



**Columbia Law School**  
**MOOT COURT PROGRAMS**

The Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP  
Moot Court Program

The Winston & Strawn International Moot Court Program

# Moot Court Programs 2018-2019

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September 2018

Dear Class of 2021:

Welcome to the world of moot court! In the spring, you will take the second half of Legal Practice Workshop. As part of LPW, you are required to participate in an approved moot court program. Most of you will satisfy this requirement through participation in the 1L Foundation Moot Court. Through that program, you will receive a moot court 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.

Some of you will choose to satisfy your moot court requirement through participation in one of the following “specialized” moot court programs:

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)  
Williams Institute Moot Court

These programs allow you to focus your advocacy on a substantive area of law that interests you. Enrollment for each of the listed programs is limited, and interested students must complete an application process in the fall. These programs also 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!

Best wishes,  
Ilene Strauss  
Director, Legal Writing and Moot Court Programs

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\* 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

## MOOT COURT APPLICATION TIMELINE

Date and Time	Event
<b>September 13</b> (12:10 – 1:00 PM)	<b>Moot Court Information Session</b> <i>Location: JGH 104 and JGH 106 (overflow)</i>
<b>September 13</b> (2:00 PM)	Moot Court Application module in LawNet opens. <i>Students are able to apply and rank Moot Courts.</i>
<b>September 13</b> (5:00 – 7:00 PM)	<b>Individual Moot Court Information Sessions</b> <i>Location: JGH 102A</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5:00pm - Williams Institute Moot Court</li> <li>• 5:30pm - Native American Law Students Association (NALSA) Moot Court</li> <li>• 6:00pm - Frederick Douglass Moot Court (Fred Doug)</li> <li>• 6:30pm - American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA) Moot Court</li> </ul>
<b>September 14</b> (11:00 AM – 1:30 PM)	<b>Individual Moot Court Information Sessions</b> <i>Location: JGH 102A</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11:00am - Environmental Law Moot Court</li> <li>• 11:30am - Jessup International Law Moot Court</li> <li>• 12:00pm - European Law Moot Court</li> <li>• 12:30pm - Vienna International Arbitration Moot Court (Vis)</li> <li>• 1:00pm - Latino/a Law Students Association (LaLSA) Moot Court</li> </ul>
<b>September 20</b> (11:59 PM)	Moot Court Application module in LawNet closes. <i>Students are no longer able to apply for Moot Courts. <b><u>This is a firm deadline.</u></b></i>
<b>September 28</b> (10:00 AM)	Ranking of Moot Court ends. <i>Students are no longer able to make changes to their Moot Court rankings. <b><u>All rankings saved online are automatically considered final.</u></b></i>
<b>October 3</b>	Moot Courts will notify students of their decisions by email.

*The Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison 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, students 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***

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## 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 validity of a patent for a mind-reading device. The previous year's problem involved a design patent for an iPhone application.

### ***Why AIPLA?***

Intellectual property is a growing practice within the legal profession that touches upon multiple industries, including science, technology, healthcare, media, entertainment, sports, and finance, among others. Many law firms report a growing need for intellectual property departments, as both cases and deals more frequently feature an intellectual property component. By participating in the AIPLA Moot Court, students will learn the basics of intellectual property law and the appellate procedures of the Federal Circuit.

### ***Application***

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. 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.

We will select at least twelve students for the AIPLA moot court this fall. Interested students who cannot attend the information session should email [cls.aipla@gmail.com](mailto:cls.aipla@gmail.com) for more information.

### ***Competition***

Internal Competition: To determine which AIPLA students will attend the regional competition, we will review each student's legal writing and oral advocacy skills. In mid-October, students will submit their first LPW memo and present oral arguments based on a patent-related prompt. All AIPLA students must participate in this internal competition.

Regional Competition: The four students that perform the best in the internal competition will advance to the regional competition, where they will represent Columbia 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, the brief-writing process, and oral arguments. The regional competition will be held in Boston in March.

