



Event Report

On the Inaugural National
Inter-University Moot Court
Competition 2026

Moot Court Forum



Acknowledgements

The Moot Court Forum (MCF) extends its sincere appreciation to all institutions, partners, legal professionals, academics, judges, mentors, students, and individuals whose commitment and contribution made the Inaugural National Inter-University Moot Court Competition 2026 possible.

Special appreciation goes to Kigali Independent University (ULK) for hosting the opening ceremony, preliminary rounds, and workshops, and to the Supreme Court of Rwanda for providing the distinguished setting for the Grand Final.



The Forum is particularly grateful to the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Rwanda, Health Development Initiative (HDI) Rwanda, Development Bank of Rwanda (BRD) and Institute of Legal Practice and Development (ILPD) for their institutional support, technical contributions, professional expertise, and commitment to strengthening practical legal education in Rwanda.

The Forum further acknowledges the distinguished judges and legal professionals who gave their time and expertise to adjudicate the competition and mentor participants. Appreciation is also extended to all facilitators who delivered pre-competition training and workshops on legal research, memorial writing, advocacy, courtroom etiquette, digital justice, human rights, career development, financial literacy, and emerging areas of legal practice.

Special recognition goes to the participating universities and all student advocates who demonstrated commitment, discipline, intellectual curiosity, and professionalism throughout the competition.

Finally, the Moot Court Forum acknowledges its organising team, volunteers, court officials, timekeepers, communication teams, partners, and all individuals who worked behind the scenes to ensure the successful delivery of the inaugural edition.

Thank You!

Executive Summary

- The Moot Court Forum Inaugural National Inter-University Moot Court Competition 2026 was held from 23 to 24 July 2026, bringing together law students, judges, legal practitioners, academics, government representatives, development partners, and other stakeholders in a national platform dedicated to strengthening practical legal education and professional legal skills in Rwanda.
- The competition was designed to bridge the gap between theoretical legal education and practical legal practice by providing students with an opportunity to undertake legal research, prepare written memorials, develop oral advocacy skills, respond to judicial questioning, and engage with experienced legal professionals.
- The inaugural edition was centred on contemporary challenges at the intersection of international criminal law, artificial intelligence, algorithmic systems, human rights, and digital justice. Teams were required to argue issues concerning Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity before a simulated Pre-Trial Chamber of the African Court of Justice and Human and Peoples' Rights, International Criminal Law Section.
- The competition was preceded by intensive training and outreach workshops covering memorial writing, legal research, case analysis, oral advocacy, courtroom etiquette, record mastery, judicial questioning, professional ethics, digital inclusion, career development, and emerging areas of legal practice.
- The preliminary rounds were conducted on 23 July 2026 at Kigali Independent University, with teams competing anonymously under assigned codes to ensure impartial assessment. Each team was required to argue both the Prosecution and Defense positions, thereby promoting versatility and comprehensive understanding of the legal issues.
- Following the preliminary rounds, University of Kigali and University of Lay Adventist of Kigali (UNILAK) advanced to the Grand Final, which was held on 24 July 2026 at the Supreme Court of Rwanda.
- Beyond the competition itself, the event created a national platform for professional networking, mentorship, institutional collaboration, and discussion of the future of legal practice. The closing discussions particularly highlighted Rwanda's transition toward Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), mediation, arbitration, negotiation, and restorative justice, providing an important strategic direction for future editions of the Forum.

Background & Rationale

The Moot Court Forum was established with a vision to strengthen practical legal education and create opportunities for law students to develop the skills required for effective legal practice.

While university legal education provides students with important doctrinal knowledge, the transition from the classroom to professional practice requires additional competencies, including legal research, drafting, advocacy, critical analysis, professional ethics, communication, and the ability to respond effectively to judicial questioning.

The inaugural national competition was therefore conceived as more than a student contest. It was designed as a practical legal education platform bringing together universities, professional institutions, government actors, judges, legal practitioners, and development partners.

The competition also responded to the changing nature of the legal profession. Digital courts, artificial intelligence, electronic evidence, online dispute resolution, algorithmic decision-making, and evolving client expectations are increasingly shaping legal practice. Preparing future lawyers therefore requires exposure to both traditional legal principles and emerging technological and ethical questions.

The inaugural edition deliberately focused on human rights and international criminal law while incorporating artificial intelligence and algorithmic systems. This provided students with a familiar legal foundation through which to explore new and complex legal challenges.

