

BLSA Canada presents the...

Julius Alexander Isaac Moot Magazine



SPECIAL 18TH EDITION

JANUARY 30, 2025 - FEBRUARY 1, 2025

FEDERAL COURT OF CANADA, TORONTO
ONTARIO COURT OF APPEAL, TORONTO



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LETTER FROM THE NATIONAL MOOT DIRECTOR

Dear BLSA Canada community,

Serving as your National Moot Director for the past 9 months has been an incredible honour. I am beyond grateful for being entrusted with such a great opportunity. Your support, dedication, and passion have made this year incredibly special.

The Julius Alexander Isaac Moot is more than just a competition—it is a space where advocacy, critical thought, and Black excellence thrive. This year, we saw law students from across the country rise to the challenge, engage deeply with complex legal issues, and showcase the brilliance that defines our community. We welcomed 26 teams—our largest competition yet—including, for the first time, the University of Manitoba and a team from the United States. For the first time ever, our preliminary rounds were held at the Federal Court—the very court where Justice Julius Alexander Isaac made history as the first Black person to sit on their bench.

None of this would have been possible without the commitment of our mooters, coaches, judges, volunteers, and sponsors..

To each of you: thank you for your time, energy, and belief in the importance of this historic Moot

To my fellow BLSA Canada executive members & moot committee, your unwavering support and leadership have been invaluable. It has been a privilege to work alongside such talented and driven individuals, all working towards the common goal of uplifting and empowering current and aspiring Black law students.

As I step away from this role, I do so with immense pride and appreciation. The future of the Isaac Moot is bright, and I have no doubt that it will continue to grow, inspire, and leave a lasting impact on the legal community. May we continue to advocate, break barriers, and support one another in all that we do.

With Gratitude,

NATIONAL MOOT DIRECTOR



About the Isaac Moot

The Black Law Students' Association of Canada (BLSA Canada) has hosted the Julius Alexander Isaac Moot annually for the past 17 years. Born in Grenada, Julius Alexander Isaac was the first Black person to sit on the Federal Court of Canada. Isaac came to Canada to study at the University of Toronto. He practiced law in Ontario and Saskatchewan and served as a Crown prosecutor before becoming the Assistant Deputy Attorney General of Canada. His judicial career began when he joined the bench of the then-called Supreme Court of Ontario. In 1991, he was appointed Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Canada.

The Isaac Moot is the only for-credit moot in Canada that encourages law students to apply critical race theory in responding to legal problems. Participants in the final round are also provided with a unique opportunity to receive individual feedback on their advocacy from experienced litigators, through a partnership with the Ontario Crown Attorneys' Association (OCAA). Our goal is to build a cadre of litigators who are able to advance critical race approaches as part of their legal practice to better serve the diverse Canadian public. For almost three decades, the Isaac Moot has welcomed the participation of all law students who wish to develop a deeper understanding of the law through this lens.



The Isaac Legacy: 18 Years of Mooting

Our First Moot Crafter

The structure and rules of the Moot were carefully crafted by Professor Joanne St. Lewis of the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law. She serves as an advisor to the Canadian Lawyers for International Human Rights and the Center for Research-Action Race Relations. Professor St. Lewis' combination of academic expertise in critical race theory and experience in litigation ensured that the Moot exceeded the rigorous academic standards of a credit course.



She has held positions with the Ontario Human Rights Commission in the Ontario Race Relations Directorate. She was also co-counsel for the Assembly of First Nations at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal and the Federal Court Trial Division on the test regarding discriminatory funding of Indigenous child welfare services on reserves. Professor St. Lewis was the co-chair of the Canadian Bar Association's Working Group on Racial Equality and the author of the report, "Virtual Justice: Systemic Racism in the Canadian Legal Profession."



What Makes Us Different?



Outstanding Judges

Notably, previous years' judges have included:

Hon. Michelle O'Bonsawin - Supreme Court of Canada

Hon. Mahmud Jamal - Supreme Court of Canada

Hon. Sheila L. Martin - Supreme Court of Canada

Hon. Chief Justice Michael H. Tulloch - Ontario Court of Appeal

Hon. Kofi N. Barnes - Ontario Superior Court of Justice

Advancing Diversity

The Isaac Moot allows students to explore both theoretical and doctrinal arguments in a way that few Canadian moots do. The thrust of a doctrinal argument must be rooted in reference to traditional legal authorities, whereas the thrust of a theoretical argument is normative - it concerns what Canadian law should be, not what it is.



