

American Intellectual Property Law Association Moot Court



Intellectual property law (patents, copyrights, trademarks) with a focus on patents in recent years. Problems have involved constitutional law, administrative law, statutory interpretation, and more. No science background needed!

Two teams of two chosen at an internal competition in October participate in the regional competition in March and possibly the national competition in April (DC).

Contact: cls.aipla@gmail.com

Environmental Law Moot Court



The "Dawn-Storm King" (1989) by John Hulse

Why Environmental Moot Court?

- Engage with environmental legal issues during 1L year
- Problems touch on government/admin law (e.g. Chevron, Major Questions Doctrine, Clean Water Act), environmental justice, property law, and more.
- Practice oral and written advocacy!
- Connect with experienced environmental lawyers
- No environmental experience needed
- Represent the government, environmental activists, and industry

Why Enviro Moot?

For the competition team:

- Small-group bonding, intensive training, and mentoring with 2L coaches
- History of success: Columbia won the national competition in 2017 and 2023; the Best Brief award in 2018; and best oralist awards in 2021, 2022, and 2023
- Only 1L team at the national competition
- Substantive work ends in February



Chief Judge - Honorable Ke...

Honorable Wendy L. Blake

Honorable Glen Bruening



Couns. Salem

Honorable Malachy Mannio...

Media player controls including a play/pause button, a progress bar at 49:45, a volume icon, a closed captions icon, a speed control set to 1x, and a menu icon.

Why Enviro Moot?

For the internal team:

- Same environmental problem as competition team without the external competition pressures
- Taught by a prominent environmental lawyer in spring semester Legal Practice Workshop
- No deliverables due in the fall!

Application Process

- Submit Written Application on LawNet by 9/19
- Coaches select overall team (including both external and internal teams) based on written application
- Information session with overall team regarding internal vs. external team requirements and commitments
- Oral tryouts for external team held 10/3 - 10/6
- Coaches select three-person competition team

Application Components

1. Written Application

- Resume
- Statement of Interest
- Written Response to Legal Question

Application Components

2. Competition Team Oral Tryouts/Interview

- After a full-team meeting, interested students are encouraged to try out for the competition team
- 5-minute oral argument in front of the three coaches, based on the legal question from your initial application

All Applicants Welcome!

No prior environmental experience needed.

Timeline for the Competition Team

October 3	Problem released
October 3 - Nov. 20	Research and write brief
November 20	Written brief due
End of winter break	Begin preparation for oral argument (“moot camp”)
Mid-Jan. to mid-Feb.	2/week oral argument practices
February 22 - 24, 2024	National Competition at Pace University in White Plains, NY

Timeline for the Internal Team

Mid-March	Written brief due
Early April	Oral arguments

Questions? Want to talk more?

- Email us!
 - Anne Li (arl2232@columbia.edu)
 - Kai Salem (kcs2145@columbia.edu)
 - Max Cornell (mmc2319@columbia.edu)

A stylized, high-contrast portrait of Frederick Douglass, showing his characteristic white hair, beard, and glasses. The portrait is rendered in shades of gray and black against a dark background.

FREDERICK
DOUGLASS

moot court
competition

Introductions

What is Frederick Douglass Moot Court?

The Thurgood Marshall Moot Court, also known as Frederick Douglass (and affectionately known as Fred Doug) is a specialized Moot Court that focuses primarily on constitutional and civil rights law, along with topics of particular relevance to marginalized communities. Competitors, in teams of two, must submit appellate briefs during the fall semester and participate in a minimum of three oral argument rounds at Regionals in the spring semester.

Fred Doug is informally hosted by the Black Law Students' Association at CLS and you **MUST become a dues-paying BLSA member and complete community service to participate** in this moot court.



What are examples of brief issues?

- Whether a defective complaint due to a plaintiff's failure to comply with the exhaustion requirement found under Title 42 U.S.C § 1997e, a provision in the Prison Litigation Reform Act of 1995, may be cured by filing an amended complaint after his or her release from prison.
- Whether a state inflicts cruel and unusual punishment in violation of the Eighth Amendment by declining to provide gender confirmation surgery to a transgender inmate.

Why Should I Try Out for Fred Doug?

Each team will write brief as either Petitioner or Respondent

All teams argue both sides at competition

One-week Oral Advocacy Boot Camp to prepare for rounds

Close collaboration with upper-year law students

A legacy of success



How is Frederick Douglass Moot Court structured?

