

**Accessible Read Moot Problem**

Welcome to the Herbert Smith Freehills Disability Mooting Championship: Oxford v Cambridge. This exciting moot court competition aims to promote the study of disability and the law. A moot court competition is a mock court case where two teams debate an issue of law in a made-up factual situation – the moot ‘problem’. In the Grand Final of this competition, the issues of law are being considered by the Supreme Court – the highest court in the United Kingdom. The moot problem, that we are about to hear argued in this Grand Final, deals with the definition of ‘the body’ in criminal law and how it relates to mobility aids.

**Summary of the facts of the case:**

Ms Vacon has a detachable prosthetic leg. Mr Toon has a prosthetic arm, having bought a new one he left his old prosthesis on top of his bin. When Ms Dwinn walked past the bin she saw the prosthesis and thinking it could be valuable decided to take it and hid it under her jacket. Afterwards, she saw Ms Vacon and noticed her expensive jewellery. Ms Dwinn positioned two fingers of the prosthesis into her jacket and the rest of the arm hidden from view. She demanded that Ms Vacon hand over her jewellery and handbag. Ms Vacon thought she had a firearm and handed over her possessions. She did not realise it was a prosthetic arm until later. Ms Vacon started to resist and as a result Ms Dwinn attacked Ms Vacon causing significant damage to her prosthetic leg.

1. The Court of Appeal held that a prosthetic could be considered an imitation firearm
2. The Court also held that the damage to Ms Vacon’s prosthetic leg could not be classed as ‘actual bodily harm’.

These points are now considered in the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom.