COMPETITIONS FOR LAW STUDENTS

Since 1998 teams entered by the Law Extension Committee have participated in competitions that emphasise fundamental practitioner skills: interviewing; negotiating; researching and submission preparation. While we do not have the resources to run full internal competitions, Diploma in Law students who are willing to devote the time and accept responsibility for their participation are assisted through coaching, preliminary selection and competition registration.

Our students have reached the finals of both the Australian Client Interviewing Competition and, on two occasions, the Australian Negotiation Competition. In 1998 two of our students, Arlene Cooper and Ian Taylor, represented Australia and won the inaugural International Negotiation Competition, held at Pepperdine University, Los Angeles. In 2004, Patricia Vagg and Peter Starkey won the national Negotiation Competition and went on to represent Australia at the International Negotiation Competition, held in Paris and won by the Danish team from the University of Copenhagen.

Other teams have competed in the Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot. An intensive introduction to the world of international arbitration, the Vis Moot attracts trading arbitrators and hundreds of teams annually to Vienna and Hong Kong. In 2003, in recognition of the high quality of her advocacy, Lucy Pal received an Honourable Mention in the competition for the Martin Domke Award at the Vis Moot.

In 2011 Shane Lawrie was commended for his outstanding oral presentations. The 2011 team finished with a high placing in the top half of the competition.

In 2012 the LEC/LPAB team competing in the Vis (East) Moot in Hong Kong, comprised Diane Chapman, Mina Wang, Chau Le and David Grey. Shane Lawrie provided invaluable coaching and several lecturers judged practice moots.

In 2013, David Grey, Dianne Chapman and Carla Campbell represented the LEC/LPAB in the Vis Commercial Arbitration Moot in Vienna. Noteworthy is the fact that Carla is from Narrabri in country NSW and to be able to field a team with an external student very much embodies the philosophy of opportunity that is the foundation of the course.

In 2014, David Grey, Evon Siu and Blake O'Connor represented the LEC/LPAB in the Vis (East) Commercial Arbitration Moot in Hong Kong. Sydney barrister, Ms Theresa Dinh coached the team in Sydney over a period of several months before the moot and travelled with them to Hong Kong.

In 2005 the LEC Team of Rebecca Nott and Scott Bunny reached the semi-final of the inaugural Madhavrao Scindia Memorial International Moot held at the University of Delhi.

In April 2007, the Law Extension Committee organised and hosted the prestigious Louis M Brown International Client Counseling Competition for 2007. The event was held at the University of Sydney and contested by teams from 16 countries.

In January 2010 Shehara Viswanathan, Shane Lawrie, Peter O’Brien and Jane Waddell represented us in the 13th Annual M.M. Singhvi Memorial International Moot Court Competition at the National Law University, Jodhpur, India.

Expressions of interest are sought through the Law Extension Committee Webcampus when we are able to take part in a competition. The cost in time, effort and money can be considerable, but the result is not the outcome of the competition, it is the skill and experience gained. To discuss participating in these or other competitions please contact Frank Astill at the Law Extension Committee. Further information on the competitions is available through the following websites: www.cisg.law.pace.edu/vis.html; www.wmin.ac.uk/law/law-comps.htm

The LEC team for the 2010 Annual MM Singhvi Moot Court Competition. From the left are Shane Lawrie, Shehara Viswanathan, Jane Waddell, Peter O’Brien and the LEC Director, Frank Astill.