Brief Writing Timeline:

Early October – Competition Packets and Problems Released

Mid-October – Brief Writing Process including:

- Brief Writing Workshop
- Tailored Research Tips with Lexis Rep
- Bibliography Deadline
- Swapping argument drafts with partner

Last week of October – First Draft Argument of Brief Due

Late Nov. (before Thanksgiving) – Briefs Due

Oral Advocacy Timeline:

January 3rd – 6th 2024 – Boot Camp

Early February – Regional Competition

March 2024 – National Competition

What is in the application? What are we looking for?

Written Application (due Tuesday, Sept. 19th at 5:00 PM)

- 1) Resume
- 2) Argument making based on quote (4 options, choose 1) (~500 words)
- 3) Social Problem Interest (~50 words)
- 4) Short+Long Term Goals (~250 words)
- 5) Additional Info (~250 optional)
- 6) Internal / External Team Interest

Oral Tryouts (Tuesday, Sept. 19th – Sunday, Oct. 1st)

- 1) Sign up on LawNet
- 2) Three-minute speech on a topic of your choosing
- 3) Make an argument; emphasize your point of view
- 4) Be prepared for Q&A

What does the time commitment look like?

Fall

- Post-selection intro meeting
- Five hours of general brief-writing training
- Weekly optional study halls to get to know your teammates and staff
- Potential tryouts for external team including legal memo submission and oral argument
- October deadlines: case bibliography and outline
- November deadlines: argument section draft, complete brief draft, and final brief

Spring

- January 2–6: Oral Argument Boot Camp
 - Skills trainings
 - Issue meetings
 - Roadmap drafting
 - Practice rounds
- Early February: Regionals
- March: Nationals

What Will I Gain from Joining Fred Doug Moot Court?

You will:

- Develop unparalleled legal research & writing skills
- Sharpen oral advocacy skills (critical thinking on the fly)
- Gain a deep understanding of a legal issue
- Create a strong writing sample
- Build lasting friendships
- Become a part of a forever community



Join a Legacy of Success

Contact Information

Coaches:

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LALSA MOOT COURT INFORMATION SESSION

SEPTEMBER 12, 2023



WHAT IS THE LALSA MOOT COURT?

Immigration & Asylum Law

Successful, in and out of competition

An opportunity to improve your oral advocacy and brief writing skills

Good vibes

Community



WHO IS THE LALSA MOOT COURT

16 ILs, selected based off of oral arguments tryouts and written application

4 Coaches: Juan, Mario, Ilana, Sam

2 Editors: Alexa and Isamar

SCHEDULE

October–November: Weekly Oral Argument Training

Early–Mid-January: Brief Writing

January 3–5: Moot Camp

End of January: Internal Competition

Early March: Two Teams Compete in the UC Davis Asylum & Refugee Law Competition

SAMPLE TOPICS

Nikel Kuzma (2023)

Background: Applicant persecuted for her language skills.

Issue 1: Did Petitioner suffer “extraordinary circumstances” to excuse an untimely asylum application?

Issue 2: Should the Court acknowledge a duress exception to the persecutor bar and apply it to Petitioner?

Nur Khat (2022)

Background: Man persecuted for his artistic depiction of male subservience in conservative country of Shikor.

Issue 1: Is Mr. Khat’s claimed group a cognizable particular social group under 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(42)(A)?

Issue 2: Does Mr. Khat’s conviction under 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B) qualify as a crime of moral turpitude?

Mashi Canto (2021)

Background: Man persecuted for his Yanguan ethnicity in his home country of Chakoursia.

Issue 1: Does Appellant have a well-founded fear of persecution?

Issue 2: Were Applicant’s due process rights violated when he was not informed of potential avenues of relief during his first deportation proceedings?

APPLICATION PROCESS

September 14: RSVP for Info Session, BW 209, 12:10-1:00pm

September 19: Statements of Interest in LaLSA Moot Court Due on LawNet

September 24-28: Oral Arguments Tryouts

 **Columbia Law School**

LATINX LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Feel free to address questions to any of us at lalsamoot@gmail.com.

We look forward to your applications!



NALSA Moot Court

INFO SESSION



What is NALSA Moot Court?

