Faculty of Law

Monroe E. Price
International Media Law Moot Competition 2019-20

Information for applicants
General Information

The Monroe E. Price International Media Law Moot Court Competition is organised by the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights and the Programme in Comparative Media Law & Policy at Oxford University's Faculty of Law and held from June to April each year.

The purpose of the competition is to:
1. expand and stimulate study and research in media law and policy among students, particularly with respect to freedom of speech, restrictions on content, and the impact of new and developing communications technologies;
2. develop students' skills in the preparation of written legal arguments;
3. develop students’ advocacy skills and expertise in arguing a case before an international bench of judges from different legal systems and backgrounds.

Participants in the competition operate in a world where a Universal Court of Human Rights has been established to ensure the citizens of the United Nations are enjoying the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In this world, the Universal Court of Human Rights substitutes all jurisdictions of all other regional courts and becomes the final adjudicator when all national remedies have been exhausted.

The Faculty of Law may participate in this competition in 2019/20 with a team of up to 4 students being selected to represent UTS. Please note that the Faculty reserves the right to not enter a team if suitable candidates for the team cannot be found.

IMPORTANT:

From the 2019/20 competition teams from Australian universities will be required to compete in the Asia-Pacific Rounds to be held in Beijing in December 2019. Teams are given the opportunity to present oral submissions in the preliminary rounds, competing against teams from top law schools in the Asia-Pacific region (including China, Japan, Singapore and the Philippines. The top teams in these preliminary regional rounds move on to the final regional rounds. Judges of the oral rounds include academics and practitioners specializing in media law and members of the judiciary.

The top teams from the Asia-Pacific regional rounds will be invited to compete in the international rounds in Oxford in April 2020.

The first round of the competition requires teams to develop and write extensive memorials (submissions). The UTS team will then participate in the Asia-Pacific Oral Rounds to be held in Beijing in December 2019.
Please note that team participation in the international oral rounds at Oxford will depend on the team’s progress through the Asia-Pacific Rounds. **Progression to the international oral rounds in Oxford should not be assumed.**

The Faculty of Law will fund the team’s registration fees, fares and accommodation costs to the Asia-Pacific Regional Rounds in Beijing. Should the team progress through to the International Rounds in Oxford the Faculty will provide financial support, but the extent of this financial support is yet to be finalised.

**Both Undergraduate and JD students are eligible to compete in the competition.**

**Workload**

The workload involved is particularly demanding: the problem circulated is on complex and current issues of international law concerning freedom of expression and thought, privacy and other matters that impact on the media and the distribution of content, particularly online.

Detailed research into both international and comparative law is essential to prepare complex pleadings for both sides with a maximum size prescribed. Students will be required to learn complex legal principles developed through both national and international law.

The preparation for the competition is intended to build upon the knowledge the team members will have developed in prior studies in Media Law, Australian Civil Liberties Law, Privacy and Surveillance Law and/or International Human Rights Law.

The work involved is certainly no less than that for a large research project (eg. Honours thesis). Each team prepares two Memorials (up to 9000 words each) addressing the submissions of the Applicant and Respondent teams (these will be due November 6 2019).
Preparation for the competition involves an extremely heavy workload and will commence in August 2019 and requires students to commit themselves fully to the competition until April 2020. The nature of the commitment will be fully explained by the coach.

There will be constant academic supervision and guidance and applicants should be aware that the workload is very demanding, and they must be prepared to prioritise the preparation for the competition above other commitments, including other subjects and work, particularly during the period August 2019 through to December 2019. Advancement to the international rounds would involve intense preparation in the period February to April 2020.

• Students selected for the team must be prepared to meet regularly with the other team members and/or the coach. The ability to be available for meetings, practices, etc during weekdays (daytimes) is essential.
• Please note that participation in the moot requires a commitment that is not considered compatible with participation in the Summer Clerkship program or with a full-time workload.
• Students considering applying for the moot who have also applied for a Summer Clerkship or will have full-time work (or other) commitments must discuss this with the coach during the selection process and students may be advised to wait to apply for the moot at a future time when they do not have these commitments.
• It is advised that students intending to undertake other subjects during the Summer and Autumn Sessions speak to the coach during the selection process.

