



Faculty of Law Mooting Report 2025/26



Mooting Update

Jordan English

Associate Professor of Law
Mooting Co-ordinator



It is my great pleasure to present the Faculty of Law's Mooting Report for the 2025/26 academic year. Our students have been busy representing the University at several national and international competitions. We have also had a range of internal moots run this year by both the Faculty and various university law societies.

There are numerous people and institutions to thank. First and foremost, our mooters, who have represented the university so well. Second, our coaches and judges, all of whom have volunteered their time to support mooting in Oxford. Third, our sponsors and supporters, including Maitland Chambers, who generously fund the Undergraduate Cuppers Moot Court Competition, and One Essex Court, who support the Roman Law Varsity Moot. Last (but certainly not least), our Graduate Mooting Assistants, Holly Leung (External Moots) and Ayushi Vashisht (Internal Moots) for all their hard work and organisation this year.

John Armour

Professor of Law and Finance
Dean of the Faculty of Law



The breadth and depth of mooting activity in our Faculty is extraordinary. Our student mooting teams have flourished in many national and international competitions over the past year, across a wide range of subject-matter specialisms. Congratulations to all of them! This success reflects the enthusiasm and ability of our students for advocacy, nurtured through multiple internal competitions. It also reflects the hard work of those who support the mooting activity: our Graduate Mooting Assistants, our Faculty Mooting Co-ordinator Jordan English, and our sponsors including Maitland Chambers and One Essex Court. If you are interested in learning more about advocacy, please do consider getting involved.

Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court

The Jessup Moot is the world's largest moot court competition, and this year, saw a record 806 teams across 99 jurisdictions participate.

This year's team was comprised of five undergraduates: **Cathal Uttley** (Magdalen College), **Sangeun Noh** (Magdalen College), **Ben Clarke** (St Edmund Hall), **Philip Kimber** (St John's College), and **Marie Lapuridi** (Keble College). They were coached by **Ömer Çelik** (Exeter College).

The team represented the University in the National Rounds at Lincoln's Inn, where they were ultimately runners-up, thus proceeding to the International Rounds. All four oralists ranked in the top 20 oralists in the national preliminary rounds (out of 81), with Ben Clarke ranking 3rd, Philip Kimber ranking 5th, Cathal Uttley ranking 6th, and Sanguen Noh ranking 20th.

At the International Rounds in Washington DC, the team improved upon the previous year's progress, making it through the preliminary rounds (where they faced Wayne State University (USA), Università degli Studi di Milano (Italy), College of Law at American University of Iraq Baghdad (Iraq), and Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez (Chile)). They were ultimately defeated in the runoff round by Wayne State University (USA) following a close split-bench decision.



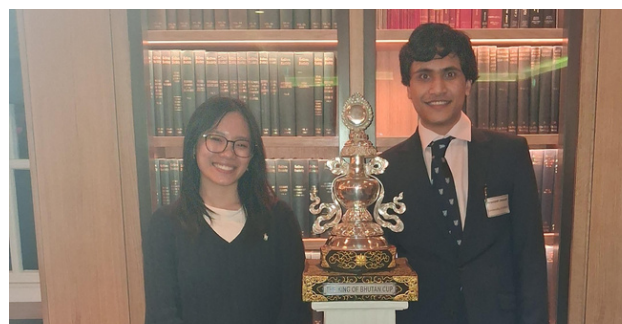
Pictured (left to right): Ömer Kaan Çelik, Marie Lapuridi, Sangeun Noh, Ben Clarke, Cathal Uttley, Philip Kimber

Inner Temple Varsity Moot

The Inner Temple Intervarsity Moot is a long-standing domestic mooting competition. This year's Moot took place in Inner Temple on 1 February 2026 and concerned a claim for medical negligence.

Arunabh Dwivedi (BCL, Linacre College) and **Wong Yi Xuan** (BCL, Wadham College), competed in front of various academics, barristers, and judges, including three Masters of the Bench in the Grand Final.

The Oxford team lifted the King of Bhutan Trophy after winning rounds against the universities of Durham, Nottingham, City St. George's, and BPP.



Pictured (left to right): Wong Yi Xuan, Arunabh Dwivedi

Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot

The Vis Moot is the world's largest commercial arbitration moot court competition. In 2026, the 33rd edition of the Vis Moot brought together a record 407 teams from 90 jurisdictions.