Competition Objectives

The competition sought to:

- Strengthen practical legal education among law students in Rwanda.
- Develop students' legal research, writing, reasoning, and oral advocacy skills.
- Promote professional ethics, courtroom etiquette, and responsible lawyering.
- Create opportunities for interaction between law students and experienced legal professionals.
- Promote inter-university collaboration and healthy academic competition.
- Introduce students to emerging legal issues, particularly AI, digital justice, technology and ADR.
- Strengthen the culture of moot participation within Rwandan law schools.
- Provide students with exposure to real-world judicial and professional environments.
- Encourage critical thinking and the ability to argue competing legal positions.
- Establish a foundation for future national and regional legal competitions.

Pre-Competition Training & Outreach

The competition was preceded by a series of training and outreach workshops designed to prepare participating students for both the written and oral components of the competition.

5.1 Memorial Writing and Legal Research

Jean Paul Sifuma, a student at Strathmore University, Kenya, trained participants on the preparation of effective legal memorials. He emphasised that a memorial is not simply a report or academic essay, but a sustained legal argument in which every sentence should contribute to the client's case.

The training addressed formatting requirements, compliance with competition rules, citation, authority selection, legal research, annotation, and verification of authorities. Participants were introduced to an authority hierarchy distinguishing binding primary sources, persuasive authorities, and respected secondary sources.



5.2 Legal Argument and Case Application

Jonathan Ndolo, an advocate trainee at the Kenya School of Law, focused on converting legal research into persuasive argument. He introduced the FIRAC framework: Framing, Issue, Rule, Application and Conclusion, as a practical tool for structuring legal arguments.

Particular emphasis was placed on application: students were encouraged not merely to describe what courts have decided but to demonstrate precisely how a legal principle applies to the facts before the court.



Samuel Munoru Gikundi, CPM, LLB Hons., highlighted the significance of mastering legal records during a moot at Africa Nazarene University. He advised participants to view facts as their armor and to understand compromises for credibility. Advocates should know the record better than judges to build trust, establish a moral direction for their case, prepare counterarguments, and present compelling reasons for winning based on justice rather than just legalities.



Belard Igitamahoro, a trainee at ILPD Rwanda and founder of the Moot Court Forum, stressed the need for structural precision in advocacy, comparing it to a GPS for persuasive arguments. He suggested starting with a strong hook, numbering points, and clearly stating desired outcomes. Effective arguments should have smooth transitions and present the strongest point first to ensure logical conclusions.



Strathmore University students Raha Mueni and Amara Visram stressed the importance of court etiquette, advocating for discipline before speaking. They advised dressing neatly, arriving early, and respecting court rituals, such as addressing the judge as "Your Honour." Amara highlighted the value of formal language, recommending phrases like "Counsel submits" over personal opinions. Composure is essential, and one should listen respectfully during opposing speeches without distractions.



Maxwell Otieno, a University of Nairobi student, emphasized effective delivery and question handling in advocacy. He highlighted the importance of voice, eye contact, and body language, advising speakers to slow down and engage judges directly instead of reading notes. He stressed that answering questions is crucial in mooting, recommending brief pauses, direct responses, and honesty when uncertain.



Day 1: Opening Ceremony & Preliminary Rounds

The competition officially opened on 23 July 2026 at Kigali Independent University (ULK).

The Vice Chancellor of ULK, Prof. Dr. Martins Onyekwelu Onuorah, urged participants to maintain integrity, professionalism, and respect for the law. He emphasized the importance of impartiality and excellence among judges and organizers. Senior State Attorney Frank Mugabo, representing the Ministry of Justice, encouraged students to leverage this opportunity for practical exposure and affirmed the Ministry's support for developing practice-ready lawyers.



Speaking on **"Lawyering in the Digital Justice Era: Fostering Competence, Ethics and Professional Responsibility for a Rapidly Evolving Legal Profession,"** Dr. Faustin Ntezilyayo, Chief Justice Emeritus and Former President of the Supreme Court of Rwanda examined the impact of artificial intelligence, digital courts, online dispute resolution, electronic evidence, and changing client expectations on the legal profession. He highlighted that modern legal competence requires technological literacy, responsible AI use, digital advocacy, data governance, ethical judgment, and continuous professional development.

The keynote emphasized that technology should align with fairness, independence, public trust, professional responsibility, and the rule of law, forming a crucial foundation for a competition at the intersection of artificial intelligence and international criminal law.



