Loyola Brings Home More Awards

Notably, team members Lisa Ellison and Nikki Paradiso received Honorable Mentions as Best Oralists for their performances in the general rounds. The pair also successfully argued Loyola into the semi-finals in Hong Kong.

The Vienna team brought home an Honorable Mention for its Claimant’s Brief. The team narrowly missed advancing into the final rounds despite four superior performances in the general rounds.

The Vis Olympics

This year’s Loyola Vis Moot Teams continued to build upon Loyola’s already superior reputation at this year’s competitions. Awards were scarcer than ever, with both Vienna and Hong Kong adding to the already impressive list of competing schools. Loyola nonetheless added to its list of Vis Moot accomplishments, both through its excellent brief writing and polished oral advocacy.

The Hong Kong Team reached the semi-final rounds, losing to the eventual winners by what the arbitrators admitted was a very slim margin. The team also won First-Runner Up for Best Respondent Brief.

The Vis Olympics by Hanh Diep

What they never tell you, but you realize when it is all over – the Vis Moot Competition is the Olympics of the law moot world. Eighty-six countries participated in the Winter Olympics with a total of 2,500 athletes. In Vienna there were 50 countries participating and over 1,000 future lawyers. The Olympics had 650 judges and Vienna Vis had over 500 arbitrators. Teams in both events even have prominent sponsors. Corporations sponsored the athletes, while law firms and attorneys sponsored the students.

The Loyola team trained for the Vis Competition like the athletes did for the Olympics. We practiced three to four times a week and clocking in over twenty-one practices before we left. We even had our own version of the ice-skating nationals with our mini-moot held a month before we left. These events share the similar concerns of balancing a strong desire to win with sharing strategies with the opposing side. Like the Olympic athletes who train for seventeen days of competition, the Vis teams spent six months preparing for four days of competition.

Team Members:
- Jake Downang
- Hanh Diep
- Not Fluet
- Sharon Nowakowski
- Scott Mancini
- Nikki Paradiso
- Lisa Ellison
- Matt Petrillo
- Mark Calaguas
- Dave Hyde
- Ben Baroock (Tutor)

Awards:
- Honorable Mention, Bett Claimant’s Brief (Vienna)
- Team Semi-Finalist (Hi)
- Lisa Ellison, Honorable Mention, Best Oralist (Hi)
- Nikki Paradiso, Honorable Mention, Best Oralist (Hi)
- First-Runner Up, Best Respondent Brief (Hi)
Reflections from Vienna
By Sharon Nowakowski

Being a Vis Moot Fellow offered me a chance to practice advocacy and public speaking, and to learn about international arbitration from teams of law students from around the world. Our team practiced and competed against students from the United States, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Mexico, and the Netherlands. Additionally, the Vis Moot provided a unique opportunity to meet pre-eminent scholars and distinguished arbitrators, who offered their feedback and commentary on international arbitration and competitors' arguments.

Whether a student plans on litigating in the courtroom or negotiating behind closed doors, a critical aspect of learning to become a successful lawyer involves honing one's advocacy skills. Unfortunately, such experience is absent from the education of many law students. All too often, law students lack the chance to argue a position for a client, much less receive feedback from leaders in a specialized field of law. This is why a program like the Vis Moot is sorely needed in law school and relished by the students who get to take advantage of it.

Prior to joining the Vis Moot arbitration team, I had not had the occasion to participate in any moot court competitions or to develop client advocacy skills. I am thankful for Professor Moses's class, the numerous practices with my teammates, and the competition. Thanks to all of them, I feel that my understanding of the CISG and my ability to take a position and provide a client with effective advocacy is much improved.

Next year, I hope to return to assist the Vis Moot team in their practices and to share my experiences from Vienna. Being a 2006 Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw Vis Moot Fellow was one of the most memorable and worthwhile events of my law school career and an exciting forum in which to learn about the growing field of international arbitration.

Lamma Island
By Matthew Petrillo

The ferries arrived in Picnic Bay on the east coast of the Lamma Island, as the sun was setting behind the island. It was immediately clear that Lamma Island would be a sharp contrast to the hectic pace and bright lights of Hong Kong Island. The island measures less than 6 square miles and has an approximate population of 8,000. Our destination that evening was Sok Kwu Wan, a lively fishing town on the bay. This particular bay is one of the main suppliers of Hong Kong's seafood restaurants, and the bay is filled with floating fish farms. It is clear how fresh our dinner was going to be. Each restaurant had a covered outdoor patio across the sidewalk from the physical restaurant. Inside each restaurant, fish tanks lined walls and were filled with live squid, octopus, clams, and much more exotic and unidentifiable fish. Once our team sat down at our table, waiters began to bring course after course of fresh seafood. Over the clamor of the dishes, you can hear the Spanish-looking football songs and the cheers from a party of Chinese ladies at a nearby table. The open-air restaurant provides a great atmosphere for an last chance to socialize with the friends that we had made.
Reflections from Hong Kong
By Mark Calaguas

For its participants, the Vis (East) Moot caps off months of intensive legal research, brief writing, and oral argument preparation.