- This national moot court competition focuses on federal Indian law and is run by the National Native American Law Students Association.
 - Recently litigated topics include the right to counsel in tribal courts, marijuana legalization, child custody under the Indian Child Welfare Act, casino gambling regulations, and the status of reservation boundaries.
 - Interdisciplinary and dynamic field of law with huge implications → moot court competitors get to explore evolving areas of law in real time.
- During the national competition last year, a Columbia team placed second in the overall competition. Columbia students also won best spoken advocate awards.



Key Points

- The NALSA Moot Court is open to **EVERYONE**. You do not have to be Native American, and you do not have to have any prior experience in federal Indian law to apply.
- The national competition this year will be hosted by the University of Montana in late February.
 - Two to four teams (4-8 students) will compete in the national competition, and all other teams will compete in a separate internal competition. **All** team members will have the same brief-writing and practice timeline, and will practice oral arguments together.



Application Components/Process

- The application consists of a closed-universe writing exercise
 - “Closed universe” means that your written submission should not go beyond the excerpts/cases given to you in the prompt. It should also not exceed 500 words—we just want to get a sense of your writing/analytical style!
- Instead of oral arguments, NALSA invites candidates to interview with members of the board.
 - These are very casual—we want to get to know you, give you a chance to explain your approach to the written prompt, and discuss your interests and goals for moot court.



Timeline

- September 20 → Application due
- September 21 → Interviews Scheduled
- September 22-27 → Interviews
- October → Partner pairings and internal/external team assignments
- Early November → Problem published on the NNALSA website


Usually, teams opt to write their briefs over winter break

- Early January → Briefs due
- January–February → Oral argument practices (2x per week), Bootcamp
- Late February → Participate in the national competition hosted by the University of Montana
- Early March → Internal competition at Columbia University



Any Questions?

- Contact us!
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COLUMBIA
GENDER & SEXUALITY
MOOT COURT



GOAL

Opportunity to analyze
unique and challenging
legal issues related to
Gender and/or
Sexuality



EXTERNAL TEAM

- 4 Students
- Compete in a national moot court competition dedicated to the areas of sexual orientation and gender identity law
- Submit briefs to the national competition and participate in rounds of oral argument before judges and legal professionals
- Slightly greater time commitment than LPW II and an earlier timeline

INTERNAL TEAM

- 8 Students
- Write briefs based on same topic and participate in CLS oral arguments
- Similar time commitment to LPW II

PREVIOUS TOPICS

- 1 Title IX challenge to policies affecting non-binary and transgender students
- 2 Affirmative action program based on sexual orientation in government contracting
- 3 Intersection of antidiscrimination law and religious liberty
- 4 Rights of transgender people in prisons
- 5 Intersection of free speech rights and a requirement of professors to use students' gender-affirming pronouns
- 6 Free speech and fundamental rights challenge to a conversion therapy ban

IMPORTANT INFO

RELEVANT DATES	EVENT
Oct. 2023	Mini Moot to select external team
Dec. 2023	Problem released
Nov. 2023 & Jan. 2024	Potential writing prep sessions
Feb. 2024	Written brief due
APPLICATION Mar. 2024	Competition (external team)

1

Statement of Interest
(200-350 words)

2

Substantive Writing Prompt
(750-1000 words)

3

Oral Argument
(5-10 minutes)

Note: All identities are welcome!

QUESTIONS?

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European Law Moot Court



What is ELMC?

- An international moot court competition dealing with disputes arising out of EU law
 - We are looking to form two teams of four students each (8 total)
 - Tackle questions of current legal, social, and practical significance emerging from European integration and political changes in Europe
 - Last year's problem focused on issues including judicial review of EU sanctions, environmental law, and citizenship revocation
 - The competition is bi-lingual, with English and French as the official languages
-

Timeline



Why?

- Learn about a different legal system during 1L
 - Finish your brief before next semester! (when you will have a heavier course load)
 - No work over Winter Break
 - Learn to persuasively argue before your exams
 - Get the opportunity to compete in Europe
 - Make friends!
 - For those proficient in French, a chance to use it in law school! (not a requirement to compete)
-

How?

