



ODPP
New South Wales

First Nations Moot Competition

APRIL 2025

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ODPP First Nations Moot Competition

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which our offices are located and where we provide services to the people of New South Wales. We recognise the rich histories, languages and customs of the Traditional Custodians and pay respect to Elders past and present. The ODPP honours First Nations peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships with the land and waters.

The ODPP is committed to improving employment outcomes for First Nations peoples by increasing career opportunities and supporting career development for First Nations law students, solicitors and barristers in NSW.

The ODPP will provide First Nations law students with an opportunity to participate in a criminal law moot competition ('the competition'). The competition will allow competitors to learn, develop and practice their written and oral advocacy skills in a confidential and safe environment. Competitors will gain experience and confidence in a simulated courtroom environment.

All competitors will have a chance to receive coaching from Crown Prosecutors prior to competing if they wish. Competitors will also receive one-on-one feedback following their oral submissions and will be able to ask questions of advocates after their presentation.



1. About the Moot Competition

The competition will be overseen by a committee that is led by Philip Hogan, Deputy Senior Crown Prosecutor and Damian Beaufils, Crown Prosecutor and Gundungurra man ('the committee').

The competition will be held during the mid-semester university break in July 2025. It is intended to cater for students at any stage of their university degree and does not require prior advocacy experience. Applications to enter the competition will be advertised in April 2025. To participate, applicants will be required to submit a written expression of interest (EOI) via email to dbeaufils@odpp.nsw.gov.au addressing why they would like to participate in the competition. Evidence of eligibility will also need to be provide with the EOI.

The EOI is to be a maximum of 150 words and is to be accompanied by a copy of the applicant's resume and material supporting their eligibility. The content of the applicant's resume and their eligibility documents do not contribute to the word count. Each EOI will be reviewed by the committee and applicants will be notified in May 2025 if they have been selected to compete. Applicants will be ranked upon the strength of their EOI only. Places in the competition will be limited and not all those who submit an EOI will be invited to compete.

The competition will then proceed in three stages:

1. Following the EOI process, successful applicants will be invited to participate in the first stage of the competition. This will involve drafting written submissions. Competitors will be invited to an information session (held online or in person) where experienced Crown Prosecutors will provide advice and coaching on drafting and delivering of sentencing submissions. Competitors will be provided with a mock sentencing bundle and example sentencing submissions.
2. Competitors will draft and submit a written outline of their sentencing submissions by a pre-determined due date. There will be a word count placed upon the written submissions. The submissions will be drafted on behalf of the party the competitor decides to represent, either the offender or the ODPP. Written submissions will be assessed and scored by the committee.
3. Depending on the number of applicants and resourcing, some or all competitors will be invited to the second stage of the competition where they will make oral submissions before a 'judge' in the ODPP moot court. Delivery of oral submissions will occur over the course of one day and will be held in the ODPP head office in Sydney. Oral submission made by each competitor must not exceed 20 minutes. Those oral submissions will be assessed and scored.



Competitors will be provided with the score for both their written and oral submission. The competitor with the highest score will be announced as the winner of the competition.

Participants in the competition will be provided feedback from members of the committee throughout the process and will have a chance to discuss what they did well and what they can improve on.

2. Eligibility

Eligible applicants must:

- a) currently be studying a Bachelor, Master or Diploma of Laws.

AND

- b) provide either:

- a certificate of Aboriginality; or

- a letter of support from an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation from their community or the community within which they live.

3. Key dates

11 April 2025 – Applications to enter the competition open.

6 May 2025 – Applications to enter competition close.

9 May 2025 – Successful applications notified, and information pack distributed.

26 May 2025 – Information session held online and in person.

9 June 2025 – Written submissions due.

18 June 2025 – Finalists to participate deliver oral submissions notified. Requests to view the court room may be made prior to the delivery of oral submissions.

2 July 2025 – Delivery of oral submissions in person and winner announced.

4. Expectations

Crown Prosecutors and 'judges' are expected to share their experiences, knowledge and feedback with competitors to improve competitors' understanding of the role of the ODPP, how to draft written submissions and best practice when delivering oral submissions.

They should engage openly and honestly with competitors and in a way that develops competitors' confidence in making oral submissions, noting that some competitors may find the experience daunting or unfamiliar.

Competitors are expected to participate fully in all stages of the mooting competition by remaining attentive and preparing all written material by the due date. They are expected to demonstrate respect for their competitors and encourage one another. A failure to meet this expectation may result in disqualification.



5. Location

The information session and competition will be held at the ODPP Sydney office, located at Level 6, Parkline Place, 252 Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW 2000.

6. Contact

For information about the moot competition please contact Damian Beaufils, via email at dbeaufils@odpp.nsw.gov.au.

For more information about our other employment programs or support for First Nations staff, please contact Lauren Davies (First Nations Project Officer) via email at ldavies@odpp.nsw.gov.au.



How to Apply

Applications are to be sent via email to dbeaufls@odpp.nsw.gov.au by the advertised close date.

Applications will be advertised [via our website](#).

Applications will also be advertised through various other channels including but not limited to various University First Nations law centres and/or faculties and LinkedIn.

Suitability for the program will be assessed on the applicant's eligibility and written responses to the application guidelines. Applications will be assessed based on the written EOI applications only.

Applicants will be notified by a member of the competition committee after the closing date as to whether they have been accepted into the competition.

