Moot Court Programs 2015–2016

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September 2015

Dear Class of 2018:

In the spring, you will take the second half of the Legal Practice Workshop. As in the fall, you will receive one (1) point of credit for this course. A requirement of the Workshop is that, in addition to the coursework, you participate in one of the Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP moot courts or in one of the approved international moot court programs listed below. Most of you will satisfy this requirement through participation in the 1L Foundation Moot Court. Through that program, you will receive a problem in January and, working in pairs, write several drafts of an appellate brief. You will then orally argue your position before a panel of alumni and student judges.

You may also satisfy this requirement through participation in one of the following:

- American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA) Moot Court
- Environmental Law Moot Court
- European Law Moot Court (EU)
- Frederick Douglass Moot Court
- Jessup International Moot Court
- LaLSA Moot Court
- National Native American Law Students Association Moot Court
- Vienna International Arbitration Moot Court (Vis)

Enrollment for each of the programs listed above is limited. These programs have their own timetables, which are set by the sponsoring organizations. For some of the programs, you will begin writing your brief in the fall semester. However, regardless of the timetable or other requirements of the particular program in which you participate, you will need to attend and complete satisfactorily the corresponding Legal Practice Workshop section, which runs through the entire spring semester. As part of this course, you will revise your brief under the supervision of a student editor and instructor, in order to satisfy the 1L requirements.*

I hope that you have an engaging and rewarding moot court experience!

Sincerely,

Ilene Strauss
Director, Legal Writing and Moot Court Programs

*The arrangements for the international programs—EU, Jessup, and Vis—are somewhat different, so you should consult with the student coordinators and the supervising faculty members of those programs.
The Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP Moot Court Program

1L Foundation Moot Court

Beginning in January, each 1L participant researches and writes an appellate brief under the close supervision of an upper-class student editor and an instructor. The problems are designed by the editors and in the past have involved a range of legal issues, including First Amendment violations, trademark infringement, libel, securities fraud, employment discrimination, and criminal law. The editors and instructors work with the participants through all stages of the research, drafting, and revision process. Later in the semester, student will present oral arguments on their briefs before panels of alumni attorneys and student judges. The 1L Foundation Moot Court is an excellent opportunity for 1L students to develop and apply the research and writing skills acquired in the fall semester, while offering students practical training in brief writing, revision, and appellate advocacy. The structure and pace of the course allow students to create polished writing samples while reflecting on the purpose of various components of an appellate brief.

Satisfactory completion of the 1L Foundation Moot Court fulfills the moot court requirement and is mandatory for those not participating in an equivalent specialized moot court program.

Eligibility
All 1L students are eligible to participate in the spring and no application is required. Foundation Moot Court is mandatory for those not participating in an equivalent specialized moot court program.

Requirements
Satisfactory completion of an appellate brief and oral argument

Contact Information
Steven LoCascio, Student Director: steven.locascio@columbia.edu

This program is made possible by the generous support of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP.
American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA) Moot Court

The Giles Sutherland Rich Moot Court Competition, sponsored by the American Intellectual Property Law Association, is a moot court devoted to issues of intellectual property law. Last year’s problem, for example, dealt with the patentability of a treadmill designed to treat feline disease. Through participation in the AIPLA Moot Court, students will learn the basics of intellectual property law and the appellate procedures of the Federal Circuit.

Requirements

While the AIPLA Moot Court problem will address issues in intellectual property law, no formal background in science, technology, copyright, or other IP areas is necessary. Team selections will be made based on the completion of application materials and an enthusiasm for intellectual property and/or public speaking.

Intellectual property is a growing practice within the legal profession that touches upon a variety of industries, including science, technology, healthcare, media, entertainment, sports, and finance, among others. Many private law firms report a growing need for intellectual property departments, while both cases and transactions more frequently feature an intellectual property component.

Our internal moot court curriculum is designed so that team members will first receive exposure to intellectual property law and public speaking, at which point they will be prepared to address the AIPLA Moot Court problem.

