



جامعة الأمير محمد بن فهد
PRINCE MOHAMMAD BIN FAHD UNIVERSITY

2017 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition Report

Participants:

Amnah Kidwai

Noura Al-Bakhit

Rahaf Al-Modarra

Nora Al-Henaki



About Jessup 2017:

This year marks the 58th year of the largest international law moot court competition in the world. Around 95 countries participated, which is a record number of teams to ever participate in the international rounds. Lebanon, Jordan and Saudi Arabia are amongst the countries that were represented for the first time in the competition's history.

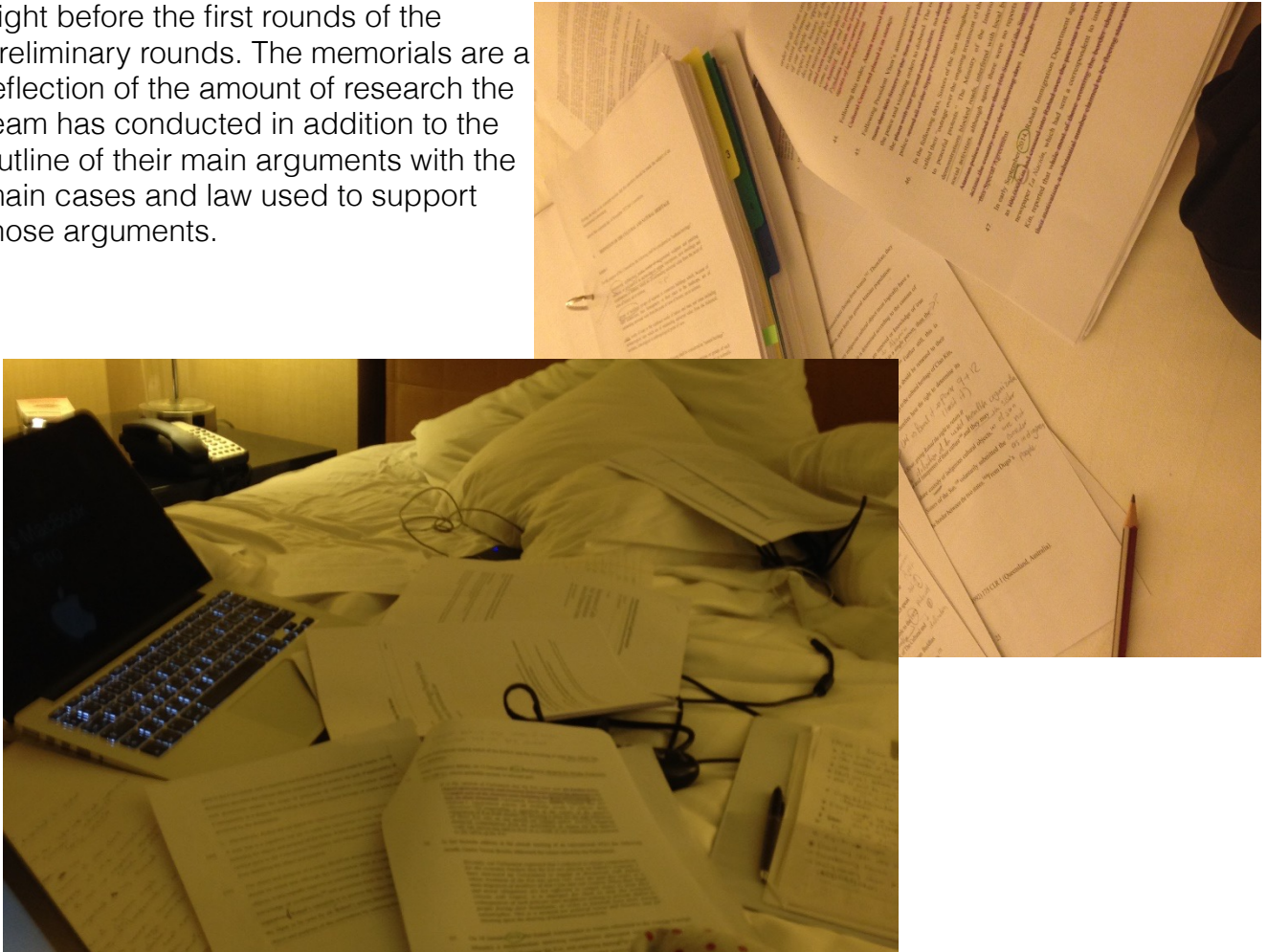
Orientation:

One of the first events on the schedule was team orientation. This was held in the hotel ballroom. All teams were present. Lesley Benn, the executive director, gave a speech and at the end, all teams were announced. Each team had to go up together and put their country's flag on the stand. We received a very warm and loud round of applause as we walked up to place the Saudi flag on the stand and later, a lot of teams came up to us and told us how happy they were to meet a Saudi team the consists of all female participants.



