

Loyola University Chicago Willem C. Vis Moot Newsletter



SCHOOL OF LAW

Fall 2009

Vienna Team Advances to the Round of 32

By: Michael Viglione

In Loyola's highest finish in the school's history of sending teams to the Willem C. Vis Moot in Vienna, the 2009 team of Amber Curl, Michael Viglione, Lauren Kraus, and Joseph Renick placed in the top 32 teams in the competition.

233 teams from around the world competed in this year's Vienna moot. Each team was guaranteed four preliminary rounds, after which the 64 teams with highest combined scores advanced to the elimination bracket. After four strong preliminary rounds, the Vienna team's



The Vienna Team (from left to right): Lauren Kraus, Joe Renick, Coach, Professor Margaret Moses, Michael Viglione, and Amber Curl. Not pictured, Assistant Coach Terri Stough.

scores qualified it to move on to the round of 64. Ironically, the team faced Loyola Los Angeles, the

team that beat the Loyola Chicago team in Loyola Chicago's only other previous advancement to the

elimination rounds. However, in this meeting the Loyola Chicago team fared better, advancing to the round of 32.

The team then faced a team from Manila. Unfortunately, by a split decision of the arbitrators, the Loyola team did not advance. However, the team was very pleased to be able to count themselves among the top 32 teams in the world.

In addition to the team's high finish, two team members, Amber Curl and Michael Viglione, received Honorable Mention for Best Oralist. Congratulations to the Vienna team on a job well done.

Hong Kong Team Wins Brief Award

By: Michael Yuan

Loyola sent six students, Aruna Subramanian, Bethanie Legare,

Honorine Richards, Shouger Merchant, Donald Cole, and Michael Yuan, to the Vis Moot

East in Hong Kong. Coached by John Calhoun and assisted by Katie Staba and Josh Hefferman, the team prepared for over six months for the guaranteed four rounds of oral argument.

The students competed against teams from Germany, India, Madrid, and Slovenia. Despite a great performance by all members, the Hong Kong team did not advance to the elimination rounds.

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The Hong Kong Team (clockwise from the foreground): Bethanie Legare, Assistant Coach Katie Staba, Michael Yuan, Shouger Merchant, Coach John Calhoun, Assistant Coach Josh Hefferman, Honorine Richards, Aruna Subramanian, and Donald Cole

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Hong Kong Team Travels to New York for Pre-Moot

By: Bethanie Legare and Donald Cole

In preparation for the Willem C. Vis (East) competition in Hong Kong, the six members of our Hong Kong team traveled to the wonderful city of New York to compete at Fordham University Law School's mini-moot competition held in mid February. Although the weather was blustery, our members forged ahead in what was surely one of the most memorable experiences involving the Vis (East) competition. The Fordham mini-moot is one of the largest in the U.S., with over thirty teams participating from the U.S., Europe, and Asia.

The majority of the teams were very well-prepared and were clearly there to not only deliver well thought-out, thoroughly practiced arguments,

but to also learn from their competitors. Hearing and competing against these teams afforded us the opportunity to discover new arguments, to practice responding to new arguments, and to view new styles of oral advocacy in arbitration. In particular, we faced off against teams from Japan, the Netherlands, and Germany, all of which presented different argument styles and skill levels.

During the mini-moot, we were also exposed to new arbitrators who presented us with a fresh set of concerns and questions about the problem. There were also opportunities at the Fordham mini-moot to speak with the arbitrators during informal gatherings and receive feedback about our argu-

ments and styles that we heard for the first time. It was helpful for our team to receive scores from the arbitrators, in addition to the feedback, which helped us gauge our progress thus far.

The timing of the Fordham mini-moot, just one month prior to the competition in Hong Kong, was ideal. It was late enough that we had the time to develop our arguments and vet them against one another, yet early enough to take what we had learned at the mini-moot, incorporate it, and hone it for the final competition. In the end, it is easy for us to agree that the Fordham mini-moot is an absolute must for future teams to attend as we continue to strive to bring home the championship!