Schedule

To determine which teams will attend the regional competition in March 2016, we will judge students’ legal writing and oral advocacy skills based on the submission of the first LPW memo and hold oral arguments based on a patent-related prompt in mid-October. All students must compete in the internal competition.

The top two teams from the internal competition will advance to the regional competition, where students will represent Columbia Law School against teams from other schools. Regional competitors, in teams of two, write an appellant and an appellee brief over winter break. Each team will work closely with the editors and coaches, who will assist with research and the brief-writing process. The regional competition will be held this March in Boston. The top teams from each regional competition advance to the national competition, where students argue before the Federal Circuit for the championship title and a prize of $2,000. Last year the team of Ryan Hayward and Catriela Cohen received the award for Best Appellee Brief and came in first at regionals, and went on to reach the semifinals of the national competition. Last year’s team of Adam Peck and Kathryn Smits received the award for Best Appellant Brief and Best Oral Advocate, and placed second in the national competition. Columbia was the only school represented by 1Ls at both the regional or national competition.
Application Process
We will select at least twelve students for the AIPLA moot court this fall. Applications will be distributed at our information session on September 16. Interested students who are not able to attend the information session should contact Kathryn Smits directly for application materials. Applications will be due when moot court rankings are due.

AIPLA Information Session
Monday, September 16
12:10–1 p.m.
Lunch will be provided.

Contact Information
Kathryn Smits: kls2204@columbia.edu
Adam Peck: abp2155@law.columbia.edu
Ryan Hayward: rjh2142@law.columbia.edu
Catriela Cohen: ccc2173@columbia.edu

This program is made possible by the generous support of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP.
Environmental Law Moot Court

The Environmental Law Moot Court (ELMC) Competition is a great way to fulfill your 1L moot court requirement while working on a fascinating legal issue. Past years’ problems have covered various areas of environmental law and included statutory, constitutional, and international considerations. Recent topics have included: a dispute over which federal agency should regulate waste dumped into water bodies, the ability to sue a carbon dioxide emitter for contributing to global warming, risks to ocean resources from the excavation of a historical shipwreck, and constitutional limits on water pollution regulation. Every year the problem spans a multitude of legal areas including, but not limited to: evidence, property, administrative/regulatory, and constitutional law.

Informational Meeting
The first general interest meeting for ELMC will be held Thursday, September 17. Up to 12 students may participate in ELMC. One team composed of three 1L Columbia Law School students will attend the Pace National Environmental Moot Court Competition at Pace Law School on February 18-20. All other students will participate in an internal oral argument round in mid-March.

ELMC is one of the few moot courts where competitors for the Pace event are selected at the beginning of the fall semester, rather than students continuing to compete against each other for a slot in the spring.

Internal Program
The internal Columbia environmental law moot court is not competitive. The oral argument round will be judged by professionals and experts in the area of environmental law. This option is recommended for those students who wish to fulfill their moot court requirement and improve both writing and oral skills in a non-competitive program.

Application: National Program
Applications to join the Pace team will be distributed at our first meeting. Students wishing to participate in the Pace competition should submit an application via email to Raymond Moss by 12 p.m., September 21. All those who submit an application will be contacted to set up a time for a brief audition and interview with the editors. Last year the team of Raymond Moss, Abigail Cooper, and Elizabeth Brody reached the semifinals of the national competition. Columbia was the only school represented by 1Ls at the national competition.

Application: Internal Program
Students interested in the internal program may opt out of the application process. These students may sign up to join at our informational meeting or by email to Raymond Moss by 12 p.m., September 21. If interest exceeds the maximum of 12 students, a short statement of interest will be requested from those who do not submit applications for Pace.
Though it is not required that students interested in participating in the internal program apply to be a member of the external team, last year interest in the program far exceeded available spots. As a result, a space in the internal program could only be offered to those students who had demonstrated their strong interest by applying for the external team. Therefore we strongly encourage students interested in the internal program to apply to the external team as well.

