2020 FSM National Law Day Debate

The Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia wishes to congratulate the debate teams who participated in the 2020 FSM National Law Day debates for the outstanding performance.

FSM National Law Day is an annually sponsored program by the court that features high school students representing the states of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap in debates on issues of national significance. The FSM Supreme Court was established as the highest Court of the nation on July 12, 1981. Since then, the Court commemorates its anniversary every year on July 12th by sponsoring these debates. Unfortunately because of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the debates were not on July 12, 2020 but were instead delayed until September 1, 2020. In keeping with Corona Virus restrictions, the debates were conducted virtually.

The four top high schools that competed this year were:

Yap Catholic High School (YCHS)
Debaters: Trinity Edilyong & Theo Thiesen
Alternate: Sheldon Orhaitil
Coach: Joshua Terence LibyanFinelab Tun
Yap State Team

Xavier High School
Debaters: Giovanni Nedelec & Tesanee Chiro
Alternate: Givaleine Suka
Coach: Martin K. Carl
Chuuk State Team

Calvary Christian Academy (CCA)
Debaters: Akilla Haber & Mercedes Olter
Alternate: Noah Adams
Coach: Virginia John
Pohnpei State Team

Seventh Day Adventist (SDA)
Debaters: Sophia M. Bacalando & Victoria Tiare Mae Carl
Alternate: Amber Miya Nakasone Senda
The debate proposition for this year was:

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA FILE A CLAIM WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE AGAINST THE MORE DEVELOPED NATIONS, WHO ARE HOST TO LARGE MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS, WHICH HAVE CONTRIBUTED HEAVILY TO GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE, SEEKING REDRESS AND RELIEF INCLUDING MONETARY DAMAGES.”

Yap Catholic High School 1st placed Seventh Day Adventist High School placed 2nd, Calvary Christian Academy placed 3rd and Xavier High School placed 4th. Each the debater and Coach each received a laptop. Along with a laptop, student debater were rewarded a scholarship of $2000/each and alternate debaters were rewarded $500.

The 2020 National Law Day Debates are available on youtube.com at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-FnGv02N8k