

FUTURE LEGAL EAGLES

SMU team an ace in court

A moot court contest that is, beating 20 international teams

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SINGAPORE – Only three years old, and this was the first time the university's law faculty was taking part in the international moot, or mock trial, competition.

And their representatives won, beating 20 other teams from countries like the United States, Georgia, China and the United Kingdom.

Singapore Management University's (SMU) School of Law was in Oxford University last week to participate in the oral rounds of the Monroe E Price International Media Law Moot Competition.

The written submissions were done in January. The topic focused on international media law and press freedom.

Representing SMU were four third-year law undergraduates – Mr Chang Zi Qian, Ms Eng Cia Ai, Ms Sheryl Lee and Mr Michael Ng, from the pioneer batch of SMU law students – who were trained



From left, Mr Michael Ng, Mr Chang Zi Qian, Professor Monroe E Price, Assistant Professor Tay Eu-Yen, Ms Eng Cia Ai and Ms Sheryl Lee.

by Assistant Professor Tay Eu-Yen and Assistant Professor Pasha Hsieh since last August.

On why SMU decided to take part in the competition, which started in 2008, Ms Tay said: "This moot is new and we felt it would grow into something as prestigious as the Jessup."

The Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition is the world's largest moot competition and has been won several times by the National University of Singapore.

Mr Ng, 25, said: "I wanted to win this. There were moments

when I doubted if it could happen ... Oxford was intimidating and I was nervous."

In the end, all that training paid off and the students impressed the judges, who included three Queen's Counsel and a European Court of Human Rights judge.

Professor Michael Furmston, dean of the SMU School of Law, said: "For a young three-year-old law school, we are proud that our students are given the opportunity to prove their mettle and stand up against the pressure of very talented and strong competitors on an international platform."