

## 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 were on July 12, 2020 but were instead delayed until September 1, 2020. In keeping with Corona Virus restrictions, the debates were conducted virtually.



Debate teams on the Zoom platform

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

**Coach:** Leonito Bacalando Jr.  
**Pohnpei State Team**

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.”



**Debate between CCA Pohnpei and Yap Catholic High school**  
Judges on top left corner of the screen, Team CCA on top right, Yap bottom left and Moderator bottom left.

Yap Catholic High School 1<sup>st</sup> placed Seventh Day Adventist High School placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, Calvary Christian Academy placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and Xavier High School placed 4<sup>th</sup>. 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>