

Workshop on 'Essentials of Mooting'



The **Student Council of Law, NMIMS Navi Mumbai** successfully organized a 2-day workshop on '**Essentials of Mooting**' on 28th and 29th September 2020. It was conducted on zoom call. The workshop was attended by approximately 90-100 students from the School of law, NMIMS, Navi Mumbai.

About the Speaker:

SMRITI KALRA, a 5th year Law Student at NLSIU, Bangalore. She has bagged many international awards for her mooting skills like Octa-finalist in Skadden FDI Moot Court Competition world rounds 2018, Best memorial award WTO ELSA Moot Court Competition (South Asian Regional Rounds) 2018, Best Oralist in the south Asian rounds of the aforementioned moots and she has bagged many other world awards that are related to debating. It is also pertinent to note that in her 4th year of Law School, she has received a formal offer to become a future trainee solicitor at Linklaters LLP, London.

Topics discussed:

- Research and analytical skills.
- Teamwork, coordination, and strategy.
- Formal legal writing/drafting (includes formatting).
- Framing powerful arguments.
- How to enhance oratory skills, how to face rebuttals, and handling the situation.
- How to pick moots.

Session 1:

The Speaker started by acquainting the students with the international moots that the Speaker participated and qualified. Along with that, the Speaker answered some of the FAQs related to mooting like, what is mooting, why is it important, who all are competent to do moots, which kind of moots should one

participate etc. To which the Speaker enunciated that mooting is something which enhances an individual's legal researching, drafting and oratory skills, mooting is an exercise that develops team coordination and management, in some ways it develops the skill of patiently answering the tricky questions of learned adjudicators and finally it acquaints an individual his/her area of interest.

The Speaker then enunciated on the subtopic 'Researching for a Moot', where she discussed about how to excel in reading the Moot proposition. Excelling over facts is a primary obligation that'll decide a proper future course of action for any team participating in any moot. After going through the facts, there should be proper division of work, this generally means that the individuals involved should clearly divide the work according to the issues presented in the moot proposition. This thing would help a team to narrow down and dwell into the details of the issue and come up with specific applicability of law, so as to ensure that specific issues are dealt properly and diligently.

The Speaker then explained the importance of segregating, saving and comprehending the research that the individuals may have done, so as to ensure that research work doesn't go in vain and that things are at a secured and uniform place, whenever required for reference and citation purposes.

The Speaker then went on to explain the subtopic 'Drafting a Moot Memorial', where the Speaker emphasized on the importance of starting the drafting part of the moot memorial at an early stage, so that there is enough time for proofreading the draft. The Speaker then emphasized on the consultation part after the Final draft of the Moot Memorial is ready, where she explained the role of seniors and faculties in reviewing a draft and to suggest additions to the very draft. This process will not only ensure that your draft is reviewed multiple times but will also ensure wide perspective. The Speaker then concluded the first session by answering certain queries raised by the students.

Session 2:

The Speaker started by emphasizing on Speech part of the Moot. One has to regulate speed modulation so as to ensure that the other party and the adjudicator understand one's contentions, it shouldn't be monotonous and mundane. The Speaker suggested that instead of speaking in a monotonous tone, try moderating the speech so that every word of an individual is conveyed with proper emotions and emphasis can be drawn on important facts.

Voice modulation is an important factor that determines the weight of one's words, for example, one cannot just convey a human rights issue with a smiling face. So, the content should be clear, consistent and structured with like expressions.

The Speaker then elucidated on the structure of the speech and its importance, where a proper speech structure should always possess a simple, cogent and verbatim introduction followed by acquainting the bench with the roadmap of one's arguments, that will portray the Mooter's crisp intentions regarding a particular fact in issue.

The Speaker further emphasized on time management during the preparation of moot as well as time management during the oral rounds, where the speaker acquainted the Students with certain methods that an individual may follow during the oral rounds like placing a timer in front of oneself and if there arises a situation when an individual lacks time then he can directly put forth the conclusive summary of the remaining issues so that, the bench is acquainted and briefed with the contentions of the individual.

The Speaker then explained how to cogently answer the questions and rebuttals raised by the bench, how to deal with exigencies such as hypothetical questions raised by the bench, how to start answering the questions by giving real-time examples through case laws in a way that the situation relates to the proposition and arguments one has made in one's moot proposition. It is also pertinent to note that an individual should state the anticipated questions while presenting

the arguments so that the bench is assured that the Individual possesses a pre-emptive knowledge of the subject matter, which will again reduce the time of unnecessary questions that may be asked by the bench.

The Speaker also explained how to greet the bench in a way that gains the required attention of the bench and that the bench listens to one's contentions patiently without many rebuttals, along with this the he should emphasize on how to analyze strong and weak points of a moot proposition, which will in-turn benefit the individual and the concerned team to raise crisp rebuttals. Also the team, need to have a structured summarized document of the concerned Moot Memorial, this will ensure that the individual recuses from turning the pages of the memorial and can simply navigate the bench through the very summarized document.

The Speaker finally concluded by sharing her experience on the importance and methods of Teamwork, and the Importance of Moot in increasing the networking of an Individual.

The Student Council of Law hopes to bring some more interactive sessions for the Students of School of Law, NMIMS, Navi Mumbai.

Structuring Speech and Answering Questions

Basic Structure: Introduction – Roadmap – Arguments
Conclusion



Time Management: give practice rounds where you time yourselves, account for time taking by questioning



Answering Questions from the Bench: always begin with a Yes/No; hypothetical questions; pre-empt questions, multiple questions; very important to learn to gauge the bench

Rebuttals: targeted, strong points, short (2-3 lines)

Ending: don't forget to thank the bench!



FAQs on Mooting

- ❑ What is mooting? A competition simulating written and oral advocacy on a fictitious legal problem
- ❑ Why is mooting useful? – important transferable drafting, research and speaking skills as well as skills like team-work and time management
- ❑ When should I start mooting? Never too late or early!
- ❑ Which moot to pick? Areas of interest, prestige, budget etc.
- ❑ How to moot? – Practice, patience and some good tips!

However, it is important to remember that mooting is NOT the be all and end all of law school!