Senior State Attorney Frank Mugabo, representing the Permanent Secretary of Rwanda's Ministry of Justice, encouraged students to seize the opportunities provided by the Moot Court Forum. He emphasized the importance of practicing advocacy and engaging with real legal issues for readiness in the profession. He reaffirmed the Ministry's support for the Forum as a means to enhance practical legal education and strengthen Rwanda's justice sector by preparing knowledgeable and capable lawyers.

Moot Proceedings

Moot Court Proceedings, Preliminary Rounds



To preserve impartiality, each participating university was assigned an anonymous code for the entire competition, ensuring that evaluation was based solely on the quality of legal argument rather than institutional affiliation — a principle consistent with the standards of real judicial proceedings. Beyond procedure, the competition offered participants a rare and deliberate exposure to Rwanda's hybrid legal system, combining both common law and civil law traditions and equipping students with the comparative legal reasoning that Rwanda's justice sector increasingly demands.

The moot problem placed teams at the frontier of contemporary international criminal law, requiring them to argue charges of Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity arising from the deployment of artificial intelligence and algorithmic systems before the Pre-Trial Chamber of the African Court of Justice and Human and Peoples' Rights, International Criminal Law Section.

Critically, the competition's format required each team to argue both the Prosecution and the Defence across two rounds of preliminary oral proceedings — a deliberate design choice that forced law students to master the full legal landscape of the case rather than a single position. This approach is central to the educational value of moot court: it builds intellectual versatility, deepens legal reasoning, and prepares students for the unpredictability of real legal practice. At the conclusion of the two rounds, the two teams with the highest combined scores could advance to the Grand Final at the Supreme Court of Rwanda — raising the stakes and giving every submission in the preliminary round the weight of consequence

Preliminary Moot Court Proceedings

The preliminary rounds were conducted across three courtrooms.

To ensure impartiality, participating universities were assigned anonymous codes. Judges therefore evaluated teams based on the quality of their legal reasoning, research, written submissions, advocacy, and responses to questions rather than institutional identity.

The moot problem required teams to address allegations of **Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity arising from the deployment of artificial intelligence and algorithmic systems** before a simulated Pre-Trial Chamber of the African Court of Justice and Human and Peoples' Rights, International Criminal Law Section.

A distinctive feature of the competition was the requirement for teams to argue both the Prosecution and Defence positions. This encouraged students to understand the full legal framework, anticipate opposing arguments, and develop intellectual flexibility.

The preliminary proceedings were conducted in three courtrooms, with panels composed of judges and legal professionals from diverse backgrounds. The panels tested students on legal doctrine, facts, human rights principles, argumentation, and professional advocacy.



Following the completion of the preliminary rounds, judges deliberated on the cumulative scores from the two rounds.

COURTROOM 1

Kigali Independent University vs. INES Ruhengeri



Courtroom 1 hosted a highly anticipated match between Team MCF-2026/03 and Team MCF-2026/01, with their identities concealed for anonymity. The judging panel included experts from the UN Human Rights Office, a senior advocate, and a law lecturer from Rwanda, ensuring a comprehensive evaluation across international human rights law, litigation, and legal education. This setting required teams to not only prepare but also to think and advocate effectively in real time before knowledgeable professionals.

- Judge Rhodam G. Kubwayo
- Judge Evaristus Ntani Ngoran
- Judge Irakiza Mugisha J. Marie VIANNEY



Among the workshops on Day 1, Ms. Alpha Iriza from HDI Rwanda delivered a notable session on "**Digital Inclusion and Human Rights**," engaging over 200 participants, including law students and professionals.

Her discussion highlighted the intersection of digital transformation with human rights and access to justice in Rwanda's legal landscape. The session emphasized the importance of practical legal education connecting students to real policy issues in Rwanda's justice sector.

HDI Rwanda's involvement as a financial partner and contributor exemplifies the desired institutional partnerships that support the development of future legal professionals.

COURTROOM 2

University of Kigali vs. Mount Kigali University



In Courtroom 2, judges oversaw oral proceedings between anonymous teams MCF-2026/05 and MCF-2026/04, ensuring evaluation based solely on legal merit. The panel maintained professionalism, rigorously questioning counsel and testing arguments. This competition featured teams well-prepared to tackle a complex moot problem regarding Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity linked to Artificial Intelligence and Algorithmic systems, designed for a national competition in Rwanda.