International Opportunity

The champion of the Isaac Moot is invited to compete at the **National Convention of the American National Black Law Students' Association (NBLSA) Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition (TMMCC)**. The competitors in the TMMCC come from all across the United States, and must win regional competitions before moving on to the main event. It will be held in-person from **March 10-16 2025, in Atlanta, Georgia.**



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Meet the Team

LEADERSHIP



Jeremiah Bowers
National Chair
3L Lincoln Alexander

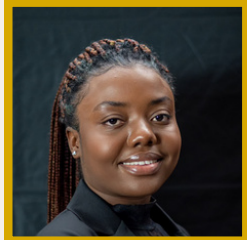


Emily-Rose Njonde
National Moot Director
2L Osgoode Hall



Janet (Jay Jay) Johnson
National President
3L Osgoode Hall

MOOT COMMITTEE



Aba Saah
Moot Committee Member
Schulich School of Law
at Dalhousie University



Lu-Ann Telphia
Moot Committee Member
Carleton University



Madison Milanczak
Moot Committee Member
Queen's Law



Catherine Ndiaye
Moot Committee Member
McGill University
Faculty of Law



Matea Abebe
Moot Committee Member
McGill University
Faculty of Law



Anaïs Ouedraogo
Moot Committee Member
University of Toronto
Faculty of Law



Adonai Yohannes
Moot Committee Member
University of Ottawa
Faculty of Law



Reshma Aser
Moot Committee Member
University of Toronto
Faculty of Law



Student Impact: Across Generations

Christina Sutrov

2024 Isaac Moot Top Oralist

“As I begin my legal career with the United States’ Department of Prosecuting Attorneys, I can proudly say that the Julius Alexander Isaac Moot experience was the best hands-on experience I’ve had. It helped me learn how to calm my nerves in a courtroom, speak to the judges and listen to their questions, and really settle in who I wanted to be as an advocate, but most importantly, find my voice.”



Shona Musimbe

2022 Isaac Moot Top Oralist

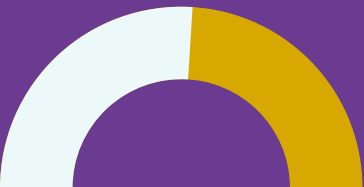
“The Isaac Moot was the first time I participated in a formal moot in law school. I was unsure about whether I would like mooting and was nervous about speaking in front of a large crowd. I am glad I overcame these fears and participated. This moot was a unique opportunity to use Critical Race Theory (CRT) to craft creative and convincing legal arguments. One of my highlights was getting to argue in the final round in front of Supreme Court Justice Mahmud Jamal.”



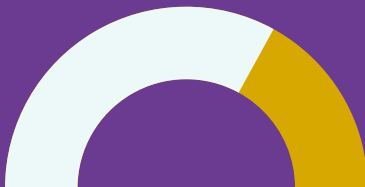
The Proof is in our Numbers

In 2025, the 18th Annual Isaac Moot made history with the largest number of participants since the Moot’s inception: **26 teams** from **15 Canadian law schools** and the **first-ever competing law school from the United States**.

52 Student
Participants



66 Judges



23 Coaches



17 Factum
Graders



2025 Final Round Judges



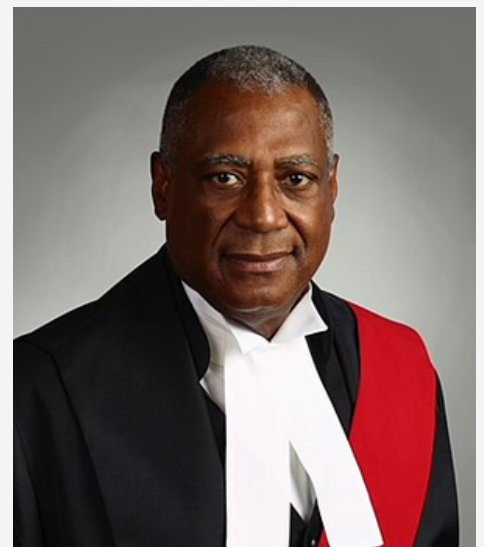
**THE HONOURABLE
MAHMUD JAMAL**

*Supreme Court of
Canada*



**THE HONOURABLE
MICHAEL H. TULLOCH**

*Chief Justice,
Ontario Court of Appeal*



**THE HONOURABLE
ASTON J. HALL**

*Associate Chief Justice,
Ontario Court of Justice*



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2025 Isaac Moot Champion Sponsors

