

## **Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Team Applications**

2Ls and 3Ls are invited to apply to participate on the ASU Vis Moot team, with the goals – depending on funding – of competing in the Vis Pre-moot at the University of San Diego in February, and of sending separate teams to the Vis (East) Moot in Hong Kong and the Vis Moot in Vienna in April. The Vis Moots attract literally thousands of student competitors from hundreds of schools around the globe. Many schools, especially in Europe, the Vis Moot is viewed as the most important and prestigious moot competition in the world.

### **Application Process**

Applicants for full team participation should submit a resume and cover letter to Sunny Larson, by delivering it to her desk in the secretarial office on the 2d floor of the law school or by emailing them to her at [sunny.larson@asu.edu](mailto:sunny.larson@asu.edu), by 4 pm, Sept. 16. The cover letter should underscore experience and success in oral advocacy and in brief-writing, and it should address the extent to which the student can devote the required hours to the Vis Moot, including devoting:

- most or all of the fall break to researching and writing parts of the Claimant's brief, due Dec. 12;
- a good deal of the winter break writing parts of the Respondent's brief, due Jan. 23;
- participating in practice oral arguments twice each week for about two months in the spring semester;
- traveling to San Diego for a weekend in February for the Pre-moot; and
- traveling to either Hong Kong in the first week of April or Vienna in the second week of April (unfortunately missing at least a week of classes).

2L applicants may also address the probability that, if invited to the team, they will be interested in applying again as a 3L, to return as an experienced Vis team member. All applicants should specifically address the extent to which they are available to work and meet with Vis coaches during fall break.

Applicants will present a short oral argument to the coaches, based on a brief problem to be emailed to applicants a few days before the tryouts. The oral advocacy tryouts will take place Sept. 19, beginning at 6 pm. Sign up for a tryout slot with Sunny Larson when you submit your materials. We expect 2-3 members from last year's team to rejoin this year, likely leaving 3-6 slots open this year, depending the team sizes we decide to fill.

### **Support and Fund-Raising**

ASU team members are fortunate to receive substantial support from the Phoenix office of DLA Piper. Partner Mark Nadeau, who will teach a one-unit course on International Commercial Arbitration beginning in mid-October, normally succeeds in securing \$10,000 in support from his law firm for student travel to the Vis Moots. His

associate, Kate Frenzinger, provides experienced coaching and normally travels with the Vis West team to Vienna as their on-site coach. ASU Prof. Charles Calleros also serves as coach and normally accompanies all students to the San Diego Moot and the Vis East team to Hong Kong. Graduates who have competed in previous Vis Moots will also provide coaching and mentoring to this year's team.

The coaches strongly recommend that students take Mr. Nadeau's course this fall if they are interested in the Vis moot or in international commercial arbitration in general.

Depending on the number of students who travel to Vienna and Hong Kong, supplements to the DLA Piper fund are typically needed, so team members will be expected to attend ASU GPSA meetings, and engage in GPSA service, as necessary to support their applications to GPSA for travel support. If travel funding is still insufficient to cover travel expenses, student team members may be called on to pay some of their own expenses.

### **Subject Matter and Curricular Support**

The Vis Moot problem will be published on its web site on October 4. It will include an extensive record describing an international sales transaction and the commencement of arbitration with the Belgian Centre for Mediation and Arbitration, which largely adopts the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules. The problem will raise several issues dealing with the U.N. Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods ("CISG"), which is like an international UCC, and a few "jurisdictional" issues, such as potential problems with the composition of the arbitration tribunal. ASU likely will submit separate briefs to the Vienna and Hong Kong competitions, with each team assigning parts of the brief to team members.

Our school offers several classes that provide academic support for those participating in the Vis Moot, or for those who are not on the team but desire exposure to its subject matter. Beginning in mid-October, Adjunct Prof. Mark Nadeau will offer his one-unit course in international commercial arbitration. In the spring, Prof. Calleros will offer a three-unit course in International Contracts, focusing on the CISG. Moreover, team members who perform a certain amount of brief writing and who participate in a certain number of practice arguments can earn a unit for moot court participation.

### **Websites Providing Additional Information**

Main Vis website: <http://www.cisg.law.pace.edu/vis.html>

Vis East supplementary site: <http://www.cisgmoot.org/index.html>

Pace Univ. Law Library CISG site: <http://www.cisg.law.pace.edu/cisg/text/cisg-toc.html>

UNCITRAL Arbitration rules: <http://www.uncitral.org/pdf/english/texts/arbitration/arb-rules-revised/arb-rules-revised-2010-e.pdf>