This year's team was comprised of one undergraduate, **Navin Sivakumar** (Hertford College), and three postgraduates, **Navika Jangra** (The Queen's College), **Riyad Musayev** (Lady Margaret Hall), and **Yongjian Zhou** (Mansfield College). They were coached by **Yindong Sun** (St Antony's College) and also received support from Youssef Hefny (Magdalen College).

In preparation for the competition, the team represented the University at the London Vis Pre-moot, the Paris ICC Pre-moot, and the PCA Pre-moot in The Hague.

At the Vis Moot in Vienna, the team made it through the general rounds and ultimately finished as the 32nd finalist in the competition, receiving an honourable mention for the Eric E. Bergsten Award.



Pictured (left to right):
 Riyad Musayev, Yindong Sun, Yongjian Zhou, Youssef Hefny, Navika Jangra, Navin Sivakumar

Kingsland Cup and Prize Moot

The Kingsland Cup and Prize Moot is organised by Francis Taylor Building. It focuses on FTB's areas of practice, broadly speaking, environmental and administrative law.

This year, two undergraduates, **Navin Sivakumar** (Hertford College) and **Lukas Lim** (Brasenose College), won the competition, making it the first time a team from Oxford have won the competition since it was founded in 2011.

The competition ran across three rounds. Oxford was 1 of 4 teams selected nationwide to advance to the semi-finals, on the strength of their written submissions in the first round. The students then argued these submissions orally in the semi-finals in a round presided over by Mr Justice Kimblin.

Having won the semi-finals, Navin and Lukas were issued a fresh moot problem for the finals, mooting before Sir Keith Lindblom. The final was held at Gray's Inn in London, and Navin and Lukas prevailed over a team from Cambridge to take the Kingsland Cup.



Pictured (left to right):
 Navin Sivakumar, Sir Keith Lindblom, Lukas Lim

Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer Competition Law Moot

The Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer Competition Law Moot is the world's leading competition law moot. It took place at King's College London from 12 to 13 June 2026. The Law Faculty was represented by **Yvette Young** (2nd Year, BA Jurisprudence, Lady Margaret Hall), **Sum Lau** (Visiting Student, The University of Hong Kong, St Catherine's College), and **Syed Adil** (MSc in Taxation, Lady Margaret Hall).

After qualifying for the oral rounds on the strength of their written memoranda (as one of only 12 teams selected from 45 global submissions) the team went on to win the Quarter-Final against the National University of Singapore and the Semi-Final against Université Paris-Panthéon-Assas.

The team ultimately finished as runner-up in the competition, marking the first time that a team from the University of Oxford has reached the final of the competition. The team recorded the joint-highest number of wins overall, winning four of their five individual rounds. Sum also received an Honourable Mention for Best Advocate for her advocacy across the rounds of the competition.



Pictured (left to right): Sum Lau, Yvette Young, Syed Adil

Price Media Law Moot Court Competition

The Price Media Law Moot Competition is an annual moot court competition run by the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights which addresses fundamental question concerning freedom of expression and media law.



Pictured (left to right): Florence Poon, Flaviana Craznic, Faith Lee, Kylie Chong

This year's team, consisting of **Flaviana Craznic** (BCL, Keble College), **Faith Lee** (BCL, Keble College), **Kylie Chong** (BCL, Brasenose College), and **Florence Poon** (Law, St Catherine's College), was the overall runner-up in the Europe Rounds which took place in Paris from 28 to 30 January 2026.

The team progressed to the international rounds and ultimately reached the semi-finals, placing them in the top 4 out of 30 teams at the international rounds (and the 86 teams that took part in the competition worldwide). The team narrowly lost in the semi-finals.

Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition

The Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition is the world's largest human rights moot court competition. The Moot is hosted by the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria in collaboration with the Academy on Human Rights, Washington College of Law, American University and the United Nations Human Rights Council Branch at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Moot is comprised of three stages: submission of memorials, online preliminary rounds and in-person advanced rounds held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Law Faculty was represented by **Oyama Mzayidume** (BCL, The Queen's College) and **Muskan Goyal** (2nd year, BA Law with Spanish Law, The Queen's College). The team was coached by **Juan-Pablo Perez-Leon-Acevedo** (DPhil, St Cross College). This year, a record 122 universities from around the world submitted written memorials,

from which the top 50 teams were invited to participate in the online preliminary rounds. The online preliminary rounds took place from 18 to 23 May 2026. Thereafter, the top 24 teams from the online rounds were invited to the in-person advanced rounds which were held from 13 to 17 July 2026.

