

PHILIPPINE PARTICIPATION IN VARIOUS MOOT COURT COMPETITIONS IN 2020

Last Jan. 7-9, 2020, the University of the Philippines (“UP”) College of Law and the UP Law Center Institute of International Legal Studies hosted the 24th Annual Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition Southeast Asian Regional Rounds wherein the UP Law team, who finished as finalists¹⁰, and Ateneo de Manila University School of Law, who finished as semi-finalists, both advanced to the international rounds of the competition.¹¹ In the international rounds, which were held virtually on April 2-4, 2020 because of the pandemic, Ateneo de Manila University School of Law bagged the Runner-up for Best Memorial Award while Urania Estrellita Amelia Remedios P. Lindo and Beatriz Anna Balbacal, both belonging to the UP Law team, were awarded Best Oralist and 3rd Best Oralist, respectively, in the Preliminary Rounds.¹²

In Feb. 21-23, 2020, the 2020 DivinaLaw Philippines Jessup Cup was held at the Century Park Hotel in Manila. The UP Law Jessup Team was crowned Overall Champion and awarded Best Memorial for Respondent. University of Santo Tomas (“UST”) finished as runner-up of the competition and garnered two memorial awards - Overall Best Memorial and Best Memorial for Applicant. Abelardo Hernandez of the UP Law team also won Best Oralist of the championship match.¹³ The UP Law and UST Law teams were supposed to represent the Philippines in the Jessup Competition’s international rounds which was, however, cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In lieu of this, a virtual tournament, the 2020 “After Jessup” International Moot Court Competition was organized by the International Association of Law Schools in cooperation with the

<https://dfa.gov.ph/authentication-functions/78-newsroom/dfa-releases/28124-dfa-webinar-com-memorates-un-s-75th-anniversary-highlights-ph-contributions> (last visited Mar. 19, 2021).

¹⁰ *UP Law is in the Finals of the 2020 SEARR*, UP COLLEGE OF LAW, <https://law.upd.edu.ph/up-law-finishes-in-the-finals-of-the-2020-stetson/> (last visited August 26, 2021).

¹¹ *Ateneo Society of International Law Off To A Good Start*, ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY, (January 14, 2020), <https://www.ateneo.edu/aps/law/news/ateneo-society-international-law-good-start>.

¹² *Results of the 24th Annual Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition*, STETSON INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION, <https://www.stetson.edu/law/international/iemcc/> (last visited August 26, 2021).

¹³ *DivinaLaw Philippines Jessup Cup*, FACEBOOK (March 2, 2020), <https://www.facebook.com/DivinaLawJessup/posts/2712068552223301>.

International Law Students Association. The UP Law Jessup Team was proclaimed International Champions after beating the South African team in the finals.¹⁴

After winning the National Championship of the Red Cross International Humanitarian Law (“IHL”) Moot Court Competition last September of 2019, the UP Law IHL team represented the Philippines in the 18th Red Cross IHL Moot Court Competition wherein it prevailed over 22 other teams and was declared Overall Champions. In addition to winning the tournament, the Philippine contingent also earned the 3rd Best Prosecutorial Memorial Award.¹⁵ The international rounds of the competition which was held last July 18-Aug. 27, 2020 consisted of a memorial-only competition. It was co-organized by the Hong Kong Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross in collaboration with the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong.¹⁶

¹⁴ 2020 “*After Jessup*” *International Moot Court Champions*, UP COLLEGE OF LAW, <https://law.upd.edu.ph/up-law-wins-2020-after-jessup-international-moot-court-competition/#:~:text=The%20UP%20College%20of%20Law,African%20Team%20in%20the%20finals> (last visited August 26, 2021).

¹⁵ UP Law Debate and Moot Court Union, *UP Law Wins The 18th Red Cross International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Moot Court Competition*, FACEBOOK (August 27, 2020), <https://www.facebook.com/UP.LDMU/posts/up-law-wins-the-18th-red-cross-international-humanitarian-law-ihl-moot-court-com/1710528185769334>.

¹⁶ THE 18TH RED CROSS INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW MOOT (2020), <https://www.redcross.org.hk/en/moot18/index.html> (last visited August 26, 2021).