National Competition: The top two teams at the regional competition advance to the national competition in Washington, D.C., in April, where students argue before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit for the championship title and a prize of \$2,000.

Last year, both Columbia teams reached the final round of the regional competition, taking first and second place. Both teams also advanced to the national competition, where Columbia received the highest brief score and a national semifinalist title. This was the fifth consecutive year that Columbia advanced to nationals.

### ***AIPLA Information Session***

We will have an information session at 6:30pm on Thursday, September 13, in JG 102A. Snacks will be served.

### ***Important Dates***

September 20, 2018	AIPLA Written Applications due
September 25-26, 2018	AIPLA Oral Argument Tryouts
October 3, 2018	AIPLA Moot Court Team selected

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## Environmental Law Moot Court

### ***Why Environmental Law Moot Court?***

The Environmental Law Moot Court is a great way to fulfill your 1L moot court requirement while gaining valuable advocacy experience through one-on-one training. Our competition team is the smallest of the moot court programs, and we make mentorship and team bonding a priority for all participants.

### ***Build Skills***

The Environmental Law Moot Court is an outstanding option for any student who wants to get more experience with appellate law. We welcome applicants of all backgrounds and interests. Environmental law is a mixed bag of many different legal subjects and disciplines including constitutional law, torts, administrative law, and property, to name just a few. We encourage students with past experience in environmental law or policy to apply, as well as those with a general interest in appellate law who want to master a challenging legal problem. By the end of the spring semester, participants will have written a full appellate brief and thoroughly prepared for a rigorous oral argument.

### ***A Record of Excellence***

Even though we are the only school that sends 1Ls to the national competition, Columbia consistently places in the top ten in competition. On the heels of Columbia's first ever national championship win in 2017, last year's team took home the award for best written brief out of a field of 60 teams from across the country.

### ***Two Ways to Participate***

Up to twelve 1L students may participate in the Environmental Law Moot Court. Three students will be selected for the *Competition Team* and will write their brief in the fall semester and attend the National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition at Pace Law School in February. The *Internal Team*, composed of nine students, will write their briefs in the spring semester and will participate in an oral argument at Columbia in early April. The Internal Team is recommended for those students who are interested in environmental and appellate law and want to improve their legal-writing and oral-advocacy skills in a noncompetitive program. The Environmental Law Moot Court the only moot court where students for the Competition Team are selected at the beginning of the fall semester, instead of later in the year.

### ***Informational Meeting***

A general interest meeting for Environmental Law Moot Court will be held Friday, September 14 at 11am in JG 102A.

### ***Application Process***

Students are strongly encouraged to apply to both the Competition Team and the Internal Team. If you are interested in both teams, please fill out applications for each team separately on LawNet. When you rank moot courts, you will be able to rank the Internal Team and the Competition Team separately. If you are only interested in one team, you need only apply to that team.

We will be reaching out to candidates for the Competition Team to schedule an interview, which will consist of a short oral argument. Students *not* interested in being considered for the Competition Team are not required to interview. However, in the event that spots for the Internal Team are limited (as has been the case in recent years), preference will be given to those who express interest by participating in the Competition Team interview and tryout process.

### ***Important Dates***

September 14, 2018	Informational meeting in JG 102A
September 20, 2018	Application due
September 24–26, 2018	Oral argument tryouts
October 8, 2018	Problem released
November 28, 2018	Written brief due (Competition Team)
Mid-January, 2019	Oral argument boot camp (Competition Team)
February 21–23, 2019	Oral arguments at Pace Law (Competition Team)
Mid-March 2019	Written brief due (Internal Team)
Early April 2019	Oral arguments (Internal Team)

### ***Contact Information***

Please reach out to us with any and all questions!

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## 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, felon disenfranchisement statutes, racial profiling, and the process rights of capital defendants.

