

## About the Paralegal Cup

The Paralegal Cup is the only mooting competition in the world that is exclusive to Paralegal students enrolled in a Certificate or Diploma program, recognized by the Law Society of Upper Canada.

The Paralegal Cup competition, referred to as a “mooting competition,” requires students to draw on their advocacy, legal research, and legal writing skills in relevant substantive law to prepare their oral and written submissions. The purpose of the competition is to strengthen student advocacy and critical thinking skills by focusing on oral and written advocacy, professionalism, and resiliency. The event also allows paralegal students to network with senior paralegals, present and future community leaders, influential members of the legal industry and college representatives.

The first day of the competition consists of four mooting rounds followed by a networking hour and the highly anticipated evening dinner, which celebrates the students’ achievements from the day’s competition. On the second day, based on total oral and written scores from the preliminary rounds, the top eight teams compete in the quarter final, semi-final, and final rounds. In the finalist rounds, the team with the higher score advances.

The mooting competition asks student teams to identify and address the legal issues for both the appellant and the respondent in a selected contemporary Canadian case. They must also present a 10-minute oral submission and written component before a panel of judges. Teams prepare and deliver submissions, all vying to become the ‘Mooting’ Champion.

### Past Competitions

As the Ontario Paralegal Association’s Student Director, Fallon Burns (*at centre, left*), teamed up with her Humber College Paralegal Degree classmates, Karen Fair (*right*) and Doug Taylor (*left*) in 2013, to create a skills competition for paralegals.



In 2015, three Humber Paralegal degree students joined efforts with the initial Steering Committee to execute the 2015 Paralegal Cup. Here at right are: Tara Lisowski (*far left*), Madeline Williams (*centre*) and Sara Liden (*far right*),



## Media Advisory

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## Law Society of Upper Canada hosts the 2016 Paralegal Cup

**Toronto** – On November 19 and 20, The Law Society of Upper Canada is hosting the fourth annual Paralegal Cup Intercollegiate Mooting Competition – the only intercollegiate mooting competition exclusive to paralegal students in Ontario.

Mooting, a popular form of mock legal argumentation at law schools, involves two student teams identifying and addressing legal issues in a selected contemporary Canadian case. The competition is designed to strengthen student advocacy and critical thinking skills by focusing on oral and written advocacy, professionalism, and resiliency.

The competition is open to all students enrolled in a Paralegal Diploma or Certificate program, recognized by the Law Society of Upper Canada.

“The Paralegal Cup strengthens students’ advocacy and critical thinking skills. It gives them the opportunity to argue complex pieces of law in a learning environment, while interacting with senior mentors from the legal community,” said Madeline Williams, Paralegal Cup Coordinator, Steering Committee Member, and Humber Paralegal Degree Student.

“The calibre of participating students is strong. Many put in long hours preparing for the event and capitalize on their chance to demonstrate their abilities in front of industry professionals,” she explains.

Day one of the competition features four rounds of student team submissions along with industry and professional networking opportunities. The top eight teams advance to day two, with the winning team awarded the Paralegal Cup.

The daytime competition is free and open to the public. Tickets to attend the formal dinner are available at [2016paralegalcup.eventbrite.ca](http://2016paralegalcup.eventbrite.ca).

For more information about the 2016 Paralegal Cup, visit [paralegalcup.ca](http://paralegalcup.ca)

### **Details**

**Date:** November 19 & 20, 2016

**Time:** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Location:** Law Society of Upper Canada, Osgoode Hall, 130 Queen St. West, Toronto

**Media Contact:** Doug Taylor, 2016 Paralegal Cup Steering Committee Member, 289.979.9232, [info@paralegalcup.ca](mailto:info@paralegalcup.ca)

