



IDA's Vis Moot Programme

Masters 2 International Business Law,

DJCE

The **Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot** or **Vis Moot** is an international moot court competition (a simulated international arbitration). Since 1994, it has been held annually in Vienna, Austria, attracting more than 380 law schools worldwide and spurring the creation of more than 50 "pre-moots" each year, before the actual rounds in Vienna. It is the largest moot in the world for its field.

The Vis Moot fosters study in the area of international commercial arbitration and encourages the resolution of business disputes by arbitration. The moot problem incorporates an international sales transaction subject to the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods, 1980 (the CISG) and involves procedural issues of arbitration.

The business community's marked preference for resolving international commercial disputes by arbitration dictates using arbitration as the clinical tool to train law students through two crucial phases: the writing of memoranda for claimant and respondent and the hearing of oral arguments based upon the memoranda. The written exercises require determining questions of contract -- flowing from a transaction relating to the sale or purchase of goods under the CISG and other uniform international commercial law -- in the context of an arbitration of a dispute under specified Arbitration Rules (and UNCITRAL's model law, the NY Convention, etc.). In the pairings of teams for each general round, every effort is made to have civil law schools argue against common law schools -- so each may learn from approaches taken by persons trained in another legal culture. Similarly, the teams of arbitrators judging each round are from both common law and civil law backgrounds.

Former mootees present the moot programme in September.

All students selected to be in the option become members of the Moot team. Participation will be limited. Grading covers work on the two memoranda, teamwork, and involvement as pleaders or arbitrators during the oral practice sessions.

Students wishing to apply to this programme should bear in mind that participation in the Vis Moot requires a significant amount of work and, therefore, a high level of commitment throughout the whole university year (see the Moot Website <https://vismoot.pace.edu/>). But, on the other hand, it is a unique opportunity to improve their advocacy and English skills, meet people from all over the world, maximize their chances to get the job they want, and, also, have fun!

Like prior Moot teams, financing permitting, mootees will likely attend pre-moots in Montpellier, Edinburgh, London, Sofia, and other locations. Students will need to help raise funds for these trips. Usually, four students plead in Vienna.

Taking part in the Vis Moot is a life changing-experience.

Co-Chairing the programme:

- **William Peterson**, Co-Managing Partner, Ringle, Roy & Associates and Lecturer/Co-Chair of the International Litigation Programme at IDA, Aix-Marseille University, Member of the Bars of Marseille and California, Arbitrator with chambers in Paris, Vienna and Barcelona w.peterson@ringleroy.com.
- **Denis Mouralis**, Professor (AMU), Arbitrator, Consultant with the Centre for Mediation and Arbitration of Paris (CMAP) denis@mouralis.com.

With additional coaches (depending on availability each year):

- **Johanna Schwartz Miralles**, Johanna, Franco-American, holds a JD from Harvard Law School, where she participated as a member of Harvard's Vis Moot team (2007-08, 2008-09). Johanna practiced as a litigator with Jones Day in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She recently moved to France with her husband, who hails from Aix-en-Provence and is pursuing a Ph.D. at AMU;
- **Yann Guermontprez**, Head of Corporate & Business Development, Airbus Helicopters, formerly with Fenwick Elliott (London) & White & Case (Paris). Admitted as a Solicitor in England and Wales and to the Paris bar;
- **Paul Desorgues**, Retired English Professor, Paul coaches the team on oral expression in English;
- **Paul Frankenstein**, In-House Counsel, Oracle (Santa Clara, California). Paul, an American, is a member of the Bars of NY and California. He holds an LLM in arbitration from Stockholm University and a JD from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, New York. Paul is a former mootee and has coached the Cardozo Vis Moot team for years. He also coached the Stockholm team and participated in the Hong Kong and Vienna Vis Moots as an arbitrator for many years;
- **Natalia Gaucher-Mbodji**, Ph.D. Candidate in Arbitration Law, Assistant Lecturer, Aix-Marseille University, Master Maritime & Transport Law, Aix-Marseille University, Master History of Law, University Paris II Panthéon-Assas.

And also, IDA Moot Alumni (depending on availability each year):

- **Simon Fitzpatrick** (22nd Moot), Simon, American, worked in litigation law firms in the United States and France, he also interned at the Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxembourg. He is in the process of becoming a lawyer in France He was the best pleader at the Edinburgh pre-moot.
- **Anastasiya Mavrudieva** (25th Moot), Anastasiya, Bulgarian, works in the Bulgarian law firm Tabakov, Tabakova & Partners, specializing in international tax law and international arbitration. She studied at Queen Mary in London and Assas in Paris. She was the highest-ranking pleader in Vienna our team has ever had.



26th Moot Team



25th Moot Team



24th Moot Team & Coaches
(In Vienna)



23th Moot Team



22nd Moot Team & Coaches (In Vienna)



21st Moot Team & Coaches (In Vienna)



20th Moot Team (In Edinburgh)