



Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemerkingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
Welgelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 5628

www.uct.ac.za

22 October 2020

UCT's budding legal eagles soar at competition moderated by former ConCourt judges

After a nail-biting final round, the University of Cape Town (UCT) emerged victorious at this year's Kate O'Regan Intersvarsity Moot Competition.

UCT's budding legal eagles Yuri Behari-Leak and Justin Winchester took dual honours: they were the overall winners of the competition, and the best speaker award went to Behari-Leak.

Another team from UCT, Kudzaishe Mukunga and Delela Ndhela, made it to the semi-finals.

Joining the UCT teams were students from the University of the Western Cape, Stellenbosch University, the University of Fort Hare, the University of Johannesburg, Rhodes University and the University of the Free State.

Both teams from UCT and two from Stellenbosch University successfully argued their way to the semi-finals, which were adjudicated by judges Dikgang Moseneke, Albie Sachs, Vincent Saldanha, David Unterhalter (former professor of law at UCT), Ashraf Mahomed (an adjunct associate professor in public law at UCT) and Lee Bozalek.

The moot competition is named in honour of UCT alumna and former Constitutional Court (ConCourt) justice Kate O'Regan, who presided over the final round. Joining Justice O'Regan for the finals this year were, for the first time in the competition's history, three other former ConCourt judges: justices Sachs (also a UCT alumnus), Moseneke and Edwin Cameron.

And in another first, this year's intersvarsity competition was hosted on the online platform Discord, with the finals taking place on Zoom.

The event aims to gather students from the country's law schools to compete against each other in written heads of argument and oral argument. It also aims to encourage students to grapple with a legal topic outside of the core syllabus.

This year's theme was international criminal law, and the legal issue was whether secret forces that were complicit in the abduction and murder of anti-apartheid activists were guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Despite the challenges of adapting to online events, and of managing a group of esteemed judges and law students from seven of the country's finest universities, the [UCT Moot Society](#) organising committee managed to deliver on their mandate: to foster a culture of mooting in the law faculty and to encourage students to develop and perfect their skills within an inclusive and fun atmosphere.



Yuri Behari-Leak and Justin Winchester after being announced as the winning team.

Photo: Supplied

[Download high-resolution photo](#)

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

Ridovhona Mbulaheni

Media Liaison Assistant
Communication and Marketing Department
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch
Tel: (021) 650 2333
Cell: (064) 905 3807
Email: ridovhona.mbulaheni@uct.ac.za
Website: www.uct.ac.za