

Tuks law students gain world kudos

Team wins prestigious contest in Hong Kong

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HIGH COURT REPORTER

THE LAW faculty at the University of Pretoria has placed itself on the world map once again – this time by winning the Commonwealth Moot Court Competition held in Hong Kong.

The team – second-year law student Katherine Harding and third-year student Ian Learmonth, together with Tuks Law Clinic attorney Lourens Grové as coach, did not only win the competition, but also obtained the highest marks in the preliminary rounds.

They also won all the other awards in the competition by being named the best orators in the preliminary and final rounds.

Participants in the competition are winners of regional competitions around the world, and participation is by invitation only.

This year 11 teams from 11 countries participated.

Judges included various Chief Justices, eminent authors, queen's counsels and prominent practitioners representing the different countries of the Commonwealth and Hong Kong.

The team from Pretoria first eliminated the team representing the UK, then New Zealand, Singapore and, in the final round, the home team, Hong Kong.

The competition this year dealt with a problem around corruption and procedural law.

Harding, who was the junior counsel on the team, said: "We are thrilled to have represented South Africa in this prestigious competition against teams of such high calibre."

Learmonth, who was the senior counsel on the team, said it was an



The Tuks law team comprising third-year student Ian Learmonth, left, and second-year student Katherine Harding, with their coach, Law Clinic attorney Lourens Grové.

honour to appear in front of the distinguished judges.

"It was beneficial to see international viewpoints on topical issues such as bribery."

Grové, team coach and head of the university's Moot and Debating Society, said the team worked hard in preparing for the competition.

He said he was pleased with the team's performance against tried and tested teams which represent some of the best in the world.

The faculty's dean, Professor Christof Heyns, was also thrilled with the team's achievement.

"There are not many opportunities for law students worldwide to compete with each other and to get a concrete assessment from an international Bench of judges on their skills as lawyers.

"We are proud of the independent, international recognition our students once again achieved," said Heyns.

"They got on the plane, flew to Hong Kong to take on the world and won," he added.

Students from the Tuks law faculty have over the past few years won numerous awards, including the World Criminal Law Competition in The Hague, the Ambassadors round of the Privacy and Intellectual Property Law Competition in Chicago and the National Moot Competition for first-years held at the Supreme Court of Appeal in Bloemfontein.

They will also be the defending champions at the African Human Rights Competition in Lagos, Nigeria, later this year.