**Important Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 17, 2015 at 4:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Informational meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, September 21, 2015 by 12 p.m.</td>
<td>Application due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, October 2, 2015</td>
<td>Release of problem for Pace competition</td>
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<td>Written brief for Pace competition due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 1, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 18-20, 2016</td>
<td>Oral Argument Competition at Pace University</td>
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**Contact Information**

Raymond Moss: rdm2148@columbia.edu  
Abigail Cooper: aqc2111@columbia.edu  
Elizabeth Brody: eab2222@columbia.edu

*This program is made possible by the generous support of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP.*
The Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP Moot Court Program

Frederick Douglass Moot Court
Sponsored by the National Black Law Students Association

Become an Outstanding Advocate
The Frederick Douglass Moot Court team is looking for 1Ls from all backgrounds that are excited about developing their writing and advocacy skills. Topics generally concern constitutional law issues affecting minorities, and in recent years have included cruel and unusual punishment, due process, ineffective assistance of counsel, the Defense of Marriage Act, minority voting rights, classification of NCAA athletes as employees, affirmative action, torture, and racial profiling.

Become Part of a Winning Legacy
The Frederick Douglass (Fred Doug) team is truly a team—and in fact the largest competitive team at Columbia Law School. The team members work closely together throughout the year and inevitably develop a tangible identity within the Law School. Fred Doug 2Ls and 3Ls remain actively and enthusiastically involved, serving as coaches, editors, and judges. This loyalty and support is integral to our team’s long tradition of excellence in competition. Last year, our team swept the regional competition by winning all six competitive awards, sending the first, second, and third place teams to nationals along with winning best petitioner brief and best respondent brief and best oral advocate awards. At the national competition, Columbia Law School teams placed second, third, and fourth in the country, with a competitor winning the best oral advocate award. In prior years we have had similar success, including winning the national competition and for three of the past four years, having our competitors receive Columbia’s Simon H. Rifkind Prize for best first-year moot court performance.

Make the Most of Your Moot Court Experience
You can expect Frederick Douglass Moot Court to be a substantial time commitment, but you can also expect huge returns on your investment. You and your partner will work with 2L editors who will workshop your brief several times before submission, making the final product an excellent writing sample for employers. Once the second semester begins, your focus will turn to oral advocacy. You will be expected to master both sides of the problem—an incredibly rewarding challenge. Each team will complete numerous practice sessions in the weeks leading up to the regional competition. During those sessions, panels of student judges will challenge your arguments and provide extensive individual feedback. After all this prep work, you will feel prepared to field tough questions asked by attorneys, professors, and judges during competition. You will be astonished by how confident you become in the hot seat, both in the courtroom and classroom.
Application Information
Information session: Tuesday, September 15th, 12:10–1:10 p.m.
Online Application: Tuesday, September 15–Monday, September 21 at 11:59 p.m.
Oral Try-Outs: Wednesday, September 23 and Thursday, September 24
Number of participants sought: 16

Contact Information

COACHES
Michael DiBattista: msd2179@law.columbia.edu
Courtney Hodge: ceh2180@law.columbia.edu

EDITORS
Andrea Flores: arf2142@columbia.edu
Nicole Smith: nes2142@columbia.edu
Jachele Valez: jmv2135@columbia.edu

This program is made possible by the generous support of
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP.
The Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP Moot Court Program

Latino/a Law Students Association (LaLSA) Moot Court

The LaLSA Moot Court program offers law students the opportunity to develop brief-writing and oral advocacy skills while exploring complex contemporary issues in asylum law. Every year, thousands of refugees apply for asylum in the United States to escape persecution in their home countries. The LaLSA Moot Court will focus on the legal issues that affect those asylum claims. Students will compete in the 9th Annual Asylum and Refugee Law National Moot Court Competition hosted by UC Davis School of Law.