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2025 Factum Graders

KENNETH GRAD
OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL

JANET MOSHER
OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL

**ADEBAYO
MAJEKOLAGBE**
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

**UCHECHUKWU
NGWABA**
LINCOLN ALEXANDER
SCHOOL OF LAW

**OKECHUKWU
(JAKE) EFFODUH**
LINCOLN ALEXANDER
SCHOOL OF LAW

**HILARY EVANS
CAMERON**
LINCOLN ALEXANDER
SCHOOL OF LAW

JENNIFER ORANGE
LINCOLN ALEXANDER SCHOOL
OF LAW

JILLIAN ROGIN
UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR

SHARRY AIKEN
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

IRINA CERIC
UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR

SARA WHARTON
UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR

VRINDA NARAIN
MCGILL UNIVERSITY

TAUFIQ HASHMANI
HELLER HUNTER

MOHAMMAD FADEL
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

DHAMAN KISSOON
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

BRUCE B RYDER
OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL

SAFIA THOMPSON
MCCARTHY TÉTRAULT LLP

10



2025 Moot Judges

HIS WORSHIP CHIMBO POE MUTUMA
NANA YANFUL
HUSONI RAYMOND
OMAR HA-REDEYE
BRIAN WOOD
SANDY THOMAS
JACQUELINE BECKLES
PINTA MAGUIRE
LAVINIA LATHAM
EFUA GYAN
AGATHA WONG
CEMEKA DOUGLAS
ZAINAB LAWAL
FRANK NASCA
SHANIKA GORDON
JOSHUA ABAKI
SAMANTHA PETERS
CHINONSO EKEANYANWU
SHONA MUSIMBE
ROBIN NYAMEKYE
(LEJEAN) JEMARK EARLE
SYLVIA SAMUEL
ROGER LOVE
FABIAN SUAREZ-AMAYA

JUSTICE MARLYSE DUMEL
JUSTICE AUDREY P. RAMSAY
GRACE VACCARELLI
LILY TEKLE
CARL ALPHONSE
KAYLA STEPHENSON
DEREK HARLAND
FRANK ADDARIO
OKANGA OKANGA
HODINE WILLIAMS
MBAKA WADHAM
JENNAH KHALED
PAUL SLANSKY
ZAINAB OLASEG
SARAH ROSALES ZELAYA
THERESA DONKOR
KARINE JOIZIL
PATRICIA DEGUIRE
CLAIRE BROWNE
YOLA GRANT
FREGINE SHEEHY
RAPHAEL EGHAN
SAFIA THOMPSON
UCHE NGWABA



2025 Mooters: *Next Generation of Great Oralists*



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
FACULTY OF LAW

APPELLANT TEAM

TAJDEEP SANDHU & FARSHAD LABBAF

RESPONDENT TEAM

SHINA MALHI & ISABELLA DE DOMINICIS BARRIOS



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF LAW

APPELLANT TEAM

NANA ASANTE & OLU AKINNIYI

RESPONDENT TEAM

GRACE KABENGELE & TASIA NTWARI



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY

SCHULICH
SCHOOL OF LAW

APPELLANT TEAM

**JOSHUA LANGSTON, NICOLE BASRAN
& CHANTEL PENG**



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

BORA LASKIN
Faculty of
Law

APPELLANT TEAM

AAMINAH AMIN & DANTE BROWN-YOUNG

**Toronto
Metropolitan
University**

**Lincoln Alexander
School of Law**

APPELLANT TEAM

KIEN AZINWI & DEBORAH EFECHAOR



**University
of Manitoba**

Faculty of Law

APPELLANT TEAM

QUINN THOMAS & TALIA DAVID

RESPONDENT TEAM

KENNEDEE HILLS & APARA GRACE



McGill

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WYNN REDERBURG & JUSSLIN MANIRATANGA

RESPONDENT TEAM

HINA RANI & SHI TAO ZHANG

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2025 Mooters: *Next Generation of Great Oralists*



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SABRIN ABDELLAHI & SHREYA VOHRA