Preparation:

Despite our preparation prior to arriving in DC and ongoing research while on the trip (including the 14-hour flight), the main drafting of our arguments occurred as soon as we received copies of our opposing team's memorials at 6pm on the 9th of April, the night before the first rounds of the preliminary rounds. The memorials are a reflection of the amount of research the team has conducted in addition to the outline of their main arguments with the main cases and law used to support those arguments.



Round 1:

The first round was on Monday at 2 pm against Finland. We were representing the applicant, meaning we had to go first. It went well considering it was our first time, first round and the first team to present the arguments in that particular round. The bench consisted of 3 judges, 2 of them were from the United States and Guatemala. Their questions were related to the cases and concepts we presented. After the round, the judge's gave both teams feedback on our performance, they stated we should be careful about the time management as well as relating the case to the law. We received 2 points in that round from one of the judges.

Round 2:

Our second round was on Tuesday at 9 am against the United States. They were representing Loyola University from Chicago. This time we were representing the respondent. This round went much better than the first round as we knew what to expect and what to focus



on. The opponent team were very well prepared, they had all their facts and arguments memorised and had no notes before them while presenting their pleadings. Later, they told us that they spent quite some time in preparation. They also told us that they were honoured to compete against us as it was the first time our country was represented. The judge's bench this time consisted of a judge from the United States, Mexico and Panama. They were what could be described as a "hot bench", meaning they asked many tough questions which disrupted the flow of our arguments and took us off our roadmap, often times resulting in an unbalanced amount of time placed for one of the issues rather than the other.

Interestingly, the judge from the United States spoke to us after the rounds and mentioned that he has worked in the United Arab Emirates for 25 years, and continues to work there. He commended us on our ability to argue as well as we do taking into consideration the lack of preference in oral advocacy in the Arab world and the focus on written pleadings. He also gives workshops and training sessions to students for commercial law in particular. He has done so for students in Jeddah and Riyadh and he is interested to do the same for our university if we invite him.

Round 3:

The third round was also on Tuesday at 4 pm against Slovenia. We were representing the applicant again. Slovenia was a strong team, we could tell from the amount of work and effort that showed through their memorial which had also won second place for best memorial. However, we did relatively well in this round. Not only was it our third but we had also by this time understood the method of the judge's and we were able to answer their questions in a much better, calmer and in a well-articulated manner. This rounds bench consisted of judges from Bulgaria, the Netherlands and India.



Round 4:

Our last round was on Wednesday at 11:30 am against Hong Kong. We were representing the respondent, meaning the team from Hong Kong went first. They even brought with them to the podium their own timer so they can keep track of the time, as time management is one of the elements that we are judged upon. The judge's questions in this round were very hard and not at all expected.



Recommendation:

As the first Saudi to team to ever represent the country and the university in this large competition, we have some recommendations for future teams:

1. The teams **MUST** have more time to prepare, as one of the judge's told us, they grade the teams based on their oral advocacy skills more than the arguments themselves. The oral advocacy skills can only be perfected with practice.
 - a. There must be a mandatory schedule for the participants to meet and work regularly together as a team, allocation of roles must happen early on at the very start of preparing for the competition
 - b. The students must be fully committed and run entirely or mostly by the students involved as well as the assisting coaches as it will have to accommodate for everyone's schedule

2. The teams should focus on the quality of the arguments and rather than quantity.
 - a. Knowledge of the facts and relating the facts to the law is crucial, attention to the details of the compromis (every word in the compromis is important and relevant, take corrections and clarifications into consideration as well)
 - b. A range of 2 to 4 arguments *only*, **ideally 3 arguments** - all of which must be supported with case law and relevant conventions and treaties.
 - c. Research must cover all the batch materials offered in the competition materials
 - d. The basic batch of materials must be printed and available to all students, they must not be taken for granted as they form the basis of all research involved for the competition
 - e. Access must be given to online legal research tools, and the participants must be lectured on how to use them efficiently

3. Each member of the team should focus on one issue or ONE side of the issues.
 - a. In our case, each member had to focus on 2 issues for both countries, which consumed time and distracted us. As we saw in the competition, all team members decided on their own which issues to focus on, as they knew them better than the coaches and the advisors.

