

# Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition

2023 - 2024 Season

### What Is The Vis

- The Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot is an international moot competition promoting the study and use of:
  - Arbitration as a primary dispute resolution method, and
  - The UN Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG).
- The competition is over 30 years old and features:
  - Over 375 teams,
  - From almost 90 different countries.



### Importance of the Vis

- A grand slam moot, it is the second-largest moot in the world
- The foremost scholars and practitioners in the field act as arbitrators
- The Vis has been referred to as the "Olympics of international trade law"
- The Vis is credited with expanding the understanding of this area of law and bridging the gap between common and civil law jurisdictions



### The Vis Season

Analysis & Research

Oct 6<sup>th</sup> Distribution of the Problem

Oct 27<sup>th</sup> Requests for Clarification

Written Submissions

**Dec 7**<sup>th</sup> Memorandum for Claimant

**Jan 18**<sup>th</sup> Memorandum for Respondent

Preparation for Oral Argument

**Feb – Mar** Pre-Moots

Mar 22<sup>nd</sup> Opening Ceremony

Mar 23<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Oral Arguments

### A History of Excellence



- Honorable mention for best Claimant memorandum, 2010-11 & 2011-12
- Honorable mention for best individual oralist, 2011-12 & 2013-14
- Honorable mention for best team orals, 2011-12 & 2013-14
- Honorable mention for best Respondent memorandum, 2013-14



Northwestern has also regularly taken top team and individual honors at the Loyola pre-moot, including in 2019.

### An Unparalleled Experience



- Team members meet and work with law students from all over the world
- Students selected to present oral argument may travel to pre-moots
- The competition is judged by more than 800 arbitrators from more than 70 countries, including many of the world's leading international arbitrators, arbitration counsel, and top CISG and arbitration academics

### An Unparalleled Experience



- The competition is highly prestigious
- Team members gain invaluable insight into the Convention for the International Sale of Goods and the rules of various international arbitration associations
- Professional network of peers around the world
- Introduction to the international arbitration community
- Alumni have gone on to work in these fields
- Law students typically regard their Vis experience as the best thing they did while in law school

### **An Important Commitment**



- Team members will meet in person or virtually at least once a week
- Outside time for research and writing will also be required
- Research on CISG and international arbitration topics requires special resources and attention

# **An Important Commitment**

- Team members selected for oral arguments will undergo an intensive preparation process, including many practice arguments, and may have travel commitments
- The team will also be responsible for raising funds to support its continued work



# **Application Information**

Interested students should submit the following to International.Programs@ law.northwestern.edu no later than 9/15/2023:

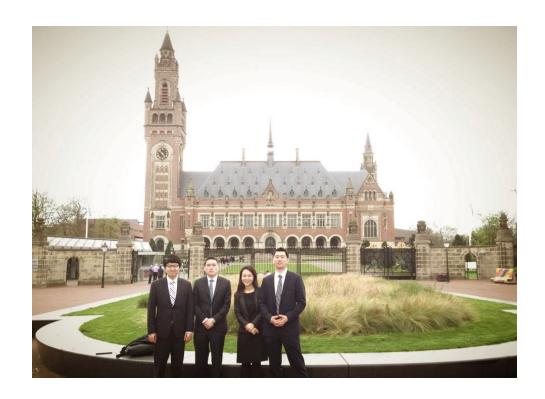
- Resume
- Transcripts
- Writing Sample

The body of the email should also provide availability for a Zoom interview the week of 9/18/2023.



## **Application Information**

The selection committee will consider a variety of factors including applicants' writing and oral presentation skills, ability to understand complex legal problems, dedication, and availability.



### **Northwestern Vis Moot**



**Questions?** 

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