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### A review of the 2022/23 international moots season

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UPDATES - October 2023

## A Review of the 2022/23 International Moots Season

4 min read

by Associate Professor Chen Siyuan

This is the ninth<sup>1</sup> annual review of Singapore's performance in international moot court competitions.<sup>2</sup> The preceding season (2021/22) had set a high bar, considering that Singapore law schools took the top two spots in the NICA Law School Rankings.<sup>3</sup> The NICA rankings are based on how law schools throughout the world perform in various international moots, with points weighted according to the scale of the competition. With six championships (including two Grand Slams)<sup>4</sup> as well as a third championship final appearance in the Jessup, SMU took top spot in the NICA rankings for the second time in its history.

In this light, the results tabulated below for the 2022/23 season would appear less impressive, despite the fact that law schools had podium finishes in almost every moot they participated in. Moreover, an unusually high number of prizes for best written and best oral submissions were won, suggesting that some of the knockout losses were down to the finest of margins. Notable results this season include NUS reaching Singapore's first ever championship final appearance in the Jackson WTO Moot in Geneva, SMU winning the inaugural Unjust Enrichment Moot in Brisbane, and SUSS achieving a podium finish in Singapore's first appearance in the Sports Law Arbitration Moot in Lausanne. In a trend that ought to be broken soon, Singapore continued to reach fairly advanced stages of the biggest competitions, but fell short. May the next season produce better results.

### Results of all notable international moot competitions in 2022/23

Moot edition	Venue	No of teams	Singapore results/rank
3 <sup>rd</sup> Computational Law	Canberra (online)	~ 20	SMU: 1 <sup>st</sup> -runner-up NUS: NA
15 <sup>th</sup> Foreign Direct Investment Arbitration	London	~ 50	SMU: 8 <sup>th</sup> NUS: P
17 <sup>th</sup> LAWASIA Arbitration	Sydney	~ 25	SMU: 1 <sup>st</sup> -runner-up NUS: NA

**Results of all notable international moot competitions in 2022/23**

27 <sup>th</sup> Stetson International Environmental Law	Gulfport	~ 60	SMU: 2 <sup>nd</sup> -runner-up (SEA); QF (international) NUS: 1 <sup>st</sup> -runner-up (SEA); QF (international)
16 <sup>th</sup> Price	Oxford (online)	~ 90	SMU: Champions (A/P); QF (international) NUS: P
7 <sup>th</sup> Fletcher International Insolvency	Tokyo (online)	~ 30	SMU: 2 <sup>nd</sup> -runner-up NUS: NA
21 <sup>st</sup> Jackson WTO	Geneva	~ 80	SMU: Champions (East Asia and Oceania); 2 <sup>nd</sup> -runner-up (international) NUS: 1 <sup>st</sup> -runner-up (East Asia and Oceania); 1 <sup>st</sup> -runner-up (international)
21 <sup>st</sup> Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot	Hong Kong	~ 60	SMU: 2 <sup>nd</sup> -runner-up NUS: NA
21 <sup>st</sup> Oxford Intellectual Property	Oxford	~ 60	SMU: P NUS: QF
20 <sup>th</sup> Vis East Arbitration	Hong Kong	~ 150	SMU: QF NUS: R32
30 <sup>th</sup> Vis Arbitration	Vienna	~ 350	SMU: 3 <sup>rd</sup> NUS: R64
64 <sup>th</sup> Jessup International Law	Washington DC	~ 700	SMU: 2 <sup>nd</sup> -runner-up NUS: R32
11 <sup>th</sup> PAX Conflict of Laws	Brussels	~ 40	SMU: 2 <sup>nd</sup> -runner-up NUS: NA
14 <sup>th</sup> Sarin Air	Leiden	~ 40	SMU: 2 <sup>nd</sup> -runner-up NUS: NA
15 <sup>th</sup> International Criminal Court	Hague	~ 80	SMU: QF NUS: SF
32 <sup>nd</sup> Lachs Space Law	Baku	~ 80	SMU: 2 <sup>nd</sup> -runner-up (Asia) NUS: NA
15 <sup>th</sup> Frankfurt Investment Arbitration	Frankfurt	~ 50	SMU: R16 NUS: 2 <sup>nd</sup> -runner-up
23 <sup>rd</sup> International Maritime Law Arbitration	Swansea	~ 20	SMU: 2 <sup>nd</sup> -runner-up NUS: NA
15 <sup>th</sup> Mandela Human Rights	Geneva	~ 20	SMU: NA NUS: R16
9 <sup>th</sup> Nuremberg	Nuremberg	~ 130	SMU: QF NUS: R16
24 <sup>th</sup> Asia Cup	Tokyo	~ 40	SMU: 2 <sup>nd</sup> -runner-up NUS: NA
1 <sup>st</sup> Unjust Enrichment	Queensland	~ 10	SMU: Champions NUS: NA

