

A GLIMPSE INTO THE REALITIES OF LEGAL PRACTICE

The excitement among the group of well dressed young people was palpable. They were all sitting around in the lobby of ATC eagerly looking out for the bus that will bring them to their destination. The date was 14th of March 2011 and the destination was the Kuala Lumpur Court complex in Jalan Duta, Kuala Lumpur. A collective sigh of excitement arose as soon as the bus came into view. The CLP departments field trip was about to begin.

This was another programme in the department's continued agenda in providing the students with a holistic and well rounded education. Non-academic exposure to legal practice will provide the student with a glimpse of what lies ahead and it also helps put the academic material that they have studied into perspective.

The motley group of students numbering about 45 in total reached the court complex at approximately 8.45am. The students were privileged in that the visit was to be guided by Mr. Jason Lim, former Advocate & Solicitor of the High Court of Malaya and lecturer at law at ATC. He was accompanied by Mr. Daniel Abishegam, who himself was a former Advocate & Solicitor of the High Court of Malaya and is currently the Head of Department for CLP and Mr. Joseph Low the CLP Course Advisor

The group was briefed by Mr. Jason with regard to court etiquette and was taken on a tour to the various important departments around the court complex. These include the filing counters, the registries of the various divisions of the High Court and the Subordinate Court. After this the students were divided into smaller groups of 7 to 8 students. These groups were then taken to various court rooms to sit in on the proceedings and to see the procedural rules that they have studied being played out in real life.

It was amazing to see the sparkle in these student's eyes as they saw senior lawyers doing what they do best. It was inspiring to say the least. Many of them sat in on a matter where YB Karpal Singh was arguing a case and hopefully managed to pick up a few pointers.

After a few hours of watching court proceedings, the students then grouped together in the lobby of the court complex and the students were taken on a tour to various places in the court building that would be relevant to their studies. This tour culminated in the place where all the most important work gets done; the court cafeteria.

The group met for a photograph in the impressive lobby of the court complex at approximately 12pm. It is hoped that the group left the court complex that day with a renewed vigour which will be applied to their study of the law.

Daniel Abishegam.

