



The University of Fiji

AWARDS NIGHT PLANNED FOR LAW STUDENTS AFTER INTER-VARSITY MOOT COMPETITION

Law students of the University of Fiji will be hosting a Gala Night as the culmination of an Inter-Tertiary Moot Competition that has been running now for two months between the University of Fiji, Fiji National University and the University of the South Pacific.

The event will be held on the 23rd April at the Yue Lai Hotel in Suva.

The Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Mereseini Vuniwaqa is expected to attend, and so are the Acting Chief Justice Kamal Kumar, the Interim Director of the Fiji Higher Education Commission Vijay Naidu, Fiji Law Society President William Wylie Clark, members of the Law Society, and colleagues of the USP and FNU law schools.

The University of Fiji's Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Shaista Shameem commended the UniFiji law students for their initiative in spearheading the competition, which is the first of its kind in Fiji. The Ministry of Women funded it to mark International Women's Day, and to raise awareness of gender-based violence.

The sponsors of the moot competition are the law firms Munro Leys and Neel Shivam Lawyers who provided the trophies for the winners. The Fiji Women Lawyers Association also provided support by assigning members to be the moot judges.

Essentially, a moot court helps students learn to analyze legal issues; its larger purpose being to teach students the practical side of practising law. Typically, law students are given a detailed hypothetical fact scenario that raises one or more legal issues.

Competing on a round-robin basis, each university was represented by three law students participating in a mock Court of Appeal hearing against one of the other two institutions.

The open hearings allowed the public to hear robust legal arguments by Fiji's very own law students about situations in an environment resembling as close to a court hearing as possible.

The University of Fiji hopes this competition will be an annual event.

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