



The Times/2TG Moot is open for entries

Tiptop advocacy skills and fastidious research could win you a spot in the final of the largest moot competition in the UK

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Last year's runners-up, Edward Langley and Ioana Burtea, with the winners, Poppy Rimington-Pounder and Katherine Legh, and the competition judges, Lord Justice Jackson, Sir John Laws and Lady Justice Gloster

The art of persuasive and concise oral advocacy is critical to each barrister at our chambers — from our pupils to our most senior silk.

Mooting and debating competitions, in which the skills of prospective applicants are on display, help us to identify future pupils and, eventually, fellow tenants.

However, we realised several years ago that many competitions were limited to a small pool of prospective candidates and posed economic barriers to entry.

To solve this problem and to further our chambers' commitment to social mobility, we joined forces with *The Times* to create *The Times* 2TG Moot — a competition that is accessible to all students in the UK in tertiary education.

There is no restriction on the number of teams (of two individuals) of entrants or which university or law school they come from — we do not ask and we do not want to know.

This is the best way of providing a level playing field — it ensures that students, whatever their background, are given the right platform to display and develop their advocacy skills at the highest level. Regardless of whether the competitors end up with us in chambers or somewhere else, we are committed to fostering the diverse and distinguished Bar of tomorrow.

The competition is in its fifth year. To win, our mooters will have demonstrated their advocacy skills over seven rounds.

This year, we have introduced a telephone application for one of the rounds to reflect the increasing trend of hearings being dealt with in this forum. We hope that this will further widen the pool of applicants who can participate.

At each stage competitors will get feedback on their advocacy from experienced practitioners who are leaders in their fields. Those students who reach the semi-finals and the final will moot in front of a distinguished group of guests, and be judged by Court of Appeal and Supreme Court judges, who continue to generously support this venture.

The winning team will receive a prize of £1,500 and the runners-up a prize of £1,000. All four finalists will also receive a mini pupillage at 2 Temple Gardens.

The 2019-20 final will be held at The British Library on March 18, 2020. The first-round problem has been published and the closing date for registration and entry is July 15.

Details 2tg.co.uk/the-times-2tg-moot