1. Attend our International Moot Court-specific session to learn more (Friday, 9/15 at 12:10 PM)
 2. Submit an application. Includes: personal statement, resume, written response to model problem
 3. Oral Argument tryouts
-

Experience



Our Contact Info

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Jessup International Law Moot Court Information Session 2023-2024



Jessup Overview

- **World's largest moot court competition**—more than 650 law schools representing more than 100 countries
- Simulation of a fictional dispute between countries before the **International Court of Justice**, the judicial organ of the United Nations
- Maximum of **five members** compete on each team
- Teams **prepare written briefs** arguing both the applicant and respondent positions of the case
- Teams prepare for and **present oral arguments** at the regional and international levels of competition
- Columbia Jessup is a **two-year commitment for 1Ls & 2Ls**

Jessup 2022-2023 Topics

- Treaty Interpretation
- Foreign Occupation
- The Law of Armed Conflict
- The Treatment of Prisoners of War
- Exposure to Infectious Disease
- Environmental law - Disposing of Hazardous Waste
- Economic Sanctions

Jessup 2023-2024 Topic

- The Right to Political Expression
- The Right to a Nationality
- Statelessness
- The scope of the United Nations Security Council's authority in the pacific settlement of disputes

The Columbia Jessup Program

- **Fall Semester**
 - Introduction to International Law
 - Introduction to the Jessup Competition
 - Introduction to Mooting
 - Regular issue research sessions and finishing a first draft of memorials
 - Freeze on 1L Fall Jessup work before exams
 - Course, outlining, and exam-prep support from Coaches and Alums
- **Memorial Writing**
 - Team re-convenes on January 2, 2024 to complete written submissions
 - Introduction to Jessup Style and Jessup brief-crafting
- **Spring Semester**
 - International Law LPW (1Ls)
 - Internal Practice Moots with Alums and Faculty
 - External Practice Moots (*Previous Hosts*: US 2d Circuit, S.D.N.Y.; Gibson Dunn, Debevoise, Shearman & Sterling, King & Spalding, Human Rights Watch)
 - Regional and International Competitions



Our lovely alumni—who are clerking on the 2d Circuit—hosted our practice moot last spring!

Jessup Accomplishments

Team Accomplishments

- **World Champions:** 1963 (founding year), 1965, 2006
- **International Runners-Up:** 2010, 2011, 2012, 2019
- **International Semi-Finalists:** 2013, 2014, 2016
- **Best Overall Applicant or Respondent Side (International Rounds):** 2011, 2012, 2013, 2018
- **Regional Champions (last ~10 years):** 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
- **U.S. National Champions:** 2021
- **Hardy C. Dillard Award for Best Combined Memorials (Regional Rounds):** Multiple
- **Richard R. Baxter Award for Best Memorials (International Rounds):** 2016 (x2)
- **Alona E. Evans Award for Best Memorial (International Rounds):** Multiple

Individual Accomplishments

- **Stephen M. Schwebel Best Oralist Award (International Championship Round):** Multiple
- **Top Oralist (Regional):** Multiple, including Allyson Ping '25 and Jamie Herring '25
- **Top 10 Oralist (International):** Multiple, including Akshaya Kumar '12, Evan Ezray '14, Carolyn Forstein '15, Will Mattessich '16, Henry Ross '17, Phil Andriole '19, Andrew Connery '20, Daniel Fahrenthold '20, Grace Pyo '22, Emily Drake '22

Individual Columbia Honors (last 10 years)

- **David M. Berger Memorial Prize for excellence in international law** – Vincent Levy '07, Suyash Paliwal '10, Jacob Johnston '12, Jen Lim '12, Aidan Grano '13, Evan Ezray '14, Katelyn Horne '15, Katherine Ebright '18, Anika Havaladar '19, Daniel Fahrenthold '20, Sara Kaufhardt '21, Emily Drake '22, E. Christiana Schiciano '23
- **Archie O. Dawson Prize for proficiency in advocacy** – Jacob Johnston '12, Aidan Grano '13, Evan Ezray '14, Henry Ross '16
- **Samuel I. Rosenman Prize for academic excellence in public law courses** - Eve Levin '18
- **John Ordronaux Prize for top GPA at graduation** – Vincent Levy '07, Seth Davis '08
- **Ruth Bader Ginsburg Prize (James Kent Honors 1L, 2L, and 3L)** – Vince Levy '07, Seth Davis '08, Katherine Ebright '18, Eve Levin '18, Andrew Connery '20, Daniel Fahrenthold '20