### ***Become Part of a Winning Legacy***

Frederick Douglass (Fred Doug) Moot Court is truly a team—and in fact the largest competitive team at Columbia Law School. 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 and success in competition. Last year, our teams took first, second, and third place at the regional competition, as well as “Best Oralist.” We sent three teams to the national competition in Brooklyn; one team placed first in the country, and the other team placed second, along with winning “Best Brief” among all competitors. In prior years we have had similar success, including winning the national competition, sweeping regionals by winning all individual awards, as well as taking first, second, and third place at the competition. Additionally, for the past three of five years, our competitors have received 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 assist you, as you develop substantial brief writing skills. Editors will also assist you, after your individual submission, as you make substantial edits to your briefs and arguments before the regional competition. The final product of your brief will be 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, all Fred Doug alumni, 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 the regional competition. You will be astonished by how confident you become in the hot seat, both in the courtroom and classroom.

### ***Application Information***

Information Session: September 13, 2018

Application Release: September 13, 2018

Application Closes: September 20, 2018

Oral tryouts: September 20–27, 2018

Briefs Due: November 2018

Boot Camp: January 2019 (early return from Winter Break)

Regional Competition: Late January 2019

National Competition: March 2019

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## Latino/a Law Students Association (LaLSA) Moot Court

The LaLSA Moot Court program offers law students the opportunity to explore complex contemporary issues in refugee and asylum law while developing their brief-writing and oral advocacy skills. 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 Twelfth 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 write the first draft of their briefs during the winter break.

The final draft of the brief will be due in mid-January after a weeklong 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 in Northern California during the first weekend in March.

### ***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 13	Application released
September 14	LaLSA Moot Court informational session (1pm in JG 102A)
September 20	Application due on LawNet
September 24–26	Oral argument try-outs

***Contact Information***

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## Native American Law Students Association (NALSA) Moot Court

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 marijuana legalization, 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 twice each week. All participants will attend the national competition in early March 2018. 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. Judges consist of high-profile Native Law practitioners and academics, tribal justices, and state and federal judges. 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.

The University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona will host the competition this year. Columbia Law School teams are consistently among the top teams at the national competition.

### ***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 Arizona. 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.

***Important Dates***

Thursday, September 13	Info session, 5:30pm in JG 102A
Thursday, September 20	Application due at 11:59 PM
Week of September 24	Interviews by Invitation
November 2018	Problem published on the NNALSA website
January 2019	Briefs due
January–February 2019	Oral argument practices
March 2019	Participate in the national competition in Tucson

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## The Williams Institute Moot Court

The Williams Institute Moot Court (Williams) is the only national moot court competition dedicated to the areas of sexual orientation and gender identity law. It offers students the opportunity to analyze unique and challenging issues of constitutional law affecting the LGBTQ community. Previous legal topics have included a Title IX challenge to a school policy restricting students to restrooms based on biological sex, an affirmative action program based on sexual orientation in government contracting, discrimination based on religious beliefs, the intersection between discrimination based on orientation and discrimination based on sex, and the rights of transgender people in prisons.

### ***Program Structure***

Twelve students will participate in Williams at Columbia. Students of any background who have an interest in constitutional law, appellate advocacy, or issues of sexual orientation and gender identity are encouraged to apply. Over the course of the fall semester, we will hold a few workshops to discuss the development of law related to sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as the fundamentals of appellate advocacy.

The two external teams will each consist of two Williams participants. The external and internal teams will both return to Columbia a few days before classes begin in January to participate in brief-writing and oral argument workshops with the editors and coaches. The external teams will submit briefs to the national competition at the end of January and travel to sunny Los Angeles in late February or early March to participate in rounds of oral argument before judges and legal professionals. If a team advances to the final round, they will return to UCLA in April to compete again.

### ***Application Process***

We will select students for the program based on a writing prompt, a 5-minute oral argument, and students' resumes. After those twelve have been selected, we will ask students who are interested in competing on the external team to participate in a program-wide competition to determine which four students will compete in the national competition in Los Angeles.

