



HAMMOND CUP 2026

Round 1 of the 58th annual Hammond Cup will take place on Thursday 19th March 2026 at the Nottingham Law School, with the final being held on Thursday 30th April 2026.

The competition is open to students (including LPC, SQE and bar training course) and those still engaged in professional training in the workplace (including trainee solicitors and those doing SRA SQE, solicitors and paralegal apprentices, pupil barristers (first seat only), paralegals (with up to 2 years' experience) who work and/or study in Nottinghamshire. The Hammond Cup provides competitors an opportunity to practice their advocacy skills in a realistic court room setting, with feedback from experienced practitioners and professional judges.

In round one, candidates will have the choice of whether to present a ten minute:

- criminal sentencing exercise; or
- civil application

The judges will be looking for candidates who show clarity of expression, thoroughness and, of course, persuasiveness. The four candidates with the highest score will be invited to participate in the final in the week commencing 28th April, provisionally on Thursday 30th April 2026. A distinguished panel of judges from the Court Circuit will score the candidates and decide on the winner of the Hammond Cup 2025. Prizes will be presented at the Nottinghamshire Law Society AGM on Tuesday 13th May 2025.

Why should you take part?

- A unique opportunity to develop key advocacy skills in an authentic setting which will benefit you as your career progresses;
- As part of the preparation for advocacy, Nottingham Law School will be offering **FREE Advocacy Skills** training – to help **YOU** perfect your skills in the courtroom.
- Develop your confidence in a realistic but friendly forum;
- Raise your profile within the local legal profession and your own firm; and
- Prizes are up for grabs:
 - — 1st prize £300 and an engraved trophy, plus the opportunity to shadow the judiciary for an arranged period of time (2-3 days max) and certificate
 - 2nd prize £150 and certificate
 - Runners up are awarded a prize of £50 and certificate.

If you would like to enter, please complete the attached entry form and return to via email: michelle.foster@nottslawsoc.org 17:00 on **Friday 20th February 2026**.



**Junior Lawyers
Nottinghamshire**



HAMMOND CUP 2026 Entry Form

To enter the competition, please complete and return this form by 17:00 on **Friday 20th February 2026** to Head of Operations, Michelle Foster:

michelle.foster@nottslawsoc.org

Name:

Firm:

Email Address:

Contact Mobile No:

Position (e.g., trainee,
pupil etc)

☐ I would like to present a criminal sentencing / civil application (delete as appropriate)

☐ I would like to be entered into the first round of the Hammond Cup 2026.

Signed:

Dated:
