

# OTLA CUP COMPETITION

## Moot competition gets law students "HOOKED ON LITIGATION"

This year's OTLA Cup competition saw some of Ontario's brightest law students put their advocacy skills to the test in a real courtroom setting.

Held in the nation's capital at the Ottawa Courthouse on March 3, this year's competition was presided over by the Honourable Madam Justice Bonnie Warkentin. Students teams from five of the province's law schools took part, including Queen's University, University of Ottawa, University of Windsor, University of Western Ontario. This year's event also welcomed for the first time a team competing from Osgoode Hall Law School, York University.

Erik Knutsen, assistant professor at Queen's University Faculty of Law and coach of the Queen's student team, described the event as "one of the most dynamic, exhilarating, and collegial mooted competitions in law school.

"The OTLA organizational team ensures that student competitors not only have the opportunity to be introduced to the intricacies of arguing a jury trial, they ensure that competitors and coaches alike have fun learning," he added. "From the ice-breaker dinner the evening before

the competition, to the thoughtful feedback from the judge at the end of the competition, student competitors learn that they can put together a top-notch trial at the OTLA Cup. What an enviable experience to have in law school! In fact, most competitors come away 'hooked' on litigation."

Matthew Gianotti, a student from the Windsor team, called the experience unparalleled. "Everything was just tremendously orchestrated. Thus far, the weekend has been the highlight of my law school career. Participating in all aspects of a mock trial is a very beneficial experience for all of the students and really gives a good idea of what happens in the real world of trials."

"It was apparent that the students had worked hard to prepare for the day," said Justice Warkentin. "It is encouraging to see such bright and dedicated talent about to come out of our law schools. I look forward to the time when these students are lawyers and appear in front of me on matters for their clients."

Western law student Julie Menten was the big winner at this year's Competition, garnering three awards for Best Cross-Examination, Best Overall Advocate and Best Team.



**2012 OTLA Cup winners, left to right:** Elscar Chung, Queen's University; Andrew Menchynski, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University; Odette Ansell, University of Western Ontario; The Honourable Madam Justice Bonnie Warkentin; Julie Menten, University of Western Ontario; Matthew Gianotti, University of Windsor.

OTLA congratulates all of the student award winners of the 2012 OTLA Cup:

**Will Davidson Award for Best Opening Argument:**

Matthew Gianotti, University of Windsor

**Greg Monforton Award for Best Examination-in-Chief:**  
Elscar Chung, Queen's University

**George Bonn Award for Best Cross-Examination:**  
Julie Menten, University of Western Ontario

**Tim Boland Award for Best Overall Advocate:**  
Julie Menten, University of Western Ontario

**H. Bruce T. Hillyer Award for Best Closing Argument:**  
Andrew Menchynski, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University

**Bergeron Clifford Award for Best Team:**  
Julie Menten, Odette Ansell, University of Western Ontario

The 2012 OTLA Cup was chaired by Michelle Jorge of Jewell Radimisis Jorge LLP Barristers and Solicitors in Toronto. OTLA would like to thank this year's event sponsors, Laurie Tucker of Doucet McBride and Derek Nicholson of Beament Green in Ottawa. Thanks also go to our team travel sponsors for 2012: Gordon Good of Good Law Office (University of Windsor); Paul Harte of Paul Harte Professional Corporation (Western); Simona Jellinek of Jellinek Law Office (Osgoode Hall Law School,

York University); and Claire Wilkinson of Martin & Hillyer (Queen's University).

The OTLA Cup is generously supported by the association and its Members, who help organize the event, act as jurors and donate financial prizes to the students. If you would like to volunteer to help organize next year's event, please contact the OTLA office.