- **Judge Divine ABAYO**
- **Judge Comson W. Vaye**



Vanessa Semugaza launched the BRD career series by challenging the notion that a law degree only leads to courtrooms. Drawing from her diverse experiences in various legal fields, she shared seven lessons for students, emphasizing that all experiences contribute to a legal career.

Her key message was that careers are not linear, and lawyers who stay curious, adaptable, and intentional will find their way.

Chris Aine Matsiko provided a unique perspective at the workshop, highlighting the role of legal professionals in law, finance, and commercial transactions—areas often overlooked by law students. His session revealed the transactional legal practice where lawyers act as deal architects and risk managers, shaping economic outcomes. This insight was particularly valuable for students focused on litigation and human rights, as it showcased a crucial aspect of Rwanda's evolving development finance sector.



COURTROOM 3

University of Lay Adventist of Kigali - Ex Parte



In Courtroom 3, Team MCF-2026/02 faced a challenging ex parte session due to the competition's five-university setup, which left them without an opposing team. This format intensified scrutiny as the panel focused solely on their performance, assessing their responses to judicial questions and their ability to maintain legal arguments under direct questioning. The experience became a pure test of oral advocacy, with no adversary to shift attention away from them.

- **Judge Dr. Bai Mbu N.**
- **Judge Rosette UMUTONIWASE**



Senior State Attorney William NDENGEYINKA delivered one of the most grounded and urgent sessions of the day — cutting through complexity to remind a room full of future legal professionals that trafficking in persons is not a distant crisis, but a present reality hiding behind promises, screens, trusted faces and students are primarily targeted. His message was clear: the law exists, the penalties are severe, and the duty to act belongs to everyone in that room.

In a competition built around the intersection of technology and human rights, his session on modern trafficking trends and the deployment of digital tools by traffickers added a dimension that no courtroom simulation alone could provide — the reminder that behind every legal argument is a human being whose dignity either the law protects, or fails.

Bench of Judges, Preliminary rounds



Following the conclusion of the second round of oral proceedings, the panel of judges withdrew for deliberation — a moment that brought a particular stillness to the room. Score sheets were compiled, arguments were weighed, and the cumulative performance of each team across both rounds was assessed with the care and seriousness the occasion demanded. When the judges returned to take their seats, the room understood that what followed was more than an announcement — it was a verdict delivered by legal professionals whose combined expertise in international human rights law, litigation, and legal education gave their words a weight that every law student in attendance could feel.

Before announcing the two teams that would advance to the Grand Final at the Supreme Court of Rwanda, the panel shared their observations — pointing to what had impressed them, what had fallen short, and what every advocate in that room needed to carry forward. It was a moment of professional mentorship as much as adjudication: a rare opportunity for students to receive direct, expert feedback from practitioners who had lived the profession they are training to enter.



University of Kigali, Finalist

- Uwase Vickie Ruzindana and
- Calvin Angelo Isingizwe



University of Lay Adventist of Kigali, Finalist

- Leatitia Divine Kamikazi,
- Karl D. Sivili and
- Sharon Kabatesi

Parallel Workshops & Professional Sessions

While preliminary moot proceedings were taking place, participants also benefited from professional and thematic workshops.



Alpha Iriza, a Legal Associate at HDI Rwanda, facilitated a session titled **"Digital Inclusion and Human Rights: Ensuring Equitable Access to Justice in Rwanda."** The session explored the relationship between digital transformation, human rights, and access to justice.

The Development Bank of Rwanda (BRD) contributed a career-development series featuring:

- Vanessa Semugaza, Legal Counsel, who discussed career development and the diverse pathways available to law graduates;
- Chris Aine Matsiko, Legal Specialist - Transactions, who introduced participants to transactional legal practice and the relationship between law and finance;
- Samuel Uwiragiye, Legal Counsel - Transactions, who encouraged students to remain open to diverse career opportunities and continuous professional development; and
- Patience Kamanzi, Senior Specialist Counsel, who introduced participants to BRD's programmes and financial products supporting young Rwandans.
- Basile Ambroise Hugo Mulera, Team Leader and Legal Counsel Specialist; Dispute Resolution at BRD, further engaged participants and provided opportunities for professional networking and mentorship.
- Senior State Attorney William Ndengeyinka, Ministry of Justice, addressed contemporary trends in trafficking in persons and the use of digital tools by traffickers, connecting legal education with the real-world protection of human dignity.

These parallel sessions broadened the competition beyond advocacy and created opportunities for participants to engage with legal practice, human rights, development finance, digital justice, and emerging social challenges.

