

Hammond Cup 2022



The Law Society

Nottinghamshire Junior
Lawyers Division



Hammond Cup 2022

On Thursday 30th June, the annual Hammond Cup advocacy competition, was set to begin at Nottingham Law School.

Past President, Philip Turton welcomed all those involved beginning with the distinguished judges, HHJ Coe QC, HHJ Coupland and JP Simon Massarella. Sara Davies, daughter of the late Michael Hammond was also present.

This year's four finalists were Shannon Keenan from Richard Nelson LLP, Amber Collington from Eversheds-Sutherland and Declan Smith and Hannah Spicer-Smith, both from VHS. The court reflected many court rooms around the UK during a pandemic, as Declan was present by Microsoft Teams due to Covid.

The Hammond Cup consists of two mock criminal trials, with a finalist acting as either the prosecution or the defence.

To assist the trials, we have the witnesses and defendant, this year Jim Buckley from VHS Fletchers, acted as Jim Jones; Lisa Hardy from KCH Garden Square starred as Judy Hitchcock and finally the defendant, Simon Mule played by Andrew Dennis from Gateley Legal.

For the records PC Clem Fandango did not appear in this presentation.



Amber Collington

Hannah Spicer-Short

Shannon Keenan



Declan Smith

Mock Trial 1

Prosecutor: Declan Smith (VHS Fletchers)

Defence: Shannon Keenan (Richard Nelson LLP)

Declan and Shannon participated in the first mock trial. Acting as prosecutor, Declan opened the case with an outline and then called his first witness Jim Jones (alias Jim Buckley) to the stand.

To set the scene, the trial was based on an assault, with Simon Mule being accused of throwing a brick at Jim Jones, witnessed by Judy Hitchcock, on Wigperson Road....

As they progressed through the trial, calling upon witness Judy Hitchcock, the scenarios put forward by Jim Jones certainly raised a smile from the judges.

Both Declan and Shannon, questioned the witnesses confidently, even if the witnesses were not truly co-operating, both finalists displayed excellent advocacy skills in the court room.

Simon Mule, claimed his actions were purely in self defence...



Andrew Dennis – Simon Mule



HHJ Coupland

HHJ Coe QC

JP Massarella



Shannon Keenan cross examining Lisa Hardy – Judy Hitchcock

Mock Trial 2

Prosecutor: Amber Collington (Eversheds-Sutherland)

Defence: Hannah Spicer-Short (VHS Fletchers)

Amber Collington opened the trial with an excellent summary of the case and began questioning Jim Jones, which we must say seemed to be a different interpretation of the story we heard in the first trial.

Hannah's cross examination of Judy Hitchcock, was well steered, especially as Judy's acting skills became more dramatic.



Jim Buckley – Jim Jones



Prosecutor - Amber Collington



Defence – Hannah Spicer-Short

Yet again, our finalists displayed control, eye contact, confidence and excellent advocacy skills.

The Results

The cases concluded and judges HHJ Coe QC, HHJ Coupland and JP Massarella left the court room to discuss the performance of all the finalists and deliberate on who would be the 2022 Hammond Cup winner.

On returning into the court room, HHJ Coupland thanked everyone for their involvement, the excellent acting skills, drama and use of language.

