

4th Tony Oposa Intergenerational Moot Court

5 June 2018

(Caen, France)

Reflections from Students at the William S. Richardson School of Law,

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, United States

Priya Rashid

I had the incredible opportunity to represent the University of Hawai'i, William S. Richardson School of Law in the 4th Tony Oposa Intergenerational Moot Court. The problem concerned the legality of geoengineering as a climate mitigation and adaptation tool. My focus was on the intersection of climate science, the role of small island developing states, and indigenous participatory rights.

Geoengineering is the large-scale and deliberate intervention into Earth's systems to mitigate the impacts of anthropocentric climate change. The technology attempts to harness human innovation and natural systems to cool the planet. Researching the technological, legal, and ethical bounds of geoengineering was interesting, overwhelming, and at times terrifying. Human behavior, human choice, and human action are so strong that we changed our climate and now we must desperately try to correct our actions. As the topics indicate, we live in a world of harsh relations and significant suffering. From this human and natural suffering comes conflict, violence, and war. The current climate crisis for me is an indication of our human conflict with our own home, our Earth.

However, by conducting this research and meeting my colleagues, the faculty, scholars, and other mentors, I have realized that we are attempting to change and rethink our planet's course and repair the suffering we have collectively caused whether it is the suffering of inequality, climate change, racism, and conflict, or the many other challenges facing current and future generations.

Attending this Moot Court has affirmed that regardless of whether our focus of study is on environmental policy, humanitarian law, human rights, or socioeconomic development, we all study and work diligently to do our small piece and make the world better, safer, and more peaceful for all people. Though I am just a student beginning my career, I can see that this is hard and at times tireless work. Nevertheless, when we come together to form communities like this, we allow our work and our commitment to ripple and resonate to others. We strengthen one another and push each other to benefit in many areas of world. And for that realization, I would like to thank my coach and mentors, especially Professor David Forman, but also my colleagues who have quickly become friends working toward a renewed sense of hope and peace.

Miranda Steed

I would like to thank Emilie Gaillard and David Forman for the wonderful opportunity to attend the 4th Tony Oposa Intergenerational Moot Court and the Normandy World Peace Forum. As a young person, it can be difficult to find one's voice in the world. These moot courts give young people the opportunity to be heard and to stand up for their rights and the rights of their children.

I was fortunate enough to participate in the 3rd Tony Oposa Intergenerational Moot Court in Brazil in March 2018 during the World Water Forum. There we debated whether rivers have legal personality and the sufficiency of the international framework for transboundary freshwater usage. This timely moot court in Caen, France continued my research and improved my practical skills to work toward ensuring environmental protection for future generations by presenting legal arguments in front of esteemed justices from around the world and empowering the students to continue fighting for environmental justice.