

## Swiss Client Interview Competition 2013

### Report to the Committee of the ICCC

#### Swiss Client Interview Competition 2013

The Swiss Client Interview Competition 2013 was held in line with the **Lawbility Lawyer Skills Program**. Twelve students from all over Switzerland participated in a workshop which took place in the premises of the University of Lucerne (Switzerland) on 16 November 2013. Eight out of those twelve students moved forward to the national competition which took place in the law firm of Wenger Plattner in Basel (Switzerland) on 30 November 2013.



*Master Class on the professional language of law and on client interviewing strategies*

The workshop day at the University of Lucerne started off with a coffee by the Lake of Lucerne lakeside, where competitors and coaches had the chance to get to know each other. The introductory lecture about the most important lawyers' skills was given by Richard Norman, solicitor (England & Wales) and legal English coach in Zurich and London. That kicked the workshop off. It was followed by numerous opportunities to practice client interviews, where all students were given the chance to put the newly learned interviewing techniques to use. Those students were accompanied and supported at all times by Richard Norman and Jean-Luc Delli, director of Lawbility. The day ended with the announcement of the finalists for the Swiss Client Interview Competition, and at the end of all workshop business, there was a delicious wine and cheese reception at the *Bahnhofbar* in the Lucerne main station.



*Swiss Client Interview Competition (Basel 2013): Judges discuss the performance*

At the Swiss Client Interview Competition, the eight nominated competitors had to team up with another student lawyer. On the competition day each of those four teams had to master two client interviews of 45 minutes each, which were both based on a civil-law problem.

"Interviewing a client includes both attentively listening to the client's explanations and actively investigating the facts of the case. This is what I learned in the competition."  
 Nina Menzi, winner of the Swiss Client Interview Competition 2013



*Swiss Client Interview Competition (Basel 2013) Finals:  
 Michael Erben / Christian Kunz*



*Swiss Client Interview Competition (Basel 2013):  
 Judges discuss the performance*

During the lunch-break students had the opportunity to get to know some of the judges and chat about the first part of the competition. The finalists' performances were judged by independent jurors. The clients were played by voluntary actresses.



*Swiss Client Interview Competition (Basel 2013) Finals:  
Robertina Marjakaj / Elena Biaggini*



*Swiss Client Interview Competition (Basel 2013) Finals:  
Seraina Gubler / Valentina Zihlmann*

At the end of the day, the jurors selected and announced one team to represent Switzerland in the International Client Consultation Competition in April 20 14 in Puerto Rico.

*Nina Menzi  
Isabelle Stalder  
March 2014*



*International Client Consultation Competition  
(Puerto Rico 2014) Finals:  
Nina Menzi and Isabelle Stalder (Swiss competitors),  
Jean-Luc Delli (Programme Director, Lawbility Ltd.)*

*"I learned how to interact with clients, including  
how to spot their main issues, find the right  
solution for their situation and explain legal  
concepts in a comprehensive way."  
Isabelle Stalder, winner of the Swiss Client  
Interview Competition 2013*

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