## Fact Sheet

- The 2016 Paralegal Cup theme is “Progress, Growth, and Success.”
- The event will take place over two days, November 19 and 20 at The Law Society of Upper Canada and includes the competition, the finals, a formal dinner and an awards ceremony.
  - On Saturday, rounds start at 9:30 a.m. and run throughout the day. Dinner will be served from 6 to 8:30 p.m.
  - On Sunday, the quarter finals start at 9 a.m., followed by the final round at 1 p.m., with the weekend’s awards being distributed at 2:30pm.
- Attending institutions include Algonquin Career Academy (Ottawa and Mississauga campuses), Canadian Business College, Centennial College, Mohawk College, Seneca College, Sheridan College and two independent teams sponsored by Bonn Law (Belleville and Trenton).
- There will be a total of 14 teams from 6 different schools, including the first-ever independent student teams from Bonn Law (Belleville and Trenton).
- Special guests judges and speaker include:
  - Robert Lapper, CEO of the Law Society of Upper Canada
  - David Wright, LSUC Tribunal Chair
  - Janis Criger – Keynote Speaker, Benchler, Law Society of Upper Canada, Deputy Judge and Vice-Chair of the Paralegal Standing Committee.
- Over 30 students and professionals have volunteered for this event from various programs, including one from the Law Society Tribunal.
- The Paralegal Cup Steering Committee in conjunction with The Ontario Justice Education Network (OJEN) reached out to local high school students, who are interested in pursuing a career in law, to volunteer at the event.
- The Paralegal Cup Steering Committee has once again started an IndieGoGo page to broaden community support at, [2016 Paralegal Cup IndieGoGo Campaign](#).
- Humber College is a presenting partner for 2016.
- Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Flickr and YouTube at “Paralegal Cup” for event updates. This year’s hashtag for the Paralegal Cup is #2016PCM. Photos will be available via the Paralegal Cup Flickr account, Instagram, website or by contacting Doug Taylor, 2016 Paralegal Cup Steering Committee Member, 289.979.9232, info@paralegalcup.ca



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. What is the Paralegal Cup?

The Paralegal Cup is the only mooting competition in the world that is exclusive to Paralegal students enrolled in a Certificate or Diploma program. The competition strengthens student advocacy and critical thinking skills by focusing on oral and written advocacy, professionalism, and resiliency.

### 2. What is 'Mooting'?

The modern activity differs from a mock trial, as moot court refers to a simulated appellate court or arbitral case, while a mock trial refers to a simulated jury trial or bench trial.

Moot court does not involve actual testimony by witnesses, cross-examination, or the presentation of evidence, but is focused solely on the application of the law to a common set of evidentiary assumptions to which the competitors must be introduced.

In most countries, the phrase "a moot court" may be shortened to simply "a moot" and the activity may be called "mooting."

### 3. Why participate?

This skills competition, referred to as a "mooting competition," allows paralegal students to network with senior paralegals and to develop their oral and written advocacy skills.

The purpose of the extra-curricular Paralegal Cup intercollegiate mooting competition is to create a unique academic opportunity for paralegal students to practise and refine their research, analytical and reasoning skills.

All of these career-based skills are invaluable in the legal profession. The competition provides a safe environment to develop these skills.



#### **4. How can I register a team?**

Beginning in 2015, the Paralegal Cup now offers OPEN registration to a limited number of school teams. To qualify, students must be currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate Paralegal program recognized by the Law Society of Upper Canada. School 'Teams' consist of two students from the educational institution.

Registration will be limited and open on a first-come, first-served basis.

#### **5. How can I volunteer?**

Whether leading in front or supporting behind the scenes, the Organizing Committee is always seeking volunteers to assist.

We welcome any support, big or small. Volunteering for the Paralegal Cup a great opportunity to meet new people and contributing to the competition's success by volunteering is a source of pride.

If you have an interest in joining the volunteer team, please contact us at [paralegalcup@gmail.com](mailto:paralegalcup@gmail.com).

#### **6. How can I judge?**

Due a sizeable increase in judging, we are asking those interested to complete an online application process.

There are a number of criteria that Paralegal Cup volunteer judges must meet to qualify for the competition. For example, Judges must be licensees or have equivalent academic experience. In addition, there are several other minimum criteria, including the amount of years practising.

If you are interested in judging and would like to learn more, please visit *Our Community* section at [paralegalcup.ca](http://paralegalcup.ca).