



# Tales of First Year

## FIRST YEAR MOOT

### issue 7



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### *Mid Year Afternoon Tea*

- Wednesday, 11 August (Week 3), 12pm-1pm
- The Ligertwood Courtyard

### *Quiz Night: Freaky Friday*

- Friday, 13 August (Week 3), 7:30pm
- Next Gen Memorial Drive

### *First Year Moot Preliminary Rounds*

- Saturday, 14 August (Week 3)

### *Mature Aged Students Drinks Night*

- Thursday, 19 August (Week 4), 6pm
- UniBar

I am sure that some of you by now might have heard about the competitions held of the AULSS competitions, or even attended the most recent competitions information session (check out the event page on Facebook to access the recording of that session if you missed it!). Some of you might have even watched a couple of grand finals last semester. But, if the thought of competing in one terrifies you, fear not because I am here to tell you that it is not as scary as it seems.

My first ever competition I competed in was Negotiations back in 2020. I paired up with Ikhwan (our lovely Education Representative) and the both of us went in there with whatever courage we could muster to hide the fact that we did not know what we were doing. Needless to say, we did not make it past the preliminary rounds. But we had a lot of fun and actually learned a lot from the experience! These competitions are a great way to hone your advocacy skills (something that all future lawyers need!) in a slightly competitive environment, and trust me when I say this, some of these competitions require little to no legal knowledge to compete in.

Having some experience in competitions is also a great way to boost your resumé. Many law firms highly value applicants with some form of competition experience (bonus if you win the grand final!). And if that is not enticing enough, competition winners will have their names engraved on shields and trophies displayed by the Ligertwood foyer. You will literally be leaving your mark in the Law School!

Each year, the AULSS holds different mooting competitions for you to choose from based on your mooting experience, with the First Year Moot being designed specifically for first year students to compete in. Mooting involves the most amount of preparation of the competitions offered as you will need to conduct extensive research and find cases to support your argument, which you will then present to the judge. Although this can be a pretty nerve wracking competition, it is a fantastic way to get some courtroom experience. Plus, if you make it to the finals, you will probably be judged by an actual Judge! To assist the competitors that were lucky enough to land a spot in First Year Moot, we have created a list of a few tips and tricks for you to ace your rounds:

1. Allocate a large portion of your preparation to researching and comprehensively understanding the legal issues and facts at hand.

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2. Make sure you know the facts of every case you discuss/use as authority. You should be able to highlight similarities and distinguish from the facts of the moot problem persuasively. You should probably also have brief summaries of the cases used by your opposing counsel, should you wish to rebut them during your oral submissions.

3. Try not to write out your script word-for-word. Instead, use dot points or even keywords. It makes it much easier to refer to while delivering your argument.

4. Be super strict with your timing and organise yourself well so that you do not go over, as that reflects really well with the judge.

5. If you are asked a question by your judge during the moot (which you inevitably will be), do not try to answer the question using a premade answer or a script. Instead, listen carefully to the question, and answer the exact question asked. And, if you do not know the answer, say "I cannot assist the court with that matter". Also, remember to answer the question when asked, instead of saying to the judge that you will get to the answer later in your submissions!

6. Lastly, speak clearly and confidently even when you are uncertain. Those who do better are the ones who speak well, so definitely practice speaking before your moot rounds!

I hope this issue has put your mind at ease and assists you in your preparations over the next few weeks. All the best for the upcoming rounds and for the rest of your semester!

Love,  
Bryan