

NUJS wins ELSA WTO Moot Court Competition 2015

A team of NUJS students has won the ELSA WTO Moot Court Competition 2015, the annual competition held at Geneva. In a competition that saw a dominant performance from Indian Teams, the NUJS Team defeated NLU Jodhpur and NLSIU Bangalore in the Semi-Final and Final respectively.

The winning team members Sandeep Ravikumar, Ira Chadha-Sridhar, Pramiti Parwani and Abhimanyu Hazari also bagged several individual honours. Ira Chadha-Sridhar and Sandeep Ravikumar were declared the 2nd and 3rd best speakers overall with Ira also winning the best speaker awards in the semi-final and final.

The ELSA Moot Court Competition is a simulated hearing of the World Trade Organization dispute settlement system. Overall, 100 teams participated in the competition worldwide in 2015. The competition has regional rounds followed by a 'Final Oral Round' in Geneva, with the WTO and the Graduate Institute Geneva being the hosts. The finals had a nine-member Panel, being chaired by the former Chairperson of the WTO Appellate Body and included names such as Gabrielle Marceau and Werner Zdouc.

“The entire experience of the moot has really been quite overwhelming, especially after our success! We had the privilege of meeting, and being judged by the absolute cream of the trade law fraternity including members of the WTO Appellate Body and WTO Secretariat, partners at the biggest private firms and many of the authors whose books we have stacked in our NUJS library. This made the entire process very authentic and rewarding”, Sandeep Ravikumar said about his experience at the competition.

Abhimanyu Hazari echoed those sentiments when he said that “the chance to meet and discuss our views on trade law with people who are writing the books on it was quite humbling. Getting exposed to the life of the average international trade lawyer and interacting with them at social evenings was also extremely inspiring.”

Speaking about the support extended by the University to the team, Ira Chadha-Sridhar said that “winning the moot was a product of not only our hard work, but also the support from teachers and seniors in our university. Moots are an integral part of our education at law school- combining skills of academic research with public speaking and the art of persuasion. Being able to succeed at such a challenging and important activity has given us skills we will use for a lifetime within the legal profession.”