The team mooted in two rounds in Geneva, proceeding to the top 16 teams but was knocked out by the eventual overall winner of the Moot, Midlands State University (Zimbabwe). At the closing ceremony of the Moot, the rankings for the online preliminary round, which is the only stage of the Moot that is ranked, were announced. The Oxford team ranked 2nd out of the 50 teams that participated in the online preliminary rounds. Mzayidume was announced as the third best oralist and Goyal as the fourth best oralist out of the 100 oralists in the online preliminary rounds.



Pictured (left to right):
 Muskan Goyal and Oyama Mzayidume



Pictured (left to right): Ambassador Zaheer Laher
 (Permanent Representative of South Africa to the
 United Nations Office at Geneva), Oyama Mzayidume
 and Muskan Goyal

International Roman Law Moot

The International Roman Law Moot Court is the world's leading moot court competition in Roman law. This year the competition took place in Trier, hosted by the University of Trier from 23 to 27 March 2026.



Pictured (left to right): Rose Agnew, Lorna Abbott, Louise Guy, Saanvi Bahadur, and member of University of Trier moot team

The Law Faculty was represented by **Saanvi Bahadur** (2nd Year, BA Jurisprudence, New College), **Lorna Abbott** (2nd Year, BA Jurisprudence, Merton College), **Louise Guy** (2nd Year, BA Jurisprudence, Christ Church College) and **Rose Agnew** (2nd Year, BA Jurisprudence, Christ Church College). The team competed in 6 qualifying oral rounds, finishing tied 2nd in their group category.



PAX Moot

The PAX Moot Court is a specialized moot court competition focused on Transnational Law and Private International Law issues. In this competition, participants are able to learn and apply first-hand the complexities and nuances of how international Conventions and EU Regulations interact in the context of globalization.

The 2026 Vladimir Koutikov Round took place in Sofia from 15-17 April 2026. The team comprised of Ashlyn Cheong (Somerville College), Joel Horsman (Pembroke College), and Zoe Rawlings (Magdalen College), and was coached by Jonathan Saunders.

The team first participated in the written rounds, where they drafted a written memorandum. They then qualified for the Oral Rounds in Sofia, which saw them facing Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, Università degli Studi di Milano, University of Szeged, and Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in the preliminary rounds. The team ultimately finished in 10th place and received an honourable mention.

Maitland Chambers Undergraduate Cuppers Mooting Competition

Maitland Chambers Undergraduate Cuppers is the largest undergraduate moot competition in Oxford, bringing together students from across the collegiate University to showcase their advocacy, legal analysis, and oral argument skills. The competition is sponsored by Maitland Chambers and the winners are awarded a mini-pupillage at Maitland, providing an exceptional opportunity to gain first-hand experience of legal practice at one of England's leading sets.

This year's competition featured 14 colleges, with teams of two students representing their respective colleges in a series of challenging rounds. The following colleges participated:

- Christ Church
- Harris Manchester College
- Hertford College
- Lady Margaret Hall
- Lincoln College
- Magdalen College

- Mansfield College
- Oriel College
- Pembroke College
- The Queen's College
- St Anne's College
- St Catherine's College
- St John's College
- University College

The competition begins with two preliminary rounds, after which the eight highest-ranked teams advance to the knockout stage, comprising the Quarter-finals, Semi-finals, and the Grand Final.

The Grand Final took place at Magdalen College between **Zoe Rawlings** and **Cathal Uttley** (Magdalen) and **Rosie Agnew** and **Louise Guy** (Christ Church). Maitland Chambers barristers, **James Aldridge KC**, **David Mumford KC**, and **Siward Atkins KC** judged the final competition, which concerned medical negligence. Rosie and Louise on behalf of Christ Church were crowned the winners of the competition.



Pictured (left to right): Ayushi Vashisht, Cathal Uttley, Zoe Rawlings, David Mumford KC, Siward Atkins KC, James Aldridge KC, Rosie Agnew, Louise Guy, Jordan English

Oxford Commercial Chancery Law Society (OCCLS) Roman Law Mooting Championship

The Roman Law Mooting Championship is an internal competition organised each year by the Oxford Commercial Chancery Law Society (OCCLS). After a successful inaugural competition in 2025, OCCLS Co-Presidents, **Cathal Uttley**, **Zoe Rawlings**, and **Evangeline Rudakevich** (Magdalen College) continued the competition to give first-year students, those less experienced in mooting, and non-law students an opportunity to gain mooting experience.

