**Moot court at La Trobe University – video transcript 31/1/12**

***Moot audio****….The La Trobe University Moot Court is now in session, all rise.*

**Narrator:**

For the past four years the La Trobe University Law School mooting team has reached the finals in international moot court competitions, including the VIS International Commercial Arbitration moot, the International Investment Moot and the International Criminal Court Moot. In each of these competitions La Trobe students have received honourable mentions in their advocacy skills.

**Mr Erik Dober:**

I’ve learnt a great deal from the International Arbitration Moot Program at La Trobe, its opened my eyes to a completely new and exciting area of law that is within the international sphere, so its very exciting.

**Narrator:**

Mooting is one of the key activities of the Law School and student typically spend the semester researching, writing and practising oral arguments.

**Mr Andrew Vincent:**

We get a problem that we look at, we then develop a submission, a brief, and then we present those submissions to a judge and they asses us on how good we are.

**Ms Satu Aho:**

Being involved in mooting experience has developed my research skills and also oral confidence in my augmenting, and also I make great friends.

**Narrator:**

Student participants also partake in simulated legal activities during the internal and intervarsity competitions run by the Law Student Association. By enacting court proceedings and also drafting briefs, students get ‘a hands on’ approach and put their studies into practice.

Mr Niko Baarlink:

The art of advocacy is probably the most important skill for a lawyer, how to use language effectively is what lawyers do. It’s the most important tool at a lawyer’s disposal and therefore we have to learn how to present an argument most effectively.

**Ms Emily Boutard:**

It’s a very scary thing to do, speaking to a crowd and its one of the scariest things you’ll probably ever do in life and when you do something like that it really builds skills that not many people have and its an excellent skill that you’ll carry through you’re entire life.

**Narrator:**

Mooting at an international level has also helped students learn the value of team work and network with lawyers, judges and academics from all around the world.

**Ms Emily Boutard:**

There are many benefits to international mooting competitions particularly for law graduates. The market place for law graduates gaining jobs is very competitive and anything you can put on your resume that will set you apart from the thousands of kids applying each year is excellent, it tells employers that you have critical legal analytical skills, you’re a confident speaker and you have research skills.

**Narrator:**

This year La Trobe Law will launch the High School Mooting competition to build to build on the school’s international success. Year 11 students from selected schools will be given a moot problem and associated materials and assistance with research and advocacy skills. The final two teams will moot against one another at an event held at La Trobe University.

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