The Competition
We are looking for twelve dedicated first-year law students of all backgrounds. Three student coaches and two student editors will assist selected students. During the fall semester, students will participate in oral advocacy and legal research training and will also be invited to various social events to build relationships with team members, coaches, and editors. The competition problem will be released in early December, and students will spend winter break writing the first draft of their briefs.

The final draft of the brief will be due in mid-January after a week-long boot-camp on legal research and writing and oral advocacy. During this time, students will begin practicing their oral arguments in preparation for the internal competition, which will be judged by respected practitioners, professors, and judges in late January. The three winning teams will represent Columbia Law School in the national competition, which will be held during the first weekend of spring break in Northern California.

The Application
Students will be chosen based on two criteria: (1) a 250-word statement of interest and (2) an oral presentation. The statement of interest should discuss why students wish to join the LaLSA Moot Court team, what they can contribute to the program, and any experiences relevant to the selection process, including previous work or volunteer experiences. The oral presentation will require students to choose a side in an asylum issue and defend their position before the student coaches and editors. The issue will be thoroughly explained in the application materials, so no outside research will be necessary.

Important Dates
September 11  Application released
September 15  LaLSA Moot Court informational session
September 18  Written application due by email
September 21-22  Oral arguments
October 5  Acceptance announcement
Contact Information
Melissa Fedornak, Editor: mtf2134@columbia.edu
Arielle Klepach, Editor: afk2122@columbia.edu
Rebekah Rodriguez, Coach: rmr2176@columbia.edu
Milan Udawatta, Coach: mu2226@columbia.edu
Rebecca Urquiola, Coach: rmu2104@columbia.edu

This program is made possible by the generous support of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP.
The National Native American Law Students Association (NNALSA) has hosted a national moot court competition since 1993, offering students from all backgrounds a great opportunity to gain experience in the truly unique, multidisciplinary, and challenging field of Federal Indian Law. Recent topics in the area of Federal Indian Law include the “Baby Veronica” child custody case, the current Washington Redskins name change controversy, and casino gambling regulations.

After a few primer classes on basic Federal Indian law, participants spend part of the fall semester or winter break working with their partner to write a brief based on a problem published in November by the host school. Briefs are due in January, after which teams practice with their coaches and editors for oral argument. All participants will attend the national competition in the first week of March 2016. Each team argues at least twice at the national competition—once on the side for which they wrote their brief and once on the opposite side. Sixteen teams are selected to advance beyond these preliminary rounds and are assigned different sides to argue for up to five additional elimination rounds. Scores at the competition combine teams’ brief scores with their scores for oral argument. Prizes are awarded for best brief, best individual oralist, and best performance.

Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan will host the competition this year. Columbia Law School teams are consistently among the top teams at the national competition. In 2015 two Columbia teams advanced to the round of sixteen and one team finished in the top 4. In 2014, two Columbia teams advanced to the round of sixteen. In 2013, three Columbia teams advanced to the round of sixteen, one Columbia team finished 2nd place overall, and one team was awarded 2nd place best brief. In 2012, a Columbia team finished 3rd overall. In 2011, Columbia won 1st place best individual oralist, 3rd place best brief, and 3rd place best overall performance.

**Three Important Points**

- First, EVERYONE is eligible to participate and encouraged to apply. You do not have to be Native American, and most past participants have had little to no exposure to Federal Indian Law prior to joining the team.
- Second, EVERYONE who participates will compete in the national competition in Michigan. We do not have an elimination round at Columbia before the national competition to reduce the number of teams we send.
- Third, 1L students receive credit for the NALSA Moot Court, and are exempt from the Foundation Moot Court requirement. 2L and 3L students may receive minor writing credit for their brief work.
**Projected Timeline**