Selected Jessup Alumni Network

- **Arnold & Porter (DC)** – Katelyn Horne '15
- **Boies Schiller & Flexner (NY)** – Eve Levin '18
- **Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton (NY, Paris)** – Jacob Johnston '12, Daniel Fahrenthold '20
- **Covington & Burling (DC)** – Benjamin Schrier '12, Anika Havaladar '19, Grace Pyo '22
- **Cravath, Swaine & Moore (NY)** – Evan Ezray '14, Andrew Connery '20
- **Davis Polk & Wardell** – Phil Andriole '19
- **Debevoise & Plimpton (HK, NY)** – Jen Lim '12, Will Mattessich '16, Sara Kaufhardt '21
- **Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer (NY)** – Carolyn Forstein '15
- **Foley Hoag LLP (DC)** - Sara Kaufhardt '21
- **Gibson Dunn & Crutcher (DC)** – Aidan Grano '13
- **Human Rights Watch (NY, DC)** – Akshaya Kumar '12, Adi Radhakrishnan '21
- **Jenner & Block (DC)** – Jan Messerschmidt '14
- **McDermott Will & Emery (NY)** – Jae Lee '23
- **Munger, Tolles & Olson (LA)** – Benjamin Schrier '12
- **Paul, Weiss (NY)** – Victoria Gilcrease-Garcia '16
- **Polsinelli (KC)** – Libby Marden '17
- **Pryor Cashman LLP (NY)** – Alexandra Nasar '20
- **Sullivan & Cromwell (NY)** – Henry Ross '17, Harshil Bansal '22
- **Susman Godfrey (NY)** - Eve Levin '18
- **U.S. Department of State (DC)** – Daniel Fahrenthold '20
- **Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz** – Vincent Levy '07
- **WilmerHale (DC)** – Katherine Ebright '18

Jessup Alumni Clerkships

- **International Court of Justice** – Jennifer Lim '12, Katelyn Horne '15, Anika Havalдар '19, Sara Kaufhardt '21
- **Iran-United States Claims Tribunal** – Ricardo Chirinos '12
- **Constitutional Court of South Africa** – Carolyn Forstein '15
- **U.S. Supreme Court, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg** – Vincent Levy '07
- **U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2d Circuit** – Matthew Gurgel '09, Jacob Johnston '12, Ben Schrier '12, Aidan Grano '13, Jan Messerschmidt '14, Katherine Ebright '18, Daniel Fahrenthold '20, Grace Pyo '22
- **U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit** – Evan Ezray '14
- **U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit** – Vincent Levy '07, Seth Davis '08, Eve Levin '18, Anika Havalдар '19
- **U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York** – Ben Schrier '12, Henry Ross '17, Eve Levin '18, Katherine Ebright '18, Andrew Connery '20
- **U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York** – Evan Ezray '14
- **U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California** – Victoria Gilcrease-Garcia '16
- **U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia** – Jan Messerschmidt '14, Grace Pyo '22
- **U.S. Court of International Trade** – James Wigginton '13

Important Dates 2023-2024

- **Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2023:** Written Application due via LawNet by 5:00 PM EST
- **Sept. 25 – Oct. 1, 2023:** Oral Tryouts
- **Oct. 4, 2022:** Selection of New Members
- **Nov. 26, 2022:** Freeze on 1L Fall Jessup Work
- **Jan. 2, 2023:** Reconvene for Memorial Writing
- **Jan. 12, 2024:** Deadline for Written Submission
- **Feb. 21 – 25, 2024:** National Competition
- **Mar. 30 – Apr. 6, 2024:** International Competition

Application Instructions

- **Review fully** the application packet
- Provide a written submission of **no more than four pages** arguing **one side of the issue presented**
- Submit your application materials – a **resume** and your **written submission** – to LawNet, in conformity with the instructions in the application packet
- If invited back, prepare a **ten-minute oral argument** for the **opposite side of the issue** your brief supported
- Conduct the oral argument in front of a panel of judges with occasional **interruptions for questions**
- Plan for a **five-to-ten minute Q&A** after the argument



Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot



Vis Moot Overview

Vis Moot is considered to be one of the most prestigious international moots, with over 300 universities participating.

Students are exposed to the study of international commercial arbitration and are provided with a practical outlet for resolving international business disputes.

Students address both substantive and procedural questions.

Each year, the problem concerns a business transaction dispute relating to the sale or purchase of goods under the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG) and other uniform international commercial law.

Vis Moot brings together students, practitioners, and academics to resolve salient legal issues in international arbitration. This is a great networking opportunity!

Competitions are held annually in Vienna, Austria, with the highest scoring teams moving to successive rounds. Recognitions are given for stellar oral and written performance.