***Timeline***

Information Session: Thursday, September 13th at 5pm in JG 102A  
Application Released: Thursday, September 13th  
Written Application Due: Thursday, September 20th at 11:59 pm  
Oral Tryouts: Friday, September 21st – Thursday, September 27th  
Decisions Released: Wednesday, October 3rd

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## 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 touched on strands of EU law related to public procurement, data-privacy regulations, corporate governance, and national security. The previous year's problem dealt with the right to property in relation to new EU banking initiatives developed after the financial crisis, and the jurisdictional issues that affect the European system of central banks.

### ***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. The Law School graciously funds the trip to Europe to compete in the regional finals. In previous years, regional rounds have been held in Athens, Helsinki, Prague, Paris, and Bremen. Last year, the regional rounds were held in Edinburgh, Belgrade, Lucerne, and Thessaloniki. The judges include prominent scholars of European law as well as officials and judges from the European Court of Justice. Not only do team members gain invaluable experience in conducting oral arguments, but they are also able to meet with governmental officials, tour the host countries, and meet with other competitors from all over Europe and America. Columbia students have frequently won the best oral advocate award at regional finals.

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

April. Finalists get the opportunity to moot in front of the European Court of Justice, the highest court of the European Union. Columbia has previously won first place oral advocate at the All-European Final.

### ***Application Process***

We will be selecting six to eight team members for the 2018–19 competition (two teams of three to four members each). We encourage 1Ls, 2Ls, 3Ls and LL.M.s to apply. For native English speakers, knowledge of French at any level of competency is highly desirable, though not necessary. Native languages other than English are also an asset. 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!

Applications will be submitted through LawNet, and we request that candidates submit a resume, a brief statement of interest, and a 2-5 page writing sample of their clearest academic or professional writing. Top candidates will be notified and invited back for oral auditions. Two teams of three to four individuals will be selected.

### ***Important Fall Dates***

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

September 14, 2018	Information session at 12pm in JG 102A
September 20, 2018	Application materials due
September 23–26, 2018	Oral auditions
November 20, 2018	Written submissions due
Spring 2019	Oral Competition in Europe

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*The Winston & Strawn International Moot Court Program*

## 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 600 law schools across 95 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 legality of nuclear weapons, undersea espionage, the threat or use of force, validity of international arbitral awards, mass surveillance, arbitrary detention, the right of self-determination, and international protections for cultural property.

### ***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, frequently winning national championships and 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 past year, the team won the Northeast Regional championship for the 8th time in 10 years. In 2016, the team became the first team since 1998 to win the top international honors for both of its written submissions. Team members have also received recognition from Columbia Law School for their work with the Jessup team. Since 2010, team members have been named Archie O. Dawson Prize (which recognizes proficiency in advocacy) winners five times, and David M. Berger Prize (which recognizes educational excellence in the field of international law) winners seven times.

This year, the Columbia Law School Jessup team seeks to recruit two (2) 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.

### ***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 substantial commitment, but offers 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 adjustment, we ask that you please keep the following tentative recruitment dates in mind:

Thurs., September 13:	Release of application materials
Fri., September 14 at 11:30 a.m.:	Jessup information session
Thurs., September 20 at 11:59 p.m.:	Candidates' written briefs due
Mon., September 24–Thurs. September 27:	Oral auditions
Week of Mon., October 1, 2018:	Announcement of new team members

***Contact Information:*** [columbia.jessup@gmail.com](mailto:columbia.jessup@gmail.com)

*This program is made possible by the generous support of Winston & Strawn LLP.*

*The Winston & Strawn International Moot Court Program*

## 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. The competition attracts over 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 in Vienna, Austria. Columbia Law School has a long tradition of sending a team to Vienna and is one of only four schools to have competed every year since the Moot’s founding.

