

**THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF LAW**

**MOOT INFORMATION GUIDE
& TRY-OUT INSTRUCTIONS
2023–24**



June 2023
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TRU Law Moot Information Guide
June 2023

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I. WHY MOOT?

Participating in an upper-year moot is an excellent way to polish your legal research and writing skills, and to develop your advocacy skills. Mooting also provides opportunities to network with other law students and lawyers from across the province and country.

Being on a moot team can also benefit you as you enter the job market. Mooting is one of the most significant things you can do to stand out in law school (other things include working on a law journal and at the legal clinic). Mooting demonstrates to employers that you have developed your skills in project management, written and oral advocacy, and teamwork. You will also have worked closely with a practicing lawyer for several months, who may also be a good reference. Mooters often tell me that in job interviews, their mooting experience is what comes up the most.

II. TIMING AND STRUCTURE OF MOOTS

Most moot teams are appellate moots. Other moots focus on trial advocacy or negotiation. The specific moots are described in detail, below.

Moot teams generally begin their work in mid-Fall. The Jessup begins earlier (beginning of September), while others start later.

For the appellate-style moots, teams will prepare written facta throughout Fall semester, often with a mid-January deadline. After submitting the facta, teams will then prepare for oral argument, which often takes place in February or early March. Trial advocacy and negotiation moots also prepare in their various ways (e.g., some negotiation moots require the submission of a negotiation plan).

Working on a moot team is a serious time commitment. It is likely going to be more work than any other course you take at TRU Law. But, if you speak to any of our students who have participated in a moot, they will (hopefully!) tell you that competitive mooting is an incredibly rewarding experience.

Most moot teams have five members—four oralists and one researcher. The researcher is not a “secondary” position. Researchers keep the team organized, and are ready to step in in the event that an oralist is unable to compete. In my experience as a coach, the researcher can be the most valuable member of a team, as they must learn both sides’ arguments, and act as a central source of support for a team. Researchers get the same experience and course credit as oralists.

III. MOOT TRAVEL

Oral argument for the moots takes place in cities across Canada. It's possible that one or two moots may take online, but most moots are expected to be in person for 2023–24.

TRU Law provides support for mooters travelling to the competitions, including flight, hotel, and *per diem* reimbursement (e.g., money for meals and incidentals). This does not include the sports moots—although there is funding available for those moots as well.

IV. MOOT CREDITS

Mooters receive 3 course credits for the Winter semester, since that is when the competitions take place. Moots are graded.

V. TRU LAW MOOTS BEING OFFERED IN 2023–24

Below is a list of moots that TRU Law is supporting this year. The name of each moot is followed by the likely city and the rough date that the moot will take place. This is subject to change.

A. Appellate-Style Moots

1. [BC Law Schools Competitive Moot](#) (*Vancouver or Victoria, early/mid-February*)

The BC Law Schools Moot is the “grudge match” between UBC, UVic, and TRU. The moot generally focuses on a civil case, and is argued before sitting judges of the BC superior courts. The coaches of the moot are [Danielle Ching McNamee](#), an associate at Smith Law Group, and Catherine McMillan, a lawyer at the Department of Justice. The team consists of 4 oralists + 1 researcher.

2. [Davies Corporate/Securities Moot](#) (*Toronto, early March*)

The Davies Corporate/Securities Moot is a moot focused on corporate law issues. The problem is typically based on an actual court decision. The team is coached by [Chelsea Hunter](#) of Blakes, and [James Reid](#) of Miller Thomson, both in Calgary. The team consists of 4 oralists + 1 researcher.

3. [Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Law Moot](#) (*Toronto, early March*)

The [Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Law Moot](#) focuses on issues of immigration, refugee, and citizenship law. The moot is one of Canada's newest moots, beginning in 2020–21. TRU Law sent its first team in 2021–22. The moot is coached by David Knapp and Erin Estok, lawyers at the Department of Justice in Ontario. The team consists of 4 oralists + 1 researcher.

TRU Law placed first in 2023.

4. [Jessup International Law Moot \(TBD, late February\)](#)

The [Jessup Moot](#) focuses on international public law. It is one of the oldest moots, beginning in 1960. In 2022, 560 teams from 85 countries participated in the Jessup. The coaches are Dr. Ryan Gauthier, Greg Pun, KC, Alex Devitt, and Natasha Little. The team will consist of 4 oralists + 1 researcher. The problem comes out in early September.

TRU Law won Top Applicant Memorial in 2022.

TRU Law advanced to the White & Case Advanced Rounds of the Jessup's Global Rounds in 2021.

5. [Wilson Moot \(Toronto, late February\)](#)

The [Wilson Moot](#) addresses administrative and constitutional law issues. It focuses on issues of equality, and issues of particular concern to women and minority groups. The coaches of the moot are [Brodie Noga](#) of Osler LLP, [Jane Mayfield](#) of Lawson Lundell, and Sergio Ortega and Karin Kotilarsjy, both of the Ministry of the Attorney General. The team consists of 4 oralists + 1 researcher.

TRU Law won First Place Facta in 2018.

B. Trial Advocacy Moot

1. [MacIntyre Moot \(Western Canada, Mid-February\)](#)

The MacIntyre Cup is the Western Canadian round of the Sopinka Cup—a criminal law trial advocacy moot. The top teams proceed to the Sopinka Cup in Ottawa. The team consists of two members, and will be coached by Kelly Melnyk and Iain Currie.

A TRU Law speaker was awarded Top Opening at the MacIntyre in 2022.

TRU Law finished second in 2019, and advanced to the Sopinka Cup that year.