- **September 16, 2015**
  - Moot court application released
- **September 16, 2015**
  - Information Session at 6:30 p.m.
- **September 26, 2015**
  - Moot court application due by 8 p.m.
- **November 1, 2015**
  - Problem published on NNALSA website
- **January 2016**
  - Briefs due
- **January–February 2016**
  - Oral argument practice with NALSA coaches
- **March 5–6, 2016**
  - Participate in the national competition held at Michigan State College of Law in East Lansing, Michigan

**Contact Information**

Dhrumit Joshi, Moot Court Editor: ddj2111@columbia.edu
Rori Collins, Moot Court Editor: rdc2148@columbia.edu
Todd Densen, Moot Court Head Coach: tjd2133@columbia.edu
Morgan Saunders, Moot Court Coach: mes2292@columbia.edu
Saagar Kaul, Moot Court Coach: saagar.kaul@law.columbia.edu

*This program is made possible by the generous support of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP.*
European Law Moot Court

The European Law Moot Court deals with current issues in European law. This moot court is an exciting chance to tackle questions of current legal, social, and practical significance emerging from European integration and political changes in Europe.

Working on the moot court exposes team members to issues beyond what they would normally see in the 1L curriculum, giving team members a unique and valuable opportunity to learn about another legal system in depth. For instance, last year’s problem dealt with EU competition law, State aid rules, and environmental and jurisdictional issues in the context of a public tender. The previous year’s problem touched on inter-Member State same-sex marriage recognition and cross-border healthcare.

Schedule

There are three stages to the competition—the submission of written pleadings, the oral rounds in cities across Europe and around the world, and the oral finals at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. Because the written pleadings are due at the end of November, the teams begin working on their briefs at the end of September. This work is especially exciting for our 1L members, as it will give them exposure to brief writing before any of their peers, while allowing them to finish moot court work with time to focus on finals and enjoy their winter break. Two teams of three to four students work on two written briefs—one for the applicant’s side and one for the defendant’s.

If a team’s written pleading is selected by the regional moot court committee, the team will advance to one of the regional finals across Europe in February. Columbia has gone to the regional finals every year it has participated in the competition, and the Law School graciously funds the trip to Europe. Last year, both teams advanced to regional finals, which were held in Prague, Czech Republic and Bremen, Germany. The previous years the teams advanced to Aix-en-Provence, France and Turin, Italy. The judges include prominent scholars of European law as well as officials from the European Court of Justice. Not only did team members gain invaluable experience in conducting oral arguments, but they were also able to meet with governmental officials, tour the host countries, and meet with other competitors from all over Europe and America. Additionally, Columbia Law School students have frequently won the best oralist award at regional finals.

The top team from each regional final as well as one individual team member then advance to the All-European Final, held at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg in March or April.

Application Process

We will be selecting six to eight team members for the 2015-16 competition (two teams of three to four members each). We encourage 1Ls, 2Ls, 3Ls and LL.M.s to apply. Knowledge of French (at any level of competency) is highly desirable, though not necessary. Previous exposure to European law and/or previous experience with public speaking or debate will be considered assets, but are by no means required. We strongly encourage any interested students to apply.
Our application timeline is as follows:

**September 17, 2015**  
Information session at 6 p.m.

**September 21, 2015**  
Resume, brief statement of interest (1 paragraph), and a 1-2 page writing sample of your clearest academic or professional writing to Aaron Rogoff and Caroline Ceriello.

**September 23, 2015**  
Top candidates notified and invited back for oral tryouts ASAP thereafter, and subsequently notified of acceptance.

**Contact Information**

Aaron Rogoff: asr2181@columbia.edu  
Caroline Ceriello: cc3031@columbia.edu
Jessup International Law Moot Court

The Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition is the world’s largest moot court, with participants from more than 550 law schools across over 80 nations. The competition simulates a dispute between two countries before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the judicial arm of the United Nations. Recent topics have included the right of self-determination, the threat or use of force, international protections for cultural property, international environmental regulation, and the law of the high seas. This year’s problem involves the legality of mass surveillance programs and cyberattacks attributable to states.