A Big Thank You to All Our Donors

While the moot team members change each year, one thing that remains constant is the support that the Loyola teams receive from our donors. We would like to thank the following people and organizations for making it possible for us to represent Loyola at the Vienna and Hong Kong moots:

Mayer Brown, LLP graciously sponsored the four students who competed in Vienna through the Mayer Brown Vis Moot Fellowship. The Vienna team is very appreciative to receive the support of this highly respected firm.

John H. Calhoun, Esq., who coaches the Hong Kong team, provided a fellowship for a member of the Hong Kong. His support, dedication, and guidance was an immeasurable benefit to the Hong Kong team!

Peter B. Carey, Esq. is an alumnus of Loyola Chicago School of Law

and has provided consistent support to the Vis Moot teams over the years. He has acted as an insightful arbitrator for many practices and has been a generous donor. He also visited Vienna many times to serve as a competition arbitrator and to assist the team. His daughter, Ellie, was a member of Loyola's first Vis Moot team. Mr. Carey is a Chicago attorney who specializes in commercial litigation.

Dean David N. Yellen, Dean of Loyola University Chicago School of Law, generously provided the Hong Kong team with additional funding needed in order for the team to compete in the Vis Moot East.

Freddi L. Greenberg, Esq., alumna of Loyola Chicago School of Law, made a generous donation to the Vis Moot program. Ms. Greenberg is an Evanston attorney who specializes in Energy Law, Public Utility Law, and Business Law.

The PepsiCo Foundation made a matching contribution to the donation by John H. Calhoun.

The Vienna and Hong Kong teams would also like to thank the following Loyola alums, many of whom are past participants of the Vis Moot program, for their financial support:

- Kelly A. O'Brien
- Sklyer G. Cruz



The Hong Kong Team

- Michael A. Barranda
- Jonathon P. Robilotto
- Cara A. Boyle
- Melissa A. King
- Ellen M. Carey
- Anthony B. Cartee
- John A. Meyers
- Hanh Diep
- James Saranteas

Finally, we would like to thank **Mr. Peter Baugher** and the **Chicago Institute of Dispute Resolution**, and **Mr. Larry Schaner** and the **Chicago Chapter of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrations** both for their financial contributions and their assistance in providing arbitrators for the Loyola Mini-Moot.

Thank you again to all of our donors!



The Vienna Team



Room set for 233 teams for the Final Argument in Vienna



The team relaxing in Vienna after a long day of mooting

European Encounters

By: Lauren Kraus

lunch trip to see the Parisian monument as well as other area sights. When we weren't mooting, we spent our time traveling around the city from the Latin Quarter to Montmartre. By the end of our three and a half day visit we had become experts at taking the metro!

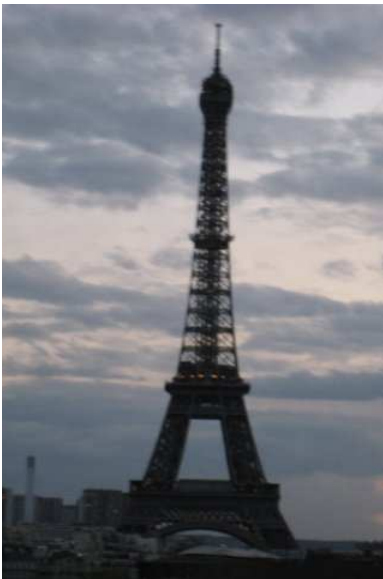
While in Paris, we met students from fifteen other teams who would also be competing in Vienna. The first night of our Paris stay we were invited to meet the other participants at an opening reception held at a Parisian

we were all willing to make! However, in between rounds and on our final day we did manage to see St. Stephen's Cathedral and its catacombs, the Belvedere Castle, the Spanish Riding School that houses the Lipizzaner Stallions, Parliament, Rathaus (city hall), and of course, Café Demel, famous for its delicious tortes.

