



Regroupement étudiant de common law en français
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Brian C. Pel
McCarthy Tétrault LLP
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RE: Request to allow the French common law Program of the University of Ottawa to send its own team to the 2012 Laskin Moot Court Competition in Moncton

Dear Mr. Pel,

I write to you at the suggestion of Mr. Ronald Caza and on behalf of the students of the French common law Program at the University of Ottawa in regards to the 2012 Laskin Moot Competition. Permission is hereby requested to allow the French common law Program to send its own team to the upcoming Laskin Moot Competition in Moncton.

The University of Ottawa's Faculty of law is by far the biggest Faculty of law in the country. As you know, over 600 students are registered in the civil law section. There are nearly 1000 students in the common law section but these students are in fact divided into distinct and autonomous programs, an English common law program and a French common law program. While a total of over 750 students are registered in the English common law program, there are now over 200 students registered in the French Common law Program. For the 2011-2012 school year, more than 80 students are registered in the first year of the French common law Program, a first year class that is bigger than many first year classes in Canada's other law schools. Students registered in the French common law Program are managed autonomously, have their own courses and faculty and are in almost every respect, completely distinct from both the English common law Program and are completely distinct from the civil law Section.

The University of Moncton is the only other law school offering common law instruction in French in Canada. The Program contributes to the development of many of the French language minority communities in Canada, as it attracts francophone, Acadian and bilingual students from across the country and some from elsewhere in the world.

Normally, the moot court selection processes for the French and English common law Programs of the University of Ottawa take place simultaneously and are administered by a single English common law faculty member. Usually, moot teams are composed of students from those programs. In fact, last year's Laskin Moot team was composed of two students from the French common law program and two students from the English common law program. This year, unfortunately, there were a number of issues at the administrative level that severely limited the ability of French common law students to participate in the Laskin Moot competition. Consequently, this year's joint French and

English common law Program Laskin Moot team is composed of English common law students only.

I have spoken to the Faculty's administration in regards to these issues and together we have developed a plan for next year's moot court tryouts, which may help to alleviate the problems described above. Nevertheless, I write to you in regards to the upcoming Laskin Moot competition, taking place in Moncton, in the hope that you will agree to allow the French common law Program of the University of Ottawa to send it's own team.

My Faculty's administrators, notably the Vice Dean François Larocque, support this request and will support a French common law team, if accepted, at the Laskin Moot competition. I have also spoken with Mr. Ronald Caza about this possibility, and he too has expressed support for this request.

I recognize that the moot court competition is fast approaching, as well as the exceptional nature of this request. Nevertheless, there is significant student interest in having the French common law program send a team to Moncton. I firmly believe that the addition of a French common law team from the University of Ottawa to the Laskin Moot would greatly benefit and enrich the competition. Notably, such an addition would enhance the bilingual and bijural nature of the moot and foster dialogue amongst students from Canada's two official language communities, and this, in New Brunswick; Canada's only officially bilingual province.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. I can be reached by phone at 613-897-6339 or by email at albert.nolette@gmail.com.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Albert Nolette
President
Regroupement étudiant de common law en français
Albert.Nolette@gmail.com

CC : Ronald F. Caza, François Larocque, Mark C. Power