advanced from the Southeast Asian rounds to the international rounds of the 23rd Annual Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition: The University of the Philippines and University of St. La Salle. Both teams competed in the international rounds of the competition held in Gulfport, Florida on Apr. 11-13, 2019, with the University of the Philippines team reaching the semifinals. The Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition, which focuses on important global environmental challenges, is the most prestigious international environmental law moot court competition in the world.<sup>17</sup>

The University of the Philippines won the 2019 Asia Cup International Law Moot Court Competition. The 2019 edition was held from Aug. 6-7, 2019 in Tokyo, Japan, and had a record high participation of 72 teams from 17 different jurisdictions. Leslie Diane Torres was awarded Best Applicant Oralist. The 2019 Asia Cup was co-organized by the Japanese Society of International Law and

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<sup>16</sup> *International Rounds 2019*, BONAVERO INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, FACULTY OF LAW, OXFORD UNIVERSITY, <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/centres-institutes/bonavero-institute-human-rights/monroe-e-price-media-law-moot-court-competition-3> (last visited June 30, 2021).

<sup>17</sup> *Results of the 23rd Annual Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition*, STETSON INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION, <https://www.stetson.edu/law/international/iemcc/> (last visited June 30, 2021).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and aims to contribute to the establishment of “Rule of Law” in Asia.<sup>18</sup>

On Sept. 27, 2019, the 14th National Moot Court Competition on International Humanitarian Law came to a close with the University of the Philippines College of Law emerging victorious. The Philippine Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross co-organized the competition with closing proceedings held at the En Banc Hall of the Supreme Court of the Philippines. Vanayan Odsey was hailed as the Best Mooter of the Final Round. The runner-up of the competition was the University of Batangas. Sixteen schools from all over the country participated in the week-long competition which included submission of memorials, role play challenges, and rounds of oral arguments derived from a formulated compromis dealing with international humanitarian law.<sup>19</sup>

The 2019 Philippine National Rounds of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition were organized by Divina Law and were held at the University of Santo Tomas, Manila from Feb. 21-23, 2019. The University of the Philippines emerged as champions with the University of San Carlos as the runner-up. Abelardo Hernandez was awarded Best Oralist. Ateneo de Manila University won the Overall Best Memorial. The international rounds of the Jessup Moot Court Competition were held on Mar. 31-Apr. 6, 2019 at Capitol Hill, Washington D.C. The University of the Philippines reached the quarterfinals of the international rounds. The Jessup Moot Court Competition is the biggest and most prestigious moot court competition in the world.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> *Results of Asia Cup 2019*, ASIA CUP INTERNATIONAL LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION FOR FUTURE INTERNATIONAL LAWYERS IN ASIA, <https://asiacup.sakura.ne.jp/p2019.html> (last visited June 30, 2021).

<sup>19</sup> *U.P. National Champion on IHL Moot Court Competition*, RED CROSS PHILIPPINES, <https://redcross.org.ph/2019/10/07/u-p-national-champion-on-ihl-moot-court-competition/> (last visited June 30, 2021).

<sup>20</sup> *Jessup 2019*, INTERNATIONAL LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION, <https://www.ilsa.org/jessup-history/jessup-2019> (last visited June 30, 2021).