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Petah berhujah bawa kemenangan



HARUMKAN SMU: Kedua Encik Mohammad Muzhaffar (*kiri*) dan Encik Md Noor telah memenangi peraduan moot masing-masing baru-baru ini. – Foto SMU

Dua penuntut SMU muncul juara dalam peraduan moot berasingan

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BELIAU seorang yang pendiam tetapi petah apabila berhujah.

Malah, kepetahannya berhujah membuat beliau terpilih sebagai peminato terbaik.

Bak diam-diam ubi berisi, Encik Mohammad Muzhaffar Omar, anak bongsu tiga beradik itu, merupakan seorang yang amat pendiam semasa di sekolah menengah dan maktab rendah.

Namun, di sebalik sifatnya yang pendiam itu terselit 'semangat juang' dalam jiwa bekas penuntut Raffles Institution (RI) dan Maktab Rendah Raffles (RJC) itu.

Ini dibuktikannya apabila beliau dan dua rakan sejurusannya daripada Universiti Pengurusan Singapura (SMU) muncul juara dalam Peraduan Moot Antarabangsa LawAsia.

Berlangsung baru-baru ini di Bangkok, Thailand, peraduan itu memaparkan perbicaraan mahkamah olok-olok dan menguruskan timbang tara komersial sejagat, selain konflik undang-undang.

Peraduan yang dianjurkan LawAsia – sebuah pertubuhan antarabangsa yang memberi tumpuan kepada kepentingan kerjaya perundangan di rantau ini – melibatkan sehingga 33 pasukan, termasuk

dari Amerika Syarikat, Australia, China, India dan Hongkong.

Lebih hebat lagi Encik Mohammad Muzhaffar, 23 tahun, yang kini dalam senarai dekan Sekolah Undang-Undang SMU ditabal selaku peminato terbaik dalam peraduan tersebut.

"Memang semasa kecil sehingga di peringkat maktab rendah, saya tak banyak cakap.

"Lagi pun saya lebih cemerlang dalam mata pelajaran seperti Matematik dan Sains.

"Justeru, apabila mula-mula menjejakan kaki dalam bidang guaman di universiti, saya sendiri rasa kurang yakin pada diri sendiri," jelasnya yang sebelum ini menjangkakan dirinya akan menyertai bidang kejuruteraan.

Dalam peraduan yang berlangsung dari 2 hingga 6 Oktober itu, Encik Mohammad Muzhaffar berserta dua rakannya, Cik Jillian Yeo Hui Ying, 21 tahun, dan Cik Grace Sim Hui Xian, 22 tahun, berjaya menewaskan pasukan daripada Universiti Cina Hongkong di peringkat akhir.

Mereka memenangi kesemua lapan peraduan yang mereka sertai.

Kejayaan tersebut bermakna SMU telah mencatatkan kemenangan buat kali kedua dalam lima penampilan peringkat final.

Pencapaian SMU dalam peraduan moot tidak berhenti di situ.

Dalam peraduan Moot Konvensyen Perjanjian Mahkamah Pilihan Hague yang berlangsung 10 dan 11 Oktober lalu, SMU sekali lagi muncul juara.

Berlangsung di Mahkamah Tinggi Hongkong, pasukan SMU yang disertai Encik Md Noor E Adnaan, 25 tahun, dan Al-gene Tan, 25 tahun, telah menewaskan pasukan daripada Universiti Wuhan.

Kesemuanya lapan pasukan sahaja yang dipelawa menyertai peraduan itu yang diadakan buat julung-julung kali.

Antaranya termasuk pasukan dari Australia, India, Hongkong dan India.

Kemenangan itu juga bermakna SMU telah menjuarai peraduan moot sebanyak 11 kali.

Encik Md Noor yang sedang menjalani latihan pengesahan guaman (*bar*) selama enam bulan berkata dalam peringkat akhir itu mereka diadili dua pakar akademik undang-undang dan seorang peguam dari Britain.

Encik Md Noor berkata selain perlu menyampaikah hujah yang bernas, para peserta juga perlu mematuhi masa yang telah ditetapkan.

"Pengalaman menerusi peraduan sebegini tidak dapat diraih semasa dalam kelas.

"Ia mengajar para peserta cara membentuk perdebatan, bila perlu bergantung pada dasar undang-undang, selain membentangkan hujah-hujah kami dengan baik," katanya lagi.

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Eloquence in moot brought victory

Two SMU law students emerge as champions in separate moot competitions

He may be timid but is eloquent when it comes to mooting. In fact, his eloquence ended up giving him the Best Oralist title.

Like the saying “a well-filled tapioca”, Mohammad Muzhaffar Omar, the youngest of three children, was an extremely timid person during his secondary school and junior college days.

Nonetheless, behind the timidity of the former Raffles Institution (RI) and Raffles Junior College (RJC) student is ‘a fighting spirit’.

This was proven when he and two of his fellow course mates from Singapore Management University (SMU) emerged champions in the LawAsia International Moot Competition.

Held recently in Bangkok, Thailand, the competition involved simulated court proceedings and a moot problem related to the management of international commercial arbitration.

The competition was organised by LawAsia, an international organisation focused on interests of the legal profession in the region, and involved up to 33 teams, including those from the United States, Australia, China, India and Hong Kong.

Even more remarkable, Mohammad Muzhaffar, 23, now placed on the dean’s list of the SMU School of Law, was named Best Oralist in the competition.

He said, “Since my younger days till junior college, I was not at all talkative.

“I was also better in subjects like Mathematics and Science.

As such, when I first started law studies at the university, I felt that I lacked self-confidence.” He explained that prior to studying law, he had expected to join the engineering sector.

During the competition which ran from 2 to 6 October, Mohammad Muzhaffar, together with his two friends Jillian Yeo Hui Ying, 21, and Grace Sim Hui Xian, 22, beat the team from the Chinese University of Hong Kong in the finals.

They managed to win all eight matches in which they participated.

This success meant that SMU had recorded its second win in five appearances in the final round of the competition.

SMU’s success in the moot competition does not end there. In the Hague Choice of Court Agreements Convention Moot 2014 held on 10 and 11 October, SMU also emerged champions.

Held at the Hong Kong Supreme Court, the SMU team comprising Md Noor E Adnaan, 25, and Al-gene Tan, 25, beat the team from Wuhan University in the final round.

In all, only eight teams were invited to take part in the inaugural competition.

Amongst these were teams from Australia, India, Hong Kong and Japan.

The win also meant SMU had won a total of 11 international moot competitions to-date.

Md Noor, who is undergoing the practical law course for six months, said that in the final round, they were judged by two legal academic experts and a Queen’s Counsel from Britain.

He went on to say that aside from delivering a strong argument, participants also had to keep to the allocated time. He remarked, “The experience gained in such competitions would not be what you would get in class. It teaches participants to formulate their arguments based on the law, in addition to delivering a good oral argument.”