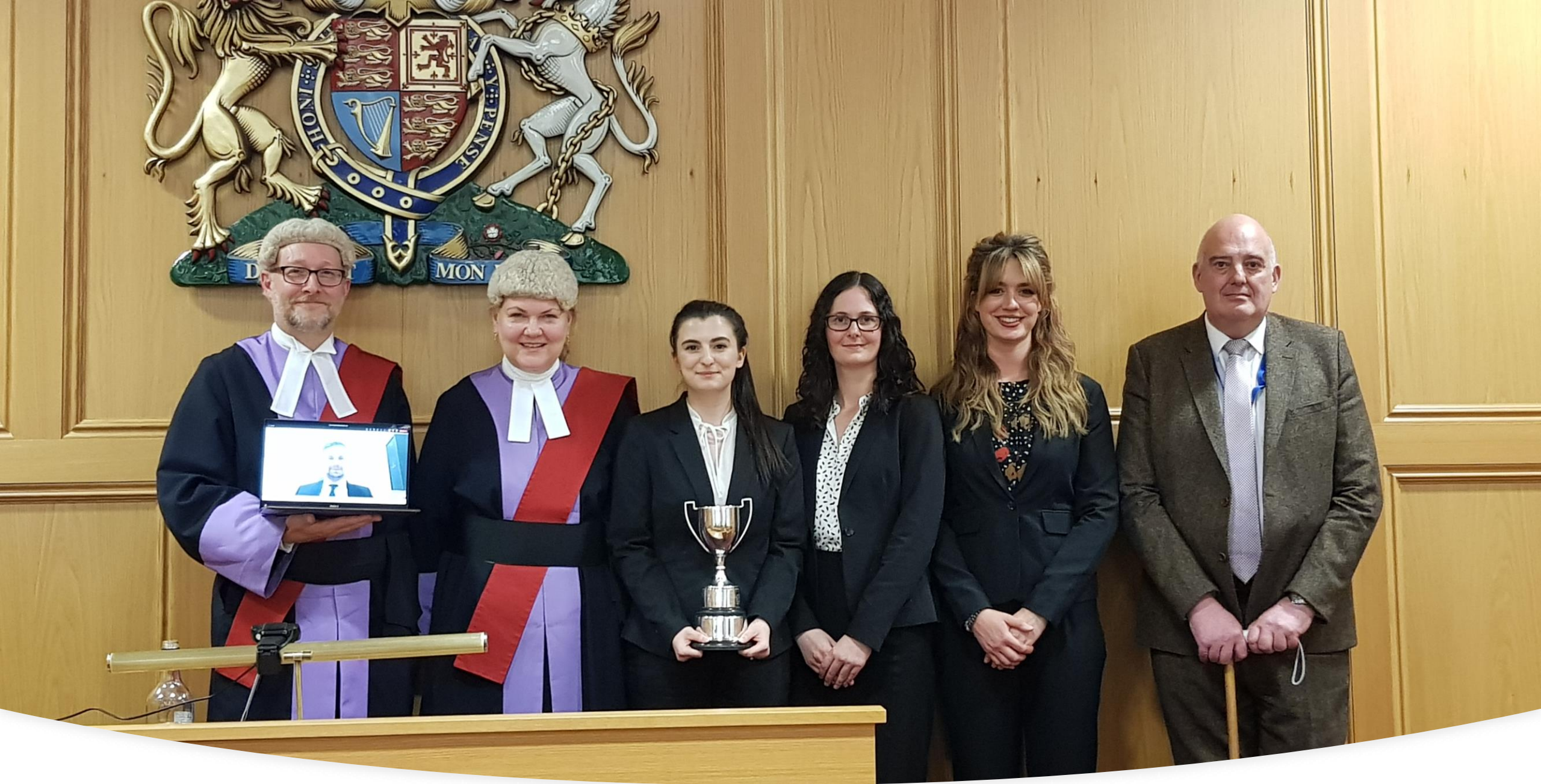
HHJ Coe QC, delivered the feedback on all the finalists, congratulating them all for their display of excellent advocacy skills.

The placings were announced...

1 st place	Shannon Keenan
2 nd place	Hannah Spicer-Short
3 rd place	Amber Collington
4 th place	Declan Smith



Hammond Cup presentation to Shannon Keenan by Sara Davies & Philip Turton



HHJ Coupland – Declan Smith – HHJ Coe QC – Shannon Keenan – Hannah Spicer-Short – Amber Collington – JP Massarella



Hammond Cup Winner 2022 – Shannon Keenan