Global Sponsors of the Vis Moot Competition

Sponsoring organisations for the 30th Vis Moot



Columbia Law Vis Moot Program Overview

Participation in Vis Moot is a **Two-Year Commitment, with a week travel to Vienna, Austria in the Spring.**

Two phases: 1Ls write both claimant and respondent briefs, 2Ls compete in the oral advocacy component of the moot.*

*1Ls also participate in pre-moots.

CLS team is composed of 8 students: four 2Ls and four 1Ls. Each 1L partners with a 2L to address either a substantive or procedural question related to the problem.

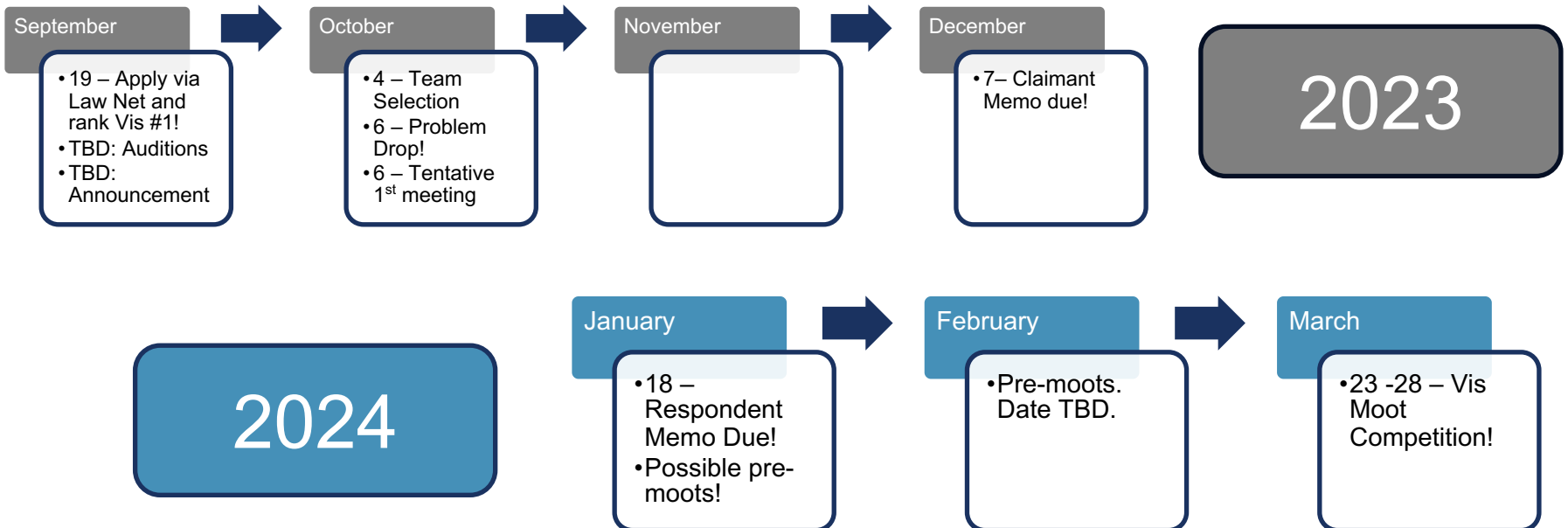
1Ls can expect to apply principles from contract law and international law in their oral and written advocacy.

Vast networking opportunity with both international and domestic law firms.

This year, we will have **White & Case Associate Eric Lenier Ives ('19)** as our Vis Moot coach!

During the Spring term, we will be traveling to various law firms (White & Case, Sidley, etc.) to pre-moot.

Important Dates for the 31st Vis Moot



Application Instructions

Apply via LawNet by or before 09/19 at 11:59pm.

Rank moots according to your preference. If Vis is your top choice, rank accordingly!

You will be required to submit: resume and a writing sample that best demonstrates your analytical abilities (min 5 pages, max 20 pages, double-spaced).

For auditions, you will be given an abbreviated version of last year's problem for your oral argument. The packet is self-contained: no outside research is necessary.

You will be asked to argue for both the Claimant and Respondent, five minutes each.

After your oral argument, there will be a 5-minute interview during which members of the team will get to know you better.

EXCLUSION: per Vis Rules, if you are licensed to practice law (domestic or international), you are unable to apply to Vis Moot.

Questions?

