

## **PROJECT DOCUMENT**

### **NATIONAL SCHOOLS MOOT COURT COMPETITION**

**March and April 2012**

The second annual National Schools Moot Court Competition for senior learners (grade 10 in 2011) at all secondary schools in South Africa will be held in March and April 2012. The Moot will be presented with the active participation of the country's law faculties, the government (specifically the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and the Department of Basic Education), the organised legal profession, the courts and the media. It is foreseen that the Competition will be organised by a different grouping of law faculties each year, with the Universities of Pretoria, Venda, Cape Town and Western Cape taking responsibility for the second round in 2011/12.

The language medium of this event will be English but the participants will be allowed to use any of the official languages in the final round.

All secondary schools in South Africa will be invited to enter a team of two learners, preferable one male and one female learner. A fictional (or 'hypothetical') problem involving a constitutional issue(s) will be set. The first round will be in written form. Learners will be expected to write two short essays (a 'light' version of the 'heads of argument' used in actual courts) setting out the opposing sides of the case. On this basis nine teams from each of the nine provinces will be selected to send two students and a teacher to the provincial oral rounds that will take place in the provinces end of March 2012. The provincial oral rounds will be organised and funded by the Department of Basic Education in the 9 provinces.

The 4 best teams from each province will then be invited to participate in the national oral rounds in April 2012 when the teams from the different provinces will be paired against one another to determine the provincial winners. One educator from each participating school will be invited to accompany the learners. The two provincial winning teams with the highest scores will compete against each other to determine an overall winner during the final round.

A Moot is a role-play exercise, where the participants play the role of the lawyers in a fictional court case

The National Schools Moot Court Competition will be aimed at creating greater awareness in schools and communities in South Africa about the Constitution and the values that it

embodies through active participation. The aim is also to encourage talented young people to consider pursuing a career in law. This Competition provides a unique opportunity for learners to develop their research, writing and oral advocacy skills as they endeavour to come to grips with some of the constitutional issues that are presently facing our country

The learners (and the teachers who accompany them) who were selected for the preliminary national oral rounds will be expected to arrive in Pretoria on the evening of Thursday, 26 April 2012. On 27 April all the participants will attend lectures on the Constitution aimed at assisting them during their oral presentations in the Competition, and be taken on a tour of the Constitutional Court and other places of significance in the field of law, such as the Union Buildings and the Apartheid Museum. The preliminary national oral rounds will be held on 28 April and the final oral round on 29 April.

In order to assist all teams to have a fair chance in the Competition, material on the South African Constitution will be made available on the internet and to schools on request in hard copy.

Learners are encouraged to approach their closest law faculty (eg the law clinics and Street Law programmes, as well as the participants in the different moot competitions in which the faculties participate) for assistance with their preparations, and the Law Society will be asked to encourage their members to make time available to provide such assistance,. The organisers will establish a central point – or help-desk - which learners can contact via SMS, email or telephone to obtain guidance.

The registration forms must be received by 15 October 2011 and the essays must be received by 30 January 2012. Moderate extension will be given to schools who contact us in this regard.