

**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI EMERGES TOP IN AFRICA AND 10TH WORLDWIDE IN THE JUST CONCLUDED PHILIP C. JESSUP INTERNATIONAL LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2015 HELD ON 5-12 APRIL IN WASHINGTON D.C**

Jessup is the world's largest moot court competition, with participants from over 550 law schools in more than 80 countries. 2015 was the 56th year of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. The Competition is a simulation of a fictional dispute between countries before the International Court of Justice, the judicial organ of the United Nations. One team is allowed to participate from every eligible school. Teams prepare oral and written pleadings arguing both the applicant and respondent positions of the case.

Thousands of law students from around the world will work all year long on the season's Jessup Problem that will focus on the procedural and substantive issues arising from the secession of one province of a nation and its annexation into another.

Four teams participated in the Kenya preliminary selection rounds held on the 7<sup>th</sup> February. The teams were Kabarak University, Strathmore University, Kenya School of Law and University of Nairobi. The top two teams Kabarak University and The University of Nairobi Team preceded to the final held at the same venue on 21<sup>st</sup> of February. In the final rounds The University of Nairobi Team emerged victorious becoming the National Jessup champions in Kenya 2015 and thus qualified for the International Law rounds in Washington D.C. scheduled for the 5<sup>th</sup> of April to the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Capitol Hill.

In 2015 116 teams representing 95 countries were represented in the competition. The University of Nairobi consisted of Smith Otieno (4th Year), Eva Kimani (4th Year) Cecilia Isohi (2nd Year) Leon Ndekei (2nd Year) and Mr. Samson Alosa (lecturer/coach), and Mrs. Joy Asiema (lecturer/coach)

In the Preliminary rounds the University of Nairobi went against, in order of the matches Belarus (International University MITSO), Brazil(Faculdade Baiana de Direito e Gestao ), Vietnam(Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam) and Hong Kong China (University of Hong Kong) .In all the four matches the University emerged top by winning all its matches and qualified for the advance knock out Rounds of 32.

The University of Nairobi team was among the 32 teams proceeding to the rounds of 32 and the only team from Africa to do so. In this round the University had a match, against Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile from Chile where it lost the round and were eliminated against the eventual runners up.

Chile made it all the way to the final of the competition and was runners-up to Australia (University of Sydney). The final itself was judged by Sir Kenneth Keith a former judge of the International Court of Justice, Joan Donoghue a judge of the International Court of Justice and Harold Koh, Sterling Professor of International Law, Yale Law School

The University of Nairobi team was ranked 10<sup>th</sup> out of 116 teams. In addition one of our oralists' Eva Kimani featured in the top 100 oralists and was ranked 69<sup>th</sup> overall.

We commend all the students and the University for this exemplary performance.