The preparation for the written memos begins in the fall. In spring, the team participates in a number of pre-moots held at law schools and law firms in New York. In the past, the Columbia team has also entered pre-moots held in European cities such as Paris, 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. This past year, Columbia’s team received an Honorable Mention for Best Memorandum for Claimant as well as finished fifth in the oral rounds out of over 300 schools, ranking highest among all participating American schools. Over the years, team members have consistently taken home speaking and brief awards from the Vienna competition.

### ***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 prerequisites. The team will release applications in mid-September and will hold two to three days of tryouts soon afterwards. Participation in Vis satisfies the moot court component of the Legal Practice Workshop. The Vis team expects 1Ls to stay on as competitors and coaches during the 2L year.

### ***Information Session***

We will have an information session at 12:30pm on Friday, September 14, in JG 102A. Lunch will be served.

***Contact Information***

For any questions or additional information, please email [columbiavis.request@gmail.com](mailto:columbiavis.request@gmail.com) or contact one of the coaches:

Larenz Devaren: [ld2775@columbia.edu](mailto:ld2775@columbia.edu)

Josh Meyer: [i.j.meyer@columbia.edu](mailto:i.j.meyer@columbia.edu)

Rebecca Caspar-Johnson: [r.caspar-johnson@columbia.edu](mailto:r.caspar-johnson@columbia.edu)

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## USING THE ONLINE MOOT COURT APPLICATION SYSTEM

### **Completing Your Applications:**

1. To begin an application, click on the gear icon next to the name of a moot court program, and select "Apply." When you open a moot court's application, at the top of the page, click on the link that says "Download/View Instructions File." Follow the instructions in that document, and reach out to the contact listed if you have any questions about an application. Note that all documents you upload with your application must be PDFs.
2. Once you've started an application, you can save the information you entered at any time by clicking "Save Application" and then return to that application later. When you return to the Specialized Moot Court Application home page, you will see a yellow box that says "started application" next to applications that are in progress. Click on the gear icon and select "View/Edit" to make changes or continue working on your application.
3. When you have completed all the required fields of an application, click on "Save Application" at the bottom of the application page. When you return to the Specialized Moot Court Application home page, you will see a green box that says "ready to submit" next to applications that you have completed. When you are ready to submit an application, click on the gear icon and select "Submit."
4. If you realize you made a mistake after you submitted an application, find that moot court under the "Submitted and Ranked Applications" field, click the gear icon, and select "Un-submit for Editing." You can then make changes to the application. You will have to resubmit when you are finished making changes. You cannot make any changes to a submitted application after the application submission deadline.

### **Ranking Moot Courts:**

1. You must rank all moot court programs to which you have applied.
2. Please note that as you submit applications, the system automatically ranks the most recently-submitted application as your lowest ranked program by default (assuming you already have other submitted applications which will be ranked higher). It is therefore important that you review your rankings of moot courts and make appropriate changes if necessary.
3. To rank moot courts, click the "Edit Rank" button next to "Submitted and Ranked Applications." Drag the moot courts to put them in your desired order. Click on "Save Ranking" to save your changes.

4. Your rankings will be automatically finalized and submitted when the ranking system closes on September 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.

**Signing Up for Interviews:**

1. Please note that some moot courts interview all applicants, some interview only some applicants, and some do not hold interviews. Many moot courts structure these interviews as oral arguments. If you receive an invitation to sign up for an interview, you will see a link to select a time slot for your interview below. Consult the instruction page of each moot court's application for information on specific interview procedures.
2. After submitting an application, you may receive an email from that moot court inviting you to sign up for an interview or oral argument. Once you receive this email, the name of that moot court will appear in the "Interview Sign-Up" section of the page.
3. To sign up for an interview, click on the "select date/time" link and select an available interview slot. If none of the slots work, please email the contact listed on that moot court's instruction page.
4. To change or cancel your interview time, click on the gear icon next to that moot court and select "Change" or "Cancel." Note that some moot courts lock interview time slots up to 24 hours before that time slot and will not allow changes or cancellations within that period. If you need to make a last-minute change, email the contact listed on that moot court's instruction page.