RESPONDENT TEAM

ENOKA (BAINO) BAINOMUGISHA & SEIF ABDELNABY



APPELLANT TEAM

RANI BULSARA & MICHELLE HAN

RESPONDENT TEAM

LISHA D'LIMA & GARY CERRIKU



APPELLANT TEAM

NATALLIE CHOW & ZERU HU

RESPONDENT TEAM

MATTHEW CHASMAR & NAZI AZE



APPELLANT TEAM

SAFA CHAFFAR & PASHMINA RUPANI

RESPONDENT TEAM

AVANI LADHAR & ARSHVIR BOPARAI



RESPONDENT TEAM

**CONTESSA GIBSON WILLIAMS
& TROY EDWARDS**



University of
Victoria
Law

APPELLANT TEAM

CHANTAL BACCHUS & KATIE DELAY

RESPONDENT TEAM

LUCY ROHATYNCHUK & LINDSAY VEENSTRA



APPELLANT TEAM

**ALISAR ABDELRAHMAN
& RACHEL BIPATNATH**

RESPONDENT TEAM

**AMBERTARI CAPE
& ALEXANDRA MARSHALL**



Windsor Law
University of Windsor

APPELLANT TEAM

**DYRO NE CUEVAS-MARTINEZ
& AYAN SIAD-OMAR**

RESPONDENT TEAM

**TARANJIT TOOR
& WINIFRED UWASE**

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HALL OF CHAMPIONS

2025 AWARDEES



Quinn Thomas & Talia David, Champions of the 2025 Isaac Moot

CHAMPION OF THE MOOT

QUINN THOMAS & TALIA DAVID

University of Manitoba Robson Hall

RUNNER-UP TEAM

NATALLIE CHOW & ZERU HU

University of Toronto Faculty of Law

TOP SCHOOL

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF LAW**

TOP ORALIST

DEBORAH EFECHAOBOR

Lincoln Alexander School of Law
(Toronto Metropolitan University)

TOP FACTUM

**ALEXANDRA MARSHALL
& RACHEL BIPATNATH**

Western University Faculty of Law

SPIRIT OF THE MOOT AWARD

NICOLE BASRAN

Schulich School of Law
(Dalhousie University)



HALL OF CHAMPIONS

PAST MOOT WINNERS



2024

SARAH ABDUL-JALIL
TEGA ODJEVWEDJE

Western University Faculty of Law

2023

JASHANDEEP KAUR MAVI
FRANK NASCA

Osgoode Hall Law School

2022

SHONA MUSIMBE
JEMARK EARLE

McGill Faculty of Law



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2025 Highlights



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CALL TO ACTION: *WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?*

Dear Isaac Moot supporters,

As the elected 34th National Chair, I've had the pleasure of overseeing the Isaac Moot and supporting our phenomenal National Moot Director, Emily-Rose Njonde, in delivering her vision for this historic moot. With the most participants in our history, the 18th Isaac Moot will mark a defining shift in critical oral advocacy for years to come.

Amid a rising movement against diversity, equity, and inclusion, the Isaac Moot stands as a critical reflection and powerful representation of the importance of our collective work--mooters, coaches, sponsors, judges, and all.

We are the only moot exclusively focused on critical race discourse. We are, in no uncertain terms, training future lawyers to be socially conscious advocates who contribute to the welfare of all members of our diverse communities. Such responsibility is unsurprising, as it is at the core of the legal profession. We, all of us, owe a duty to serve the public.

As a professor once told me, law is a "people-oriented business." We cannot represent people or move the needle toward justice without critiquing how society has always functioned. Nor without fostering spaces for the people at the margins who could never see themselves in them. Certainly, we cannot serve the public without actively shaping the faces of our profession to *look like the public*.

The Isaac Moot, named in the roaring spirit of the late Chief Justice Julius Alexander Isaac, stands 18 years strong because of **you**, and BLSA Canada invites you to remain committed. *Because we need you.* The roads you have paved and the bridges you have built as supporters and sponsors of the Moot cannot be understated. Your continued partnership is vital to realizing our mission of a diverse profession **now more than ever.**

So, **thank you** for not only investing in the Isaac Moot's success but sowing into generations of lawyers yet to come. As aspiring lawyers, we say this to you: *We will see you in the profession soon, where you can witness how your support of the Isaac has shaped an entirely different kind of advocate.*

With hope for the future,

Jeremiah Bowers

NATIONAL CHAIR



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The Black Law Students' Association of Canada

Julius Alexander Isaac Moot 2025



Ontario Court of Appeal

January 30 - February 1, 2025

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING! SEE YOU NEXT YEAR.