

**THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF LAW**

**MOOT INFORMATION GUIDE  
& TRY-OUT INSTRUCTIONS  
2022–23**



**June 2022**  
**Prof. Gauthier, Chair TRU Law Moots Committee**  
**([rgauthier@tru.ca](mailto:rgauthier@tru.ca))**

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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 particular moots are detailed, 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. Working on a moot team is a serious time commitment, and is likely 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

Most moots will be held in cities across Canada. While some moots may remain online, or pivot online, given the pandemic, it seems likely that most moots will return to an in-person experience for 2022–23.

TRU Law provides support for mooters travelling to the competitions, including flight, hotel, and *per diem* (e.g., money for meals and incidentals).

#### 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 2022–23

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 based on pre-pandemic practice, and is subject to change.

##### A. Appellate-Style Moots

###### 1. BC Law Schools Competitive Moot (*Kamloops, 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 coach of the moot is [Danielle Ching McNamee](#), an associate a Smith Law Group. 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](#) and [James Reid](#) of Blakes in Calgary. The team consists of 4 oralists + 1 researcher. This year is the first year TRU Law will participate in this moot.

###### 3. Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Law Moot (*Toronto, maybe virtual, mid-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, a lawyer at the Department of Justice in Ontario. The team consists of 4 oralists + 1 researcher.

###### 4. Jessup International Law Moot (*Winnipeg, 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, and Greg Pun, QC, a former litigator. The team will consist of 4 oralists + 1 researcher. The problem comes out in early September.

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The TRU Law Jessup Team won Top Applicant Memorial in 2022. The TRU Law Jessup Team went 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](#) and [Sergio Ortega](#) of Osler LLP. The team consists of 4 oralists + 1 researcher.

The TRU Law Wilson Team 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. The TRU Law MacIntyre Team finished second in 2019, and went to the Sopinka Cup that year.

**C. Negotiation Moots**

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

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 \(Likely Edmonton, Early March\)](#)

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.

#### D. Sports Law Moots

TRU Law also regularly participates in the Hockey Arbitration Competition of Canada and the National Sports Law Negotiation Competition. The Hockey Arbitration Competition of Canada takes place in Toronto, while the National Sports Law Negotiation Competition takes place in San Diego.

These moots are not-for-credit, and are not financially supported by TRU Law, other than registration fees (although students often are successful in applying for funding through other means). More information about these moots including dates and try-outs will come out in the course of the year.

#### VI. TRY-OUT PROCESS FOR MOOTS

A centralized selection process is held for 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](#).

<b>Step 1</b>	<p>Application Letter and documents – deadline: <b>June 13, 2022, at noon.</b></p> <p>Students who would like to participate in one of the four appellate-style moot competitions (BC Law Schools', Bowman, Jessup, and Wilson) must send an application to the Moot Committee Chair (Prof. Gauthier) by noon, <b>June 13, 2022.</b></p> <p>The application must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A <b>brief cover letter</b>, 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 all four of the moots;</li><li>• If you are more <b>interested in being a researcher rather than an oralist</b>, <b>please indicate</b> that preference as well. We will still ask you do to an oral argument try-out;</li><li>• Your <b>CV</b>, and an <b>unofficial transcript</b>. The transcript should have a list of courses that you are registered in. Please note that your GPA is not a threshold or even a decisive factor, but it may be taken into account.</li></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A <b>copy of your 1L Moot Factum</b>, if you have it. It will be helpful, but if you don't have it for some reason, it won't be disqualifying.</li></ul> <p>Your application must be sent as attachments to an e-mail, ideally in a single PDF, to Prof. Gauthier: <a href="mailto:rgauthier@tru.ca">rgauthier@tru.ca</a></p> <p>If you have problems with the file size, then I'd recommend using "<a href="#">WeTransfer</a>" to send your file, or to send the attachments as separate files.</p> <p>Please use the following subject line for your email: <b>Application for 2023 Moot Competitions.</b></p>
<b>Step 2</b>	<p>Participation in try-out moot – <b>June 29/30</b> (6pm – 9pm: 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 <b>July 15, 2022</b>. The try-out will consist of a <b>five-minute oral submission, in front of a panel</b>, 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.</p>
<b>Step 3</b>	<p>Coaches will select the moot teams. Both successful and unsuccessful candidates will be informed by Prof. Gauthier. Expect this to happen by mid-July.</p>