Day 2: Grand Finale

The Grand Final was held on 24 July 2026 at the Supreme Court of Rwanda, providing the finalists with the opportunity to argue in one of the country's highest judicial institutions.



MCF CO-FOUNDER and CEO welcoming UNHCR Associate Protection Officer, Joviah Kayirangwa



Belard Igrimahoro, Founder and President of the Moot Court Forum, opened the event by acknowledging the finalists and encouraging them to demonstrate excellence in advocacy, professionalism, and legal reasoning.



MCF CO-FOUNDER and CEO welcoming ILPD Vice Rector in Charge of Academic & Research Affairs
Dr. Yves Sezirahiga



The Court Clerk, **Yar Maduk**, formally called the proceedings to order and introduced the case before the simulated Pre-Trial Chamber.



The Prosecution, represented by **Sharon Kabatesi**, advanced the case concerning the confirmation of charges against Jean Pierre Habyarimana, former President of the Republic of Karuba.



The Defence, represented by **Calvin Angelo Isingizwe**, challenged the Prosecution's legal and factual case and presented alternative interpretations of the charges and applicable law.

The final round demonstrated the value of the training undertaken during the preceding weeks. Both teams were required to combine legal research, factual mastery, courtroom etiquette, strategic advocacy, and responsiveness to judicial questioning.

Awarding Ceremony



The competition ended with an awards ceremony honoring excellence in advocacy. Trophies symbolize recognition and motivation for young advocates, but the Moot Court Forum emphasizes that the true rewards are the practical legal experience gained, mentorship from senior professionals, and the networks formed among Rwandan law students through this national platform.

Awards were presented in the following categories:

- **Grand Final Winner**
- **First Runner-Up**
- **Best Overall Female Orator**
- **Best Overall Male Orator**
- **Best Prosecution Memorial**
- **Best Defence Memorial**
- **Certificates of Participation**



The awards recognised outstanding performance while also reinforcing the Forum's broader objective of motivating students to pursue excellence in legal research, writing, advocacy, professionalism, and ethical practice.

Awarding Ceremony - Cont'

The Moot Court Forum, led by Co-Founder and CEO IMANIRIMASO Aaron, expressed gratitude to judges, partners, and sponsors like HDI Rwanda and BRD for making the inaugural event possible.

He discussed the state of moot court culture in Rwanda, noting that only two out of six law schools had active moot court clubs initially. The competition resulted from extensive outreach and training.



Aaron highlighted that the focus on human rights for the inaugural edition was strategic and emphasized Rwanda's shift towards Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) as a key legal priority. The next edition will aim to introduce law students to ADR practices, preparing them for the evolving legal landscape.



Yves Sezirahiga, ILPD Vice Rector for Academic and Research Affairs, delivered a closing address that elevated the competition's ceremony to a national policy statement. He praised participants for their commitment to advocacy and emphasized the importance of technology and AI in law, urging lawyers to ensure innovation serves justice. He highlighted Rwanda's shift from litigation to mediation and restorative justice, advocating for Alternative Dispute Resolution to be a core part of legal education.

He encouraged students to be not just advocates but also mediators and ethical problem-solvers. He concluded by calling for the Moot Court Forum to innovate with mediation and negotiation exercises and officially closed the Inaugural National Inter-University Moot Court Competition 2026.



Key Outcomes & Achievements

The inaugural competition generated several important outcomes.

12.1 Strengthening Practical Legal Education

Students moved beyond theoretical classroom learning and engaged directly with legal research, drafting, oral advocacy, judicial questioning, and courtroom procedure.

12.2 Development of National Moot Court Culture

The competition created a national platform connecting law students from different universities and contributed to the development of a stronger moot court culture in Rwanda.

12.3 Professional Exposure and Mentorship

Students interacted directly with judges, advocates, government officials, academics, development professionals, and legal counsel, creating opportunities for mentorship and career development.

12.4 Exposure to Emerging Legal Issues

The competition introduced students to complex questions concerning artificial intelligence, algorithmic systems, digital evidence, digital justice, human rights, and international criminal law.

12.5 Institutional Collaboration

The event demonstrated the value of collaboration among universities, government institutions, professional bodies, development partners, and civil society organisations in strengthening legal education.

12.6 Promotion of Professional Ethics

Through the training and judicial proceedings, students were consistently reminded that effective advocacy must be grounded in integrity, respect for the Court, professional responsibility, and commitment to justice.

