

Mock Trial Competition Grand Final

Proud parents, enthusiastic friends and interested supporters joined two teams of conscientious students and their dedicated teachers and coaches at the Supreme Court Building in October for the Grand Final of the Law Society's Mock Trial Competition for 2019. The polished, professional demeanour of the two undefeated student teams impressed all onlookers.

'Jon Snowden', a computer geek with his fair share of passions, delusions and frenemies, was accused of hacking into Westeros University's restricted access computer system.

A team from Carey Baptist College in Harrisdale acted for the State of Western Australia, attempting to convict Snowden for breaching Section 440A of the Criminal Code. Wesley Gold, a team from Wesley College, had the job of defending the accused.

The winning team was Wesley Gold, continuing a tradition for the Gold team, which last won the annual Competition in 2011. Their coaches, Claire Rossi and Rein Squires, have supported them for many seasons and have helped them to improve their skills while having lots of fun.

The two teams appeared before the Honourable Justice Robert Mazza of the Supreme Court of Western Australia, Court of Appeal. Justice Mazza presided over the case with great care and warmth.

Greg McIntyre SC, President of the Law Society, welcomed guests following the trial and thanked Justice Mazza for judging the Grand Final. Mr McIntyre SC noted that the Competition plays an important part in fostering young people's engagement with the justice system, developing skills including public speaking, thinking analytically, and presenting a structured, persuasive argument.

Mr McIntyre SC acknowledged the support of the Supreme Court of Western Australia and the Premium Partners: the Department of Justice and the Public Purposes Trust. The Competition is also supported by its Law School Partners: Curtin University, Edith Cowan University, Murdoch University and the University of Western Australia.

Mike Celenza, Director of Higher Courts, Court and Tribunal Services at the Department of Justice presented the trophies to the winners and runners-up, and the foyer of the courthouse lit up with happy faces.

The Society would like to extend its gratitude to the many members of the legal profession including the judges' associates, legal practitioners, academic



staff and law students who acted as coaches and judges in the 2019 Competition. Thank you also to the lawyers in the Grand Final Case Working Group who devised the case material for the Grand Final.

The Law Society runs the competition as part of the Francis Burt Law Education Programme, which gives students an enjoyable and dynamic introduction to the law. The mock trials are fictional civil and criminal cases, with the rules of evidence and procedures modified and simplified. Each team prepares their own case and the students take on the roles of barristers, solicitors, court staff and witnesses.

Students are judged on their opening addresses, witness examinations, objections based on responses, closing

statements and other court activities. This season 1,080 students in Years 10, 11 and 12 participated in 180 trials. Overall, 112 teams from 56 schools took part.

Teams of between eight and 12 compete in the Supreme Court and, if required, the Mandurah Courthouse. Each trial lasts no more than two and a half hours.

Lawyers interested in volunteering as a coach or judge in 2020 are invited to contact the Mock Trial Coordinator at mocktrial@lawsocietywa.asn.au

The Society will be running an information session in February 2020 to provide an introduction to the Competition for new volunteers.



Above: The two Grand Final teams with The Hon Robert Mazza, Supreme Court of Western Australia, Court of Appeal; Greg McIntyre SC, President, The Law Society of WA; and Mike Celenza, Director of Higher Courts, Court and Tribunal Services, Department of Justice.



We extend our thanks to the following members of the profession who volunteered as coaches or judges in the 2019 Competition. The programme would not be possible without your support.

COACHES

- Alex Manning
- Alexander Anile
- Alice Pennycott
- Alice Robinson
- Amara Hughes
- Anthony Durand
- Aoning Li
- Astrid Sweeney
- Belinda Hermawan
- Brenton Panzich
- Carolyn Moss
- Cayli Bloch
- Claire Rossi
- Clancy Hindmarsh
- Coraline De Zilwa
- Craig Hershowitz
- Craig McIntosh
- Danika Adair-La
- Dino Todorov
- Erica Thuijs
- Eugene Wong
- Francois Carles
- Gerald Hoe
- Grant Benskin
- Jacqui Brown
- Jane Vickery
- Janine Villanueva
- Jessica Berry
- Jessica Chapman
- Johanna Overmars
- John McKechnie
- John Park
- John Robertson
- John Williams
- Kerry Espley-James
- Khew Wong
- Kiri-Lee George
- Lyndsay O'Brien
- Marc Saupin
- Margaret Breen
- Menka Orellana
- Rein Squires
- Rhys James
- Sarah Harvey
- Sean Gomes
- Simon Steenhof
- Tyla Ferguson
- Xuan Rui Yong
- Zanthi Jordan

- Clinton Ducas
- Daniel Coster
- Daniel Harter
- Daniel Jenkins
- Daphne Schillizzi
- David Mulligan
- Elisha Rayner
- Emma Luck
- Ernest Chua
- Femke Elferink
- Gabrielle Inga
- Glenn Scott
- Gray Porter
- Greg Mohen
- Iva Brnadic
- James Marzec
- Janelle Singh
- Jarrad Goold
- Jasdev Singh
- Jay Tampi
- Jessica Henderson
- Johanna More
- Jonathon Horne
- Joycelyn Tang
- Kathryn Roach
- Keely Liddle
- Ken Yin
- Kenyon Lee
- Leslie Gabriel
- Lily Kuan
- Linda Keane
- Lisa Roche
- Marilyn Bromberg
- Mark Hemery
- Marshall McKenna
- Megan Cramp
- Michael Cornes
- Monique Ehlers
- Naomi Schlaepfer
- Natalie Wigg
- Nicholas Mountain
- Nicola Thomas-Evans
- Patrick Mackenzie
- Philip Hardless
- Rachael King
- Rachel O'Meara
- Rebecca Cain
- Rebecca Dennison
- Rhianna Brims
- Rhys Mola
- Rob Coales
- Robert Lilley
- Sam Hemachandra
- Saoirle McCallion
- Seamus Rafferty
- Shana Yeap
- Shezah Arif
- Simon Quenby
- Stephen McGrath
- Thomas Camp
- Tim Lethbridge
- Veenela Veerasamy
- Yassamin Olson
- Zaccary Molloy Mencshelyi
- Zachary Clifford
- Zoe Kalimeris

JUDGES

- Adam Ebell
- Aimee Ford
- Alex McVey
- Alexander Ward-Noonan
- Amelia Hirst
- Asanka Gunasekera
- Ashley Roberts
- Ben Tomasi
- Braeden Watts
- Brenda Powell
- Brittany Cherry
- Caitlin Joensson
- Caitlin Liddelow
- Caris Tysoe
- Cathryn Palfrey
- Catinca Hozoc
- Chad Silver
- Chadd Graham
- Cham Madondo
- Charlie Gribble
- Chelsea Fruhwirth
- Chris Townsend

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