C. Negotiation Moots

1. [Kawaskimhon Moot \(Kamloops, Early March\)](#)

The Kawaskimhon Moot focuses on Aboriginal and Indigenous legal issues. The word Kawaskimhon means “to speak with knowledge” in the Cree language. The moot itself is a negotiation, with teams representing a variety of parties (e.g., First Nations, Metis, and Inuit communities, regional and national Aboriginal organisations, government parties, and industry actors). The moot focuses on negotiation and consensus-building to resolve problems. Teams may be required to draft written proposals that outline their negotiation. The team is 4 members + 1 researcher. The team is selected later in the year. Please contact [Chrystie Stewart](#) for more information about team selection.

2. National Family Law Negotiation Moot (TBD, Early March)

The Western Canadian Family Law Moot was established in 2019–20, and TRU Law sent its first team in 2020–21. The Family Law Moot focuses on negotiations around a family law dispute. The coaches are [Amanda Winters](#) from Farris LLP, and [Sara Hilliard](#) from MJB Lawyers. The team is 4 members. The selection process for this moot will be separate from the appellate moots, and you need to apply as a team of two.

TRU Law won first place in 2023.

D. Sports Law Moots

TRU Law also regularly participates in the National Sports Law Negotiation Competition and the Hockey Arbitration Competition of Canada. These two moots are not-for-credit, and receive limited financial support from TRU Law (although students are often successful in applying for funding through other means).

The National Sports Law Negotiation Competition will take place in September 2023, in San Diego. The team is coached by Karen Perry and Jesse Olynyk.

The Hockey Arbitration Competition of Canada will take place in November 2023, in Toronto. The competition is held alongside the PrimeTime Sports Law Conference. The team is coached by [Tiana Reid](#), [Michael Geib](#), and [Dylan Taylor](#).

The TRU Law HACC team of Dylan and Tiana finished second in 2019.

More information about these moots including dates and try-outs will come out in the course of the year. You will likely need to apply as a team of two.

VI. TRY-OUT PROCESS FOR MOOTS

A centralized selection process is held for six moots: the BC Law Schools'; Davies Corporate/Securities; Immigration, Refugee, Citizenship; Jessup; MacIntyre; and Wilson moots. The process is set out in the two steps, below.

Selection for the Family Law, Kawaskimhon, and sports law moots follow different processes.

Information about the Family Law moot and sports law moots will follow in due course.

Students interested in the Kawaskimhon moot should contact [Chrystie Stewart](#).

Step 1	<p>Application Letter and documents – deadline: June 23, 2023, at noon.</p> <p>Students who would like to participate in one of the six appellate-style or trial advocacy moot competitions (BC Law Schools', Davies, Immigration, Jessup, MacIntyre, and Wilson) must send an application to the Moot Committee Chair (Prof. Gauthier) by noon, June 23, 2023.</p> <p>The application must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A brief cover letter, expressing your interest in the moots and identifying which of the four moots you would like to be considered for. You may apply to be considered for one, more, or even all six of the moots. If you are applying for more than one moot, and you have a preference, please provide those preferences in rank-order (e.g., "I wish to be considered for the Jessup (1), BC Law Schools (2), and Wilson (3) moots"). It's ok not to have a preference, either;• If you are more interested in being a researcher rather than an oralist, please indicate that preference as well. We will still ask you to do an oral argument try-out because you might be an excellent oralist, and because a researcher may need to step in for an ill oralist at competition;• Your CV, and an unofficial transcript. Please note that your GPA is not a threshold or even a decisive factor, but it may be taken into account;• A copy of your 1L Moot Factum, if you have it. It will be helpful, but if you don't have it for some reason, it won't be disqualifying. <p>Your application must be sent as attachments to an e-mail, ideally in a single PDF, to Prof. Gauthier: rgauthier@tru.ca</p>
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	<p>If you have problems with the file size, then I'd recommend using "WeTransfer" to send your file, or to send the attachments in separate e-mails.</p> <p>Please use the following subject line for your email: Application for 2024 Moot Competitions.</p>
Step 2	<p>Participation in try-out moot – July 11/12, 2023 (5pm – 8pm: times are subject to change as necessary; conflicts can be accommodated). The try-outs will be conducted via Zoom. Try-outs will be recorded for coaches to review.</p> <p>Depending on application numbers, it is possible that not all applications will be invited to try out. However, we do try to have as many try out as possible.</p> <p>Applicants selected to participate will be notified and provided with the try-out moot problem and further details about the try-out moot by June 26, 2023. The try-out will consist of a ten-minute oral submission, in front of a judge, arguing an appellate case. No external research will be required for the try-out moot, as the problem will be a "closed-universe" problem. The problem will be based on material that students should be familiar with from their 1L classes, and relevant materials (e.g., cases) will be provided to applicants. Applicants are free to work on the problem with others. This is not meant to be onerous.</p>
Step 2(a) (MacIntyre)	<p>The MacIntyre coaches will shortlist candidates. They will run the candidates through a brief direct examination based on a one- or two-page witness statement provided.</p> <p>This is instead of the ten-minute oral submission for the other moots. This means that if you're applying for the MacIntyre only, you will only do this process. If you're applying for the MacIntyre and another appellate-style moot, you'll do both the direct examination and the oral submission.</p> <p>The MacIntyre coaches will contact shortlisted candidates about the process.</p>
Step 3	<p>Coaches will select the moot teams. Both successful and unsuccessful candidates will be informed by Prof. Gauthier. Expect this to happen by mid-August.</p>