Please note: The Coach and academic advisor will review students’ performance regularly and those considered unable to fulfil their commitment to the team and the competition may be removed from the team.

Academic Requisites

In addition to meeting other criteria, successful applicants must:

1. Have completed one of the following UTS Law subjects Media Law (UG), Media and Entertainment Law and Regulation (JD/PG), Australian Civil Liberties Law, Privacy and Surveillance Law, Privacy and Surveillance Law and Policy, and/or International Human Rights Law, or equivalent studies from another university;
2. Have an above average academic record, with a minimum D average or above – ie. A WAM of 75 or above or GPA of 3.5 or above across all Law subjects; and
3. Be able to demonstrate very strong research, writing and advocacy skills.
Students selected for the team will be expected to have an understanding of basic principles of free speech, media law, human rights law and public international law that will be further developed by preparation for and participation in the competition.

Students selected for the team may have the opportunity of gaining academic credit for participation in the competition by enrolling in the elective Price Media Law Moot (both UG and JD). Approval to enrol in the subject will not be given by the Moot Coordinator until the ability to commit to preparation for the competition has been demonstrated by the student.

**Mooting Experience**

**The Price Moot is a senior international moot competition and competitors include UG & PG students from around the world, some of whom have experience in advocacy in legal practice, so it is considered that extensive mooting experience is essential for selection for the team.**

The successful applicants must be able to demonstrate this experience through participation in:

- several mooting competitions, at different levels, run by the UTS Law Students’ Society and
- the Faculty’s intervarsity mooting program (ie. selected to represent the Faculty in one or more of the national or international intervarsity moot competitions such as the Gibbs Moot, the QUT Torts Moot, the IP Moot, the Jessup Moot, etc).

Students’ without extensive mooting experience will not be considered for selection.

**Selection Process**

The selection of the team will take place by way of a three-round process:

1. **Written Application:** Applications will be reviewed, and a short list of applicants will be compiled.
   You will also be required in the application to briefly identify the legal and policy issues being raised by the 2019/20 problem question (the Rules and question are available at [http://pricemootcourt.socleg.ox.ac.uk](http://pricemootcourt.socleg.ox.ac.uk))

2. **Submission of written work:** Short-listed applicants will be required to submit a piece of written work that has been previously submitted for assessment in a Law subject at UTS.
   In determining which written work to submit should take in to consideration the
mark/grade awarded and the extent to which the work demonstrates your research and writing skills.

3. **Interview**: Short-listed applicants **may** be required to attend an interview with a selection panel. The selection panel may consist of the coach and other academics and/or former Price mooters.
   If there is an interview, you will be asked questions about why you want to do the Price moot and your ability to make the necessary commitment from August 2019 to April 2020.
   Students considering applying are encouraged to read information about the competition, including the Rules.
   At the discretion of the team coach and Faculty Adviser, shortlisted applicants may be asked to attend a further interview.

**Offers of a place in the team may be made to up to 4 students.** The selection panel will consider students’:

- Prior study and demonstrated interest in, and knowledge of media law, privacy, freedom of expression, and international human rights law
- Academic record
- Demonstrated research skills
- Mooting and public speaking experience, including the ability to express thoughts clearly, including thinking ‘on your feet’.
- Demonstrated ability to work as part of a team
- Ability to make a commitment to the team.

Decisions of the selection panel are final and are not subject to review. If suitable applicants are not found the Faculty retains the right to not enter the competition for this year’s competition.

Applications for the 2019/20 team will close at 5pm on July 19, 2019.

All enquiries should be emailed to Geoff Holland (Mooting Coordinator) at geoffry.holland@uts.edu.au