The Philip C. Jessup World Moot Competition - the world's largest, oldest, and most prestigious moot competition drawing over 2,000 students from over 80 countries to work on at least three specialized areas of international law alongside general international law - conducted the Jessup Pacific Regionals this weekend (February 26-March 1) at the Lewis and Clark Law School, Portland Oregon.

This year's problem involved complex issues of international maritime law, international environmental law, international cultural property law, international criminal law, apart from core issues of public international law on jurisdiction, state responsibility, the responsibility of non-State actors, attribution, and the practice and procedure before the International Court of Justice, the world's foremost international court. The Jessup competition was named after former ICJ (and American) judge Philip C. Jessup, and has traditionally produced stellar international lawyers, academics, and experts.

The United States conducts six regional competitions to select the teams moving forward to the International Rounds in April. US teams advancing to the International Rounds this April are Harvard Law School and Columbia Law School (winners of the Northeast Regional), Loyola University New Orleans and Arizona State University (winners of the Rocky Mountain Regional), University at Buffalo and Loyola University Chicago (winners of the Midwest Regional), University of Virginia and West Virginia University (winners of the Mid-Atlantic Regional).

The UH Richardson Law Jessup Team competed in the Jessup Pacific Regionals against twenty-two other law schools (including UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Irvine, UC Hastings, UC Los Angeles, University of San Francisco, University of Washington, Santa Clara University, University of Denver, among others). The Richardson team is composed of Maile Miller (3L), Ewan Rayner (3L), Grant Fasi-Allison (2L), Loren Seehase (2L), and Garrett Halydier (2L).

The Richardson team emerged from the Preliminary Rounds as the No. 1 ranked team out of all 22 teams, and swept the following awards:

1. Best Memorials (Briefs) of the Competition (Applicant and Respondent). The UH memorials will go on to compete for the international Hardy C. Dillard award for the best memorials, evaluated out of all 'national champion' memorials submitted around the world.

2. 2nd Best Oralist for Maile Miller (3L) - returning Jessup team member arguing for Applicant

3. 5th Best Oralist for Ewan Rayner (3L) - returning Jessup team member arguing for Respondent

En route to the quarterfinals, the Richardson team defeated UC Berkeley Law School, UC Irvine Law, and Loyola University Los Angeles Law. All four oralists (Maile Miller, Ewan Rayner, Grant Fasi-Allison, and Loren Seehase) garnered some of the highest marks in the competition, with specific judges from the Northeast and International Rounds (who had been flown in for the Pacific Regionals) also giving first-time Jessup competitors near-perfect oralist marks Grant Fasi-Allison (98/100) and Loren Seehase (91/100).

Numerous judges, professors, and students were extremely impressed with the Richardson team's mastery of complex areas of international law, analytical flexibility, professionalism and fluidity as oral advocates. In a closely contested quarterfinal, however, repeat defending champions University of Denver narrowly edged out the Richardson Team to advance to the semi-final tomorrow.

Our warmest congratulations to our brilliant, dedicated, teachable and hardworking UH Richardson students! It was a pleasure and an honor to advise the team this year together with Professor Carole Petersen.

On a personal note, in my 9th year of coaching Jessup teams across Yale, Michigan, Germany, the Netherlands, China, and the Philippines (having also coached and advised the 2005 World Champion


Team, the 2012 World Semi-finalists, the German National Champions, the Chinese National Champions, and the Philippine National Champions), I was extremely impressed by the global standard of advocacy, the nuanced and adaptable reasoning and incredible calibre demonstrated by our UH Richardson Law students (four of whom had not yet even taken any course on International Law when they competed in the world’s most difficult competition). The Richardson Team amazed the cohort of competitors after having swept the awards and emerged first ranked overall after difficult preliminary rounds.

Professor Petersen and I are grateful to all our colleagues in the Richardson faculty and the Hawaii community who accommodated our requests to judge orals practices. We have every reason to be proud and salute Maile, Ewan, Grant, Loren, and Garrett for planting the Richardson banner this year, and look forward to continuing on the tradition next year.

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