

Секция «Английский язык и право (на английском языке)»

**Jessup International Moot Court Competition as an extra-academic activity for law students**

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P.C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition (Jessup) is the world's biggest moot court competition [1]. It was created in Harvard Law School as a courtroom simulation experience with the ground in international law and was named as a tribute to the Honorable Philip C. Jessup, who had a long and outstanding judicial, academic and diplomatic career. The first round of Jessup competition, originally named as «International Law Moot», was held on May 8, 1960 and was entitled «Cuban Agrarian Reform Case».

Since that time participants from more than 80 countries for the moment have taken part in a simulation of a fictional dispute between State-Applicant and State-Respondent arguing a hypothetical case based on international law issues before the International Court of Justice. Students, who act as Counsels in the mooting, prepare written legal arguments (memorials) for each side and submit them to the Court developing their cases with reference to the facts set forth in the Compromis. Then competitors from each team represent one side of the case before the judges reserving time for rebuttal and surrebutal. The official language of this competition is English.

2015 is the 14th year for the Russian National Championship. It was held at the Law Faculty of Lomonosov Moscow State University and Moscow State University of International Relations from January 28 until February 1. 40 teams from across the country competed in the «Case concerning the secession and annexation of East Agnostica». The relevant issues of this year Jessup Moot Court Competition were the legitimacy of the referendum held on the matter of secession, subsequent annexation, treaties conclusion and alteration, countermeasures and property protection. The teams also had to research on the issues of state responsibility, change of circumstances that influences interpretation and observance of treaties and implementation of countermeasures under international law.

Judges of the Russian Championship Rounds Robert McCorquodale, Director of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law and Professor of International Law and Human Rights at the University of Nottingham, Marcelo Kohen, Professor of International Law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Nobuo Hayashi, Senior Adviser of The International Law and Policy Institute, Oslo, gave the 1st place to the team of Saint-Petersburg State University.

The feedback, given by the judges for both teams, included such recommendations as the necessity to «give an answer more specifically» and «not to avoid or dismiss answering the question», which reflected the most common advocacy skills requirements competitors need to meet in order to succeed in mooting.

What skills does a student need in order to succeed in mooting? Based on our team experience we suggest that a perfect «jessuper» is good at legal researching and advocacy skills when arguing the case in public, which requires a very good command of English. But the experience of participating in such events is of primary importance.

South Ural State University took part in Russian Rounds just for the third time. This year our team consisted of two «jessupers» who participated in Jessup previously and

they encouraged 2 more participants to join the competition.

Each team member was responsible for researching, developing and arguing certain issues of the case. Before the Hein and Oxford bases became available, we studied the works by I. Brownlie and J. Crawford and memorials recognized as the best in previous years. After memorials were written and submitted, we started our oral rounds preparation, which included cases presentation, issues debating and evaluation of submissions. Our participation in the Russian National Rounds revealed that we need to pay more attention to oral presentation and advocacy skills development. And we hope that the experience we gained will help us achieve better results next year.

I would like to conclude quoting Gilbert Guillaume, the former Judge and President of International Court of Justice, who said that moot court competition is an opportunity to get deep knowledge in the sphere of international public law, to learn its implementation and also to present and maintain your position.

### **Источники и литература**

- 1) International Law Students Association: <http://www.ilsa.org/jessuphome>

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