**Results of all notable international moot competitions in 2022/23**

6th Perera	Colombo (online)	~ 25	SMU: 1st-runner-up NUS: NA
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**Singapore's best finish in Grand Slams since 2013**

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Jessup</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	R32 (SMU)	R16 (NUS)	R16 (SMU)	P (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (NUS)	NA	2 <sup>nd</sup> (NUS)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)
<b>Vis</b>	-	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	QF (NUS)	R32 (NUS)	R64 (SMU)	R32 (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	QF (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)
<b>Vis East</b>	-	-	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	R16 (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	QF (SMU)
<b>ICC</b>	-	-	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	APF 1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	QF (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (NUS)
<b>Price</b>	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	AP 1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	AP 1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)
<b>Frankfurt</b>	-	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (NUS)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	NA	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (NUS)

**Singapore's best finish in other major moots since 2013**

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>IP</b>	-	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> (NUS)	QF (NUS)	QF (NUS)	QF (NUS)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (NUS)	NA	R16 (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	QF (NUS)
<b>Stetson</b>	-	-	-	-	-	QF (NUS)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (NUS)	SEA 1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	SEA 1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	QF (both)
<b>Lachs</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	AP 1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	AP 2 <sup>nd</sup> (NUS)	NA	NA	AP 3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)
<b>FDI</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (NUS)	GR (SMU)	FNS
<b>WTO</b>	-	-	-	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> (NUS)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (NUS)	-	-	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (NUS)
<b>Air</b>	-	-	-	-	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)
<b>Fletcher</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (NUS)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)
<b>PAX</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)
<b>Red Cross</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	QF (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	P (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	NA	QF (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)
<b>LAWASIA</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (NUS)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (NUS)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	FNS
<b>Asia Cup</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	-	NA	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)
<b>Maritime</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> (NUS)	-	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	QF (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	NA	2 <sup>nd</sup> (NUS)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)
<b>N'berg</b>	NA	NA	NA	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	NA	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	QF (SMU)	QF (SMU)
<b>Private Law</b>	NA	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> (NUS)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	NA	NA	QF (SMU)	NA	NA
<b>HSFC</b>	NA	NA	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> (NUS)	-	P (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (NUS)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (NUS)	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	P (SUSS)
<b>Mandela</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	-	-	-	-	-	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	R16 (NUS)
<b>Perera</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)
<b>ANUC</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	NA
<b>Unjust E</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)
<b>SLAM</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SUSS)



*SMU won the inaugural edition of the Unjust Enrichment Moot organised by the University of Queensland. The final against University of Sydney was judged by Justice Roger Derrington, Justice John Bond, and Professor Kit Barker.*



*NUS and SMU both reached the semi-finals of the Jackson WTO Moot this year, with NUS progressing to the championship final, a first for Singapore.*

## Endnotes

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- 1 The previous reports can be found in "A review of the 2021/22 international moots season", *Law Gazette*, September 2022.
- 2 Mediation or negotiation competitions are excluded from this recap, though our schools continue to excel in such competitions. In 2023 for instance, Singapore teams won the CDRC Vienna and HSF-Delhi competitions.
- 3 <https://nica.team/news/nica-team-law-school-ranking-has-been-announced/>.
- 4 Grand Slams are class-leading competitions that attract a substantial number of teams and are perceived to have a particular prestige not just due to scale and number of teams participating but also the quality of the organisation, participants, judging, and surrounding events. They currently comprise the Jessup, Vis, Vis East, Price, International Criminal Court, and Frankfurt moots: see *The International Moot Court Compendium*: <https://www.internationalmoots.org>.

**Tags:** L1



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