

WHY TO HAVE A MOOT COURT IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS

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There are many reasons for introducing moot court into the legal education process. In terms of andragogy, there are different personality types, or different dominant learning styles. Thus, we know of auditory, visual, and kinaesthetic types of people, i.e., dominant ways of remembering and learning. The auditory way of presenting material is dominant in most law faculties, mostly due to the nature of the material being taught. The visual method is often an accompanying one, mostly through PowerPoint presentations alongside the auditory part of the lecture. It is evident, therefore, that the kinaesthetic method is very often missing, thus neglecting an entire group of people who predominantly learn in this way. However, even for those who are not predominantly kinaesthetic type, this style of teaching has proven to be one of the most effective and long-lasting ways of remembering what has been learned. Moot court could be considered one of the most prominent forms of kinaesthetic teaching of law.

On the other hand, no other method of teaching law provides such a good synergy of knowledge as well as the set of skills necessary for a good lawyer. Quality training of students for moot court includes a range of segments: studious reading of the case and identification of legal issues, research, formulation of arguments, written elaboration through the composition of submissions, and oral presentation and defence of arguments. In addition to all of the above, there is a whole set of skills involved – training in separating important from unimportant information, concise formulation of arguments and arranging them according to their strength, concise and clear writing of submissions – in a limited number of words, persuasiveness in presentation, coping with new situations, overcoming stage fright and pressure from public speaking, proper and professional behaviour in the courtroom, appropriate dressing, neatness and systematic handling of materials, teamwork, and others.

All of the aforementioned skills require a lot of time and practice, and they are absolutely necessary for work in practice, primarily in the legal profession and the judiciary. Developing

Apart from public speaking skills and learning how to defend your client's interests, moot court competition turned out to be beneficial for my personal advancement. Revealing what you already have learnt and bringing everything to the table, being flexible is what moot court competition taught me.

Ana Kiknadze, student at Faculty of Law, "Mykolas Romeris" University

these skills during studies enables a person who has just graduated from law school to integrate much faster into the practical work, to adapt more quickly, which, among other things, spares them from large amounts of stress. What is also very important is that it makes them highly competitive in the job market. In short, a moot court in education is the best form of preparing the students for practical work. It is also important to mention the segment of international competitions in English or another language, which is not the native language of the students from many countries. This further means that during preparations, their level of knowledge and proficiency in English or other foreign language significantly improves, especially in the use of the legal terminology.

This type of competition helps in the overall development of an individual as a good and proficient lawyer and participating in the moot court competition regularly makes a student familiar with the proceedings that take place generally in real courtrooms.

One of the important features of mooting is that it helps students to connect and socialise with many people in the process of mooting. As students from different countries and universities come to represent themselves, it gives an opportunity to get exposure to the outside world.

Participating in the moot court competitions helps students in enhancing research skills, as they have to support their arguments and presentation on previously conducted research, and it also helps in framing a good moot court memorial on the basis of which the other team would raise objections. This will also help in enhancing the skills on how to adapt to the prompt situations and how to tackle the challenging situations. Mooting helps students to build their confidence in communicating and putting their views in front of the audience.

Since the beginning of the preparation phase, you understand that the most important thing is to learn how to communicate and cooperate with your team. Organizing legal research is beneficial for preventing burnout and maintaining focus in the team.

Hristijan Zafirovski, student at Faculty of Law 'Iustinianus Primus', University "Sts. Cyril and Methodius" Skopje

Mooting helps in giving the practical implication and knowledge to the students who are studying law in such a way which they will hardly find in the books and would be unaware of, as practical and theoretical knowledge are inseparable.

The teams in the moot courts usually comprise several students, which teaches the students to perform well when they are together as a team and to analyse what are their strengths and weaknesses, and how they can work upon them to achieve maximum efficiency. On the other hand, students gain a sense of appreciation and self-confidence, which is then transferred to



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Presenting the complexity of the problem in just a few sentences, concisely, and directly is a highly valued skill in the labour market.

Amila Čeho. student at Faculty of Law. University of Sarajevo

practical work after completing their studies.

Also, moot courts enhance the visibility of the institution in the academic environment resulting in the better ranking of the institution worldwide. The successes in moot court competitions are generally something that is covered by the media, and future students can easily obtain information about them. On the other hand, moot court competitions, especially international ones, represent an objective indicator of the quality of a university. Younger and smaller universities are often underestimated, so an opportunity for this kind of competition, where the legal knowledge as well as all moot legal skills are evaluated, can clearly demonstrate where and how well the work with the students is done.

It has been noted that a number of professionals from the legal practice, primarily lawyers, take into the account participation and successes in moot court competitions when hiring interns, and they themselves also recognize differences in the quality and competence of students in practical work compared to students from the period when moot court was not a teaching method.

Finally, moot court as a method encourages a competitive spirit, ambition, and a pursuit of excellence, both among the students and coaches. These are psychological elements that significantly contribute to raising the quality of work at the university. In this way, even the

teaching staff who are not involved in the legal practice stay up to date with the current legal issues, case law, different theoretical approaches, and so on. Ultimately, universities that organise competitions communicate more, visit each other, exchange experiences, and collaborate. Competitors eventually become coaches who prepare new generations, creating a whole network of quality regional cooperation with great events accompanied by fun and socialising that gradually turns into a moot court addiction.