The combination of mooting, meeting new people, seeing the sites, and trying delicious Viennese and French cuisine, made this an unforgettable experience!



Ice Cream at Café Demel



View of the Eiffel Tower from the ICC

Despite all the mooting in both Paris and Vienna, the Vienna team managed to see some great sights and meet a lot of great people on our European trip.

We arrived in Paris a little over a week before the Vis Moot began. Our time in Paris consisted of two very full days of practice rounds at the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). Fortunately for us, the ICC is located in the heart of the city within walking distance of the Eiffel Tower. We took full advantage of this location, taking a



Vienna University, where most of the competition rounds were held

law firm. It was a great change to meet our fellow "mooties" outside of the pressures of the competition.

In Vienna, we were lucky enough to stay in the center of town, in a square that had an Easter market full of great food and souvenirs to buy. We did not have as much time to see the city as we thought we might because our advancing to the elimination rounds meant more time mooting. It was a trade-off



Amber and Mike compete against the team from the University of Fribourg



In front of the Arch de Triumf in Paris

Loyola University Chicago School of Law Hosts Mini-Moot in Chicago

By: Aruna Subramanian and Shouger Merchant

The mini-moot at Loyola was a wonderful opportunity for the VIS teams to compete with other regional schools in preparation for the competitions in Hong Kong and Vienna. Loyola organized this year's mini-moot with the co-sponsorship of the Chicago International Dispute Resolution Association and the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. The school also recruited past participants of the Vis Moot to sit as arbitrators. Given their experience, the arbitrators were able to give mean-

ingful feedback, which was extremely useful to the teams during their remaining practice time. The students were also able to develop fresh ideas and hear arguments used by other teams. The competition had a good number of participants, and included high caliber teams such as Hamline University, which traditionally does very well in both Vis Moot competitions.

The high quality of the competition was evidenced by the fact that one of

the team members from the Loyola Vienna team who tied for first place in the mini-moot, Michael Viglione, went on to win an Honorable Mention Award for Best Oralist in Vienna. The Loyola mini-moot in Chicago has provided successful practice rounds for its participants each year. Students traditionally find it to be one of the most helpful ways of preparing for the Vienna and Hong Kong competitions. This year's mini-moot was no exception!

Vis Moot East: A Photo Diary



City University of Hong Kong, where the competition rounds were held



All decked out for the Final Banquet



Competitors and arbitrators after a preliminary round



Aruna, Beth, Shouger, and Honorine at the Opening Reception



At the airport



Enjoying some downtime



Aruna and Donald with their arbitration panel



Team members preparing for their next round

Paris Proves an Excellent Practice Round for the Vienna Team

By: Joseph Renick

This year, the Vienna Vis Moot team was fortunate enough to be invited to the International Chamber of Commerce's Pre Moot in Paris, France. The Pre Moot consisted of sixteen teams from all over the world, many of



Competitors and arbitrators at the ICC Pre Moot

which were teams that have traditionally done very well in Vienna. The opportunity to compete against these schools at the Pre Moot played an im-

portant role in preparing us for the Vis Moot in Vienna.

While we had anticipated differences between American arbitrators and European arbitrators, we were nevertheless surprised by the extent of those differences. Being exposed to these differences allowed us to be better prepared for the wide variety of arbitrators we would encounter in Vienna. The ICC Pre Moot was an invaluable academic experience that surely contributed to our success in Vienna.

In addition, the Pre Moot prepared us for the social atmosphere in Vienna. In Paris, we were able to meet a number of students that we would later see throughout the week of Moot activities.

With over two hundred teams participating in the Moot, it could have been overwhelming to arrive without knowing anybody beyond the members of our



The Vienna Team pauses for a picture with fellow competitors at the ICC Pre-Moot in Paris

team. But after meeting so many fellow "mooties" the week before, we were always able to find a friendly face in the crowd.