Columbia Law School Jessup Team

The Columbia Law School Jessup team has been one of the most successful in the history of the Jessup competition, winning national championships eight out of the last ten years and frequently advancing to become finalists or competition winners at the international level. Team members have also received numerous awards for their written submissions and individual accolades for being the best oralists at the preliminary and final rounds.

This year, the Columbia Law School Jessup team seeks to recruit three (3) new members. Joining as a 1L requires a two-year commitment. Participation in Jessup fulfills the 1L moot court requirement and, as a 2L, may fulfill the minor writing requirement and earn course credit. All Columbia Jessup team members write a portion of the memorials and argue before the Judges during competition rounds. In addition, the Jessup competition maintains an alumni network, the Friends of the Jessup, through which professionals in both public and private international law remain in active contact.

Application Process

1Ls applying for the Columbia Jessup team will be requested to submit a short written brief arguing one side of a hypothetical contentious case before the ICJ. If selected to advance to the oral rounds, candidates will be requested to present a 10-minute argument for the opposite side of the same case. Candidates will occasionally be interrupted by judges with questions relating to their arguments. Participation on the Columbia team is a tremendously rewarding experience that gives students access to exceptional coaching in legal writing and oral advocacy, a forum for intellectually stimulating discussions on issues of international law, and an opportunity to meet law students and practitioners from around the world. Participants will also have access to a superb network of current and former participants, including alumni at numerous law firms, international organizations, nonprofits, and across the federal government.
Important Dates

While subject to minor adjustment, we ask that you please keep the below dates in mind:

September 10, 2015
Moot court lunch and release of application materials

September 15, 2015 at 8 p.m.
Jessup information session

September 22, 2015 at 11:59 p.m.
Candidates’ written briefs due

September 26-27, 2015
Oral auditions
(with possible interviews on the 25th)

October 5, 2015
Announcement of new team members

Contact Information

columbia.jessup@gmail.com
Vienna International Arbitration Moot Court (Vis)

What We Do
We represent Columbia Law School at the annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, one of the most prestigious law school moot court competitions in the world and dubbed the “Olympics” of international commercial arbitration. Each year, the competition attracts almost 300 law schools from around the world.

The Vis Moot is based on a hypothetical private contractual dispute in international trade. It involves the submission of two written memos and an oral competition held in March or April in Vienna, Austria, and the sister moot, Vis East, held in Hong Kong. Columbia Law School has a long tradition of sending a team to Vienna and in some years, to the Hong Kong competition as well.

The preparation for the written memos begins in the fall. In spring, we will participate in a number of pre-moots held at other law schools and law firms in New York and DC. In the past we have also entered pre-moots held in European cities such as Dusseldorf, Budapest and the Hague.

Columbia has consistently performed well at the Vis Moot, winning the inaugural moot in 1994 and the award for best Claimant Memorandum in 2006. Over the years, team members have consistently taken home speaking awards in the Vienna competition.

The Columbia Vis team’s participation is made possible through the generous support of the Dean’s Office; Student Services; Professors George Bermann and Alejandro Garro; as well as our international network of alumni and former Vis Moot participants.

How to Join
1L students at Columbia Law School may apply to join the Vis team at the beginning of each school year. There are no course or language pre-requisites, but a background or interest in international commercial law or arbitration will be helpful. Applications will be released mid-September and the team will hold two to three days of tryouts.

Participation in Vis satisfies the moot court component of the Legal Practice Workshop for 1Ls.

Information Session
September 16, 2015
12:10 – 1:00 p.m.

Contact Information
For any further information, please email columbiavis.request@gmail.com or contact one of the coaches:

Hannah Cho: hc2449@columbia.edu
Eli Keene: esk2126@columbia.edu
Alison Lo: ayl2134@columbia.edu
Robert Longtin: rfl2122@columbia.edu