

Swiss Client Interview Competition 2015

Switzerland's Report to the Committee of the ICCC

The Swiss Client Interview Competition (SCIC) is a law student program that provides talented Swiss law students training and coaching in client consultation skills. It takes place once in a year, normally from October to December. Candidates studying at a Swiss university apply individually and are selected based on their applications.

In this year's competition, the training seminar on client consultation was held at the University of Lucerne. Jane Jarman, a Solicitor in England & Wales and lecturer at the Nottingham Trent University, a partner university of Lucerne, held the seminar together with Jean-Luc Delli, director of Lawbility. After a general introduction and various exercises on the use of legal English and the art of fact finding and questioning the real practice began: For two days the candidates trained their client interview skills, sometimes acting as a lawyer, sometimes as a client in order to enable the other students to exercise.

All seminar participants qualified for the competition round of the SCIC, which took place in December 2015 in the offices of the international law firm CMS von Erlach Poncet AG in Zurich. Students had to team up and competed in two competition rounds, where they were judged by four different independent practicing lawyers and experts. Based on the student's performance and the score sheet, the judges selected two students to represent Switzerland in the International Client Consultation Competition in April 2016 in Windsor (Canada). Judges, actors and the candidates had lunch together as well as a reception at the end of the day, which gave the students the possibility to talk to and learn from qualified lawyers with years of experience. From the winning team, only Lucas Seiler was able to participate in the ICCC 2016 and the SCIC nominated the second placed team, Sibylle Tanner and Michelle Spahn, to represent Switzerland in the international competition.



Candidates of the Swiss Client Interview Competition 2015 (from left to right):

Michelle Spahn, Sebastian Sutter, Sibylle Tanner, Eva Altmann, Lucas Seiler, Elisabeth Everson, Stephan Greber, Jane Jarman (lecturer), Eva Diener.

Michelle Spahn, Sibylle Tanner, Lucas Seiler