- b. Most teams divided their efforts to be in teams of applicant vs respondent rather than focus on both sides for each issue. This seemed like a better approach as it was more focused and offered better results in general.
4. Administration and faculty involved MUST give the students enough time to submit whatever is being asked of them, and regular practice oral rounds must be conducted and monitored to ensure the students are developing this skill

Team 445 (Saudi Arabia (Prince Mohammed Bin Fahd University)) [Print]

0 wins - 4 losses - 2489 total Raw Points, 2 total Round Points

Round 3

Oral Scores										Memorial Scores				Grand Total
Team	Oralist	Monteiro de Matos		Meisner		Caceres		Indiv. Total	Team Total	High	Middle	Low	Team Total	
445	Nora Albakhit	70	135	71	147	69	145	210	427	59	55	54	168	595
	Amnah Kidwai	65		76		76		217		<i>Reflects 1.0 penalty points</i>				
193	Gordon McBain	65	130	86	176	88	176	239	482	84	83	77	244	726
	Jean Paul Moinet	65		90		88		243						

Oral Summary:
 Team 445 (Applicant) won Judge 1, for a total of 2 Round Points.
 Team 193 (Respondent) won Judge 2 Judge 3, for a total of 4 Round Points.

Memorials Summary:
 Team 193 (Respondent) won Judge 1 Judge 2 Judge 3, for a total of 3 Round Points.

Team 193 (Respondent) wins the match, 7 to 2 Round Points.

Round 6

Oral Scores										Memorial Scores				Grand Total
Team	Oralist	Wetherborne		Wolfson		Ruiz Lopart		Indiv. Total	Team Total	High	Middle	Low	Team Total	
146	Chloe Sommers	87	176	79	173	85	171	251	520	77	76	75	228	748
	Zach Iacovino	89		94		86		269		<i>Reflects 5.0 penalty points</i>				
445	Nora Alhenaki	85	158	69	152	79	158	233	468	65	63	52	180	648
	Amnah Kidwai	73		83		79		235						

Oral Summary:
 Team 146 (Applicant) won Judge 1 Judge 2 Judge 3, for a total of 6 Round Points.

Memorials Summary:
 Team 146 (Applicant) won Judge 1 Judge 2 Judge 3, for a total of 3 Round Points.

Team 146 (Applicant) wins the match, 9 to 0 Round Points.

Round 9

Oral Scores										Memorial Scores				Grand Total
Team	Oralist	Vis		Dimitrova		Dheer		Indiv. Total	Team Total	High	Middle	Low	Team Total	
445	Nora Alhenaki	70	146	76	166	78	160	224	472	59	55	54	168	640
	Amnah Kidwai	76		90		82		248		<i>Reflects 1.0 penalty points</i>				
238	Domen Turšič	92	180	95	188	93	185	280	553	91	90	90	271	824
	Marko Krajnc	88		93		92		273						

Oral Summary:
 Team 238 (Respondent) won Judge 1 Judge 2 Judge 3, for a total of 6 Round Points.

Memorials Summary:
 Team 238 (Respondent) won Judge 1 Judge 2 Judge 3, for a total of 3 Round Points.

Team 238 (Respondent) wins the match, 9 to 0 Round Points.

Round 12

Oral Scores										Memorial Scores				Grand Total
Team	Oralist	Trabanino		Robins		Squeff		Indiv. Total	Team Total	High	Middle	Low	Team Total	
350	Tsz Ching Sunny Hor	84	164	88	175	92	182	264	521	89	87	79	255	776
	Yeung Hou Howard Wong	80		87		90		257						
445	Nora Alhenaki	68	138	78	148	70	140	216	426	65	63	52	180	606
	Amnah Kidwai	70		70		70		210						

Oral Summary:
 Team 350 (Applicant) won Judge 1 Judge 2 Judge 3, for a total of 6 Round Points.

Memorials Summary:
 Team 350 (Applicant) won Judge 1 Judge 2 Judge 3, for a total of 3 Round Points.

Team 350 (Applicant) wins the match, 9 to 0 Round Points.