This year’s competition was held from March 27-April 2 at the City University of Hong Kong in Kowloon, drawing teams from all over North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia. The dozens of practitioners and scholars who volunteered their time to serve as arbitrators hailed from an equally diverse range of locations and institutions.

While the trend in international law has been to promote uniformity in both substantive law and procedure rules, the multicultural nature of international commercial arbitration ensures that competitors will be exposed to a variety of advocacy techniques. In particular, students from common law countries, especially the United States, tend to employ an adversarial style of argument, while those trained in the civil law tradition usually adopt a more scholarly approach. By pitting teams from divergent backgrounds against each other, the moot trains students to be aware of such differences and exploit them effectively.

Because establishing a connection with arbitrators is just as important as getting the law right, Loyola’s Hong Kong team had to be prepared for every contingency in order to succeed in its arguments. Some factors were controllable, such as remembering to address the tribunal with deference, answering every question directly, and avoid the use of colloquialisms. Despite these and other pressures, Loyola remained quick on its feet and burst its way into the semifinals, picking up two honorable mentions for Best Individual Oralist. The team also received the second place award for Best Respondent’s Memorandum, making it the only U.S. school to be recognized for its brief-writing excellence.

You remember the experience the rest of your lives.

Loyola Hosts Chicago Mini-Moot
By Ben Boroski

Loyola’s 2006 Chicago Mini-Moot was an excellent first-step in the process of making the Chicago Mini-Moot a perennial Vis Moot institution. Loyola organized and hosted this year’s Chicago Mini-Moot with the support of alumni and the Chicago International Dispute Resolution Association.

The event had previously been hosted by Northwestern, where it was limited to local participating school. Loyola expanded the number of participants at the Mini-Moot, including bringing in high caliber teams like Hamline University from Minnesota and Osgoode Hall from Canada. Loyola also made the event a veritable competition, complete with evaluations, scores, and awards.

The high quality of the competition was evidenced in that one of the participants would eventually go on to win the Best Individual Oralist award in Vienna. The same individual actually did not even score in the top three at the Chicago Mini-Moot.

Mini-moots of this sort are hallmarks in Europe, with teams competing annually in Paris and Munich. Stetson University, finalists in Vienna the past two years, and Osgoode Hall host mini-moots of their own each year.

This year’s Chicago Mini-Moot took a big step towards making it an institution of its own.
Many Thanks

Prof. Margaret L. Moses
Director of the Vis Moot Program
Loyola University Chicago School of Law
25 E. Pearson
Chicago, IL 60611
mmoses1@luc.edu

The opportunity to compete in Hong Kong and Vienna was made possible through several generous contributions. Both teams again express their thanks and hope that with such continued support, Loyola will continue to succeed as the Moot grows ever larger and more competitive.

In particular, the Vienna Team thanks Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw, LLP for their continued support. This is the firm’s second year of the firm’s three-year commitment to sponsor Loyola’s entire Viennan Team. Such professional and financial support is invaluable as the teams prepare to compete against competitors from around the globe.

The Hong Kong Team thanks its generous individual sponsors:

Peter B. Carey (J.D., ’69), whose daughter is an alumna of Loyola’s Vis Moot program, again contributed his time and guidance as an arbitrator to the teams, in addition to again acting as a sponsor for the Hong Kong Team.

John H. Calhoun, Esq., whose son is an alumna of the law school, was the coach of the Hong Kong team for the second straight year. He has arbitrated in Vienna and Hong Kong, and been an endless reservoir of insight, moral support and generous hospitality to all the members of teams past and present.

Cesar M. Froelich (J.D., ’90), continued to offer his professional advice and generous financial support to the Hong Kong Team. Mr. Froelich is the founder of the law firm

Shields & Froelich Ltd.

Unphased by the complete failure of the laptop projections, the giggling, the nervous tension in the room or the saxophonist’s strange interpretation of that instrument’s purpose, The Professor and the best boxer rap their way through the heavily mocked problem.

As the rap concludes with the Professor, and his shimmering silver hair, crossing his arms, my eyes are wet with joy. They would have waited if they had sensed the finale. The laptop artist fixes the projection problem just in time, and ‘Imagine’ comes boldly across the screen. The Trio begins to negotiate the classic Lennon song the professor or begins to croon, coaxing the audience to sing along, the break-dancer dances, the lady competitors compete.

And then it happens:

The audience begins to sing along in full force with such beautiful words as, “Imagine there’s no Eric, it’s impossible to do.” Just when I thought it could not get any more artistically relevant, the crowd puts their collective hands above their heads and sways to the melody. The saxophone interrupts again and again.

After this presentation it is completely meaningless when we do not win.