Partnerships & Institutional Support

The success of the inaugural competition was made possible through collaboration among multiple institutions.

Key partners and stakeholders included:

- **Moot Court Forum**
- **Kigali Independent University (ULK)**
- **Supreme Court of Rwanda**
- **Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Rwanda**
- **Health Development Initiative (HDI) Rwanda**
- **Development Bank of Rwanda (BRD)**
- **Institute of Legal Practice and Development (ILPD)**
- **Participating Universities**
- **Judges and legal professionals**
- **Academic institutions and individual mentors**

The contribution of partners went beyond financial support. Several institutions contributed technical expertise, professional speakers, mentorship, venues, adjudication, career guidance, and institutional legitimacy.

This model of partnership demonstrates the potential for practical legal education to become a shared responsibility across Rwanda's justice and education ecosystem.

Key Lessons Learned

The inaugural edition generated several lessons that can guide future competitions.

1. Practical legal education should complement doctrinal university education. Students require opportunities to practise the skills they learn in class.
2. Emerging technologies are transforming legal practice. Future lawyers need exposure to artificial intelligence, digital evidence, data governance, and technology-related ethical questions.
3. Advocacy requires more than knowledge of the law. Strong advocates must also master communication, strategy, professional conduct, listening, adaptability, and responsiveness.
4. Professional mentorship significantly enhances the value of student competitions. Engagement with practising lawyers and judges allows students to connect academic knowledge with professional realities.
5. National platforms can strengthen collaboration among law schools and create a shared professional identity among future legal professionals.
6. Finally, the future of Rwanda's legal profession requires greater attention to dispute prevention and resolution alongside traditional litigation.

Recommendations & Way Forward

Building on the success of the inaugural edition, the Moot Court Forum should consider the following priorities:

- **Expand** participation to additional law schools and strengthen institutional moot court clubs.
- **Institutionalise** pre-competition training in legal research, memorial drafting, advocacy, and professional ethics.
- **Strengthen** mentorship programmes connecting students with judges, advocates, academics, government lawyers, and other legal professionals.
- **Introduce** ADR-focused competitions, including mediation and negotiation simulations.
- **Develop** arbitration and restorative justice exercises in line with Rwanda's evolving justice policy.
- **Continue** incorporating emerging legal issues, including AI, digital evidence, cybersecurity, health law, environmental law, and technology regulation.
- **Strengthen** partnerships with government institutions, universities, professional bodies, development partners, and private-sector institutions.
- **Expand** the competition regionally in future editions, creating opportunities for East African and African inter-university engagement.
- **Develop** a structured alumni and mentorship network for former participants.
- **Document** and **evaluate** impact through participant feedback, skills assessments, institutional engagement, and follow-up studies.

The second edition should build on the inaugural competition while introducing a stronger focus on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), particularly mediation, negotiation, arbitration, and restorative justice.

This direction is aligned with Rwanda's evolving justice landscape and would allow the Moot Court Forum to prepare students not only to litigate disputes but also to prevent, manage, and resolve them.

Conclusion

The Moot Court Forum Inaugural National Inter-University Moot Court Competition 2026 marked an important milestone in the development of practical legal education in Rwanda.

Held over two days at Kigali Independent University and the Supreme Court of Rwanda, the competition brought together students, judges, legal professionals, academics, government institutions, development partners, and other stakeholders around a shared objective: preparing the next generation of legal professionals for the realities of modern legal practice.

The competition demonstrated that moot court is more than an academic contest. It is a platform for professional formation, mentorship, intellectual development, ethical reflection, networking, and institutional collaboration.

By requiring students to argue both sides of a complex case involving artificial intelligence, Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity, and digital justice, the inaugural edition challenged participants to think beyond conventional legal boundaries.

More importantly, the event established a foundation for the Moot Court Forum's long-term vision. The Forum's next phase should build on this foundation by expanding practical legal education and introducing students to ADR, mediation, arbitration, negotiation, restorative justice, and other emerging dimensions of legal practice.

The Inaugural competition therefore represents not an endpoint, but the beginning of a broader movement toward a generation of Rwandan legal professionals who are competent, ethical, adaptable, technologically aware, and committed to using law as an instrument for justice, problem-solving, dignity, and peace.

Annexes

- **Annex I: Competition Programme**
- **Annex II: Participating Universities and Team Codes**
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- **Annex IV: Speakers, Trainers and Facilitators**
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