

# SMU pips NUS at moot court contest

By IAN POH

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ONLY one school from Singapore can represent the country at the world's largest moot court contest, and for years, it had been the National University of Singapore (NUS).

But for the second year running, the Singapore Management University (SMU) pipped its older cousin to the honour.

On Feb 22, a team from SMU, whose law school was started only in 2007, beat an NUS side to book its place in the international rounds of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Competition.

The competition will be contested by 114 teams in Washington between April 6 and 12.

At the national round held at the Supreme Court, the teams presented arguments and answered questions from a panel of judges comprising Attorney-General Steven Chong, High Court Justice Judith Prakash and Senior Counsel Davinder Singh – all Jessup alumni.

Praising both teams for being of a high calibre, Mr Chong said it had been a close fight.

Coached by assistant law professor Chen Siyuan, the SMU team comprised final-year students Kenny Lau, 25; Chua Wei Yuan, 26; Yeo Gek Min, 24; Carren Thung, 23; and Nicholas Liu, 28. Feb 22's national round also saw SMU's Mr Liu winning best oralist, while NUS won the title of best memorial.

NUS holds the best track record in the competition with four wins and seven second-place finishes. But last year, SMU beat NUS at the national round and made it to the final of the international rounds, where it lost to a team from the National Law School of India University.

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