Overall, the experience in Paris prepared us very well for all aspects of the actual Moot. We learned quite a bit about how arbitration in Europe differs from arbitration in the United States. But more importantly, we were able to experience those differences first hand, which prepared us for the Moot in Vienna. While we were all a bit surprised by some of the differences, I think we were all pleased to experience those surprises in Paris rather than at the actual moot in Vienna.

No Language Barrier Here

By: Amber Curl

One would think that it would be difficult to organize an international moot competition because of the inherent language barrier; however, this has been no problem for the participants of the Vis Moot. The Moot requires that each team write their briefs and give all their oral arguments in English, but for many of the moot participants, English is their second, third, or even fourth language!

For most of us, the thought of having to write two entire briefs in a different language is an impossible task! The non-native English speakers, however, are not only able to write two

whole briefs, but some of the teams even win awards. It is remarkable that when reading briefs from non-native speakers, it is nearly impossible to tell that they have not been writing in English their entire lives.

The truly inspiring part of the competition, however, is watching how well participants give oral presentations in English while being pressed with questions from arbitrators. Even native English speakers have a difficult time being articulate when they are nervous and being peppered with questions, but imagine having to argue in a second language. It would be abso-

lutely terrifying! And while it is true that some participants struggle with the language, the fact that they are willing to subject themselves to that kind of pressure is admirable in itself.

As Americans, participation in the Vis Moot was definitely less of a struggle because we were able to speak our native language. Hopefully, watching international students take on a seemingly impossible task has inspired some of us to learn a second language. At the very least, we all left the Moot with a great appreciation for those who put so much effort into learning and successfully competing in a second language.

Hong Kong Team Wins Brief Award

(Continued from page 1)

However, the team was awarded for their hard work by receiving an Honorable Mention for their Claimant's Memorandum.

In addition to the competitive aspect of the trip, the Hong Kong team members took full advantage of the opportunity to meet and network with students from many different teams. In

fact, they created one of the competition's signature moves, the monacle. The monacle made appearances at all the moot social events for the rest of the week!

Overall, competing against and socializing with teams from around the world was an amazing experience for the Hong Kong team.

(Right) Members of the Hong Kong Team demonstrate "the monacle"



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The Hong Kong Experience

By: Honorine Richards

Donald and I were the chosen two picked to take the train to City University of Hong Kong with our coach John Calhoun. The reason I start my article with this fact is just to clue you in on some of the things we experienced in China and explain why this journey stands for it all.

Donald and I were the only two black people on the Hong Kong Moot team. So we gathered many stares when we were walking around the city with our Caucasian coach. As we made our way through the metro and down the streets of Hong Kong, people stared, pointed, and gawked. I did not mind though, I kind of felt like a celebrity. We knew we were different from anything anyone had experienced in Hong Kong and we quite liked it.

Finally, we arrived at City U to register. We were eager to meet our competition, asking everyone: are you the Mainz team, are you from Chankya, are you the Lubjiana team, or you have to be from Carlos de Madrid. We were able to meet the Mainz group along with the coordinator who would later become the inspiration for our team monacles. We then registered for that night's reception.

When we arrived at the Hong Kong Club for the opening reception, I was expecting to see nervous mooters,

shrouded in silence, sticking close to their groups. However, what I saw was an awe inspiring picture of just how grand and international the moot really was. Everyone was mingling with each



Hong Kong Teammates Donald Cole and Honorine Richards with Coach John Calhoun

other, people were coming up to our team and introducing themselves, and generally people were eager to socialize.

Then Louise Barrington, the director of the VIS East Competition, hushed the crowd and said a number of

inspiring things, one of which I keep with me. She said, "it is important that the western world continue to build bridges and relationships with those in the legal field practicing in the east."

She went on to explain how it is our duty as young professionals to forge relationships with those people in our profession in the world. So, if I have learned nothing else from this competition, I have accepted this responsibility. However, after her speech, I went back to looking for my competitors so I could visualize the beat down.