The problem focussed upon double causation under the *lex Aquilia* and the doctrine of *error in substantia* under the *emptio-venditio* contract.

The final was a Magdalen versus Magdalen face-off, judged by **Professor Jordan English** and **Michael Upton**

(Faculty of Advocates) with **Gabriel Dorlhiac Nogueira** and **Calum Innes** competing against **Elif Kilic** and **Arisu Babakhani**. The former team ultimately won the competition, with Gabriel being awarded best speaker for the final.

The competition was generously sponsored by the Faculty of Advocates.



Pictured (left to right): Jordan English, Elif Kilic, Gabriel Dorlhiac Nogueira, Calum Innes, Arisu Babakhani, Michael Upton

Roman Law Varsity Moot

The Varsity Roman Law Moot is an annual moot between Oxford and Cambridge, giving first-year students the opportunity to tackle intricate points of Roman law. This year's edition took place on 19 June, organised by **Professors Ciara Kennefick** (Christ Church) and **Ian Williams** (St John's College). It was hosted at All Souls College and judged by **Professors Wolfgang Ernst** (Emeritus Regius Professor of Civil Law, University of Oxford) and **Helen Scott** (Regius Professor of Civil Law, University of Cambridge).

Oxford was represented by **Calum Innes** (Magdalen College), **Rhydian Waters** (Wadham College), **Joshua Tucker** (Merton College) and **Adam Khan** (Christ Church), coached by **Jake Emerson** (formerly of Magdalen College).

After an extremely closely fought battle, the Regius Professors thought it 'invidious' to choose one side and declared both teams joint winners.

KV Krishnaprasad, attending on behalf of sponsor One Essex Court, said "*the standard of advocacy was outstanding: clear, rigorous and measured. I was astonished to learn afterwards that the advocates were first-year law students*".

Atkin Criminal Law Moot

In Michaelmas Term this year, the inaugural Atkin Criminal Law Moot took place across the Faculty.

The aim of the moot (organised by the Atkin Society at Magdalen College) was to encourage first-year students to be involved in mooting at an early stage, and to build their confidence to moot across the University. Several of the competitors went on to represent the University later in the year.

Mooters were asked to submit a skeleton argument for selection, and the best 12

teams were selected to progress to the oral rounds. The moot received submissions from 24 teams (48 students) across the University.

The final was judged by Her Honour Judge **Emma Nott**, Professor **Katharine Grevling**, and **John Simmons** (36 Group). **Arisu Babakhani** and **Kaleb Teo** (Magdalen College) competed against **Calum Innes** and **Inès Bescond** (also Magdalen College), the latter team taking the victory.

The Atkin Society looks forward to running the moot next year and to generating even more mooting talent in Oxford.

Oxford Society for Commercial Law Commercial Law Mooting Competition

This year saw the return of the OSCOLA Commercial Law Mooting Competition for its seventh iteration. The competition was open to all students and had three knock out rounds following the preliminary round. The competition focussed on matters relevant to commercial law in practice with the problem for the first half focussing on professional negligence (whether a solicitor can owe a duty of care to a third party) and civil procedure (applications for summary judgment) and the second half focussed upon consideration for contractual variation and promissory estoppel in the context of 'No Oral Modification' clauses.

The final took place in Courtroom 1 of the United Kingdom Supreme Court and was judged by **Lord Reed** of Allermuir, President of the UKSC, and **Rebecca Fry** (Head Judicial Assistant).

They described the moot as the best moot they had seen in their time at the UKSC, 'absolutely first class', and 'very impressive', and were 'struck by the clarity of submissions'.

The finalists were **Eleanora Smalley** and **Evangeline Rudakevich** (Magdalen) against **Zoe Rawlings** and **Cathal Uttley** (Magdalen). Zoe and Cathal ultimately won the moot and were awarded joint best oralists.



Pictured (left to right):
Lord Reed, Zoe Rawlings, Cathal Uttley

Support Faculty of Law Mooting

The Law Faculty's Mooting Program could not succeed without the support of our judges, coaches, and sponsors. We are particularly grateful to Maitland Chambers for their support of our Cuppers Mooting Competition and to One Essex Court for supporting the Roman Law Varsity Moot.

If you would like to get involved in supporting or sponsoring the Faculty's Mooting program, please email mooting@law.ox.ac.uk.

