

# The Activities

## Timetable

from September 2013	Preparation of how to write a memorandum, International Arbitration and CISG
October 4, 2013	Distribution of the “problem” in form of an extract from a case file. The “problem” serves as basis for the Moot Court competition
December 12, 2013	Deadline for submission of Claimant’s memorandum
January 23, 2014	Deadline for submission of Respondent’s memorandum
until April 2014	Preparation for the oral pleadings
April 10 to 17, 2014	Oral pleadings in Vienna

## Diary

### Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Welcome Back Reception. Before we get ennobled to the distinguished rank of an Ex-Mootie, there is one final task. Together with the ICCMC Team Marburg we are invited by the dean of our law faculty, Prof. Dr. Horn, to bring the project solemnly to an end. Drinking a small glass of champagne, we think back to what has happened within the last months. We experienced so much that we struggle to summarize it at all. We

thank all sponsors, organizers and coaches of the Marburg team for the unique time and are eager to be spectators of the next upcoming moot.

## **Tuesday, April 29, 2014**

The Moot may be over, but there was still one very interesting sponsor we had yet to visit: the Fritz Winter iron foundry in Stadtallendorf. This turned out to be an exciting change from our previous visits to law firms in Frankfurt. We were greeted by Mr. Höbler, the head of the company's legal department, who gave us an insight into the workings of a company lawyer for the first time during the Moot. Having the opportunity to converse with inhouse counsel in this manner was particularly rewarding for us as this is one area which is hardly touched on in our legal education and largely remains a mystery to most students.

Afterwards were delighted to take part in a guided tour of the inner workings of the foundry, which primarily produces manifold parts for the automotive industry. We were able to follow the production process from the smelting of the metal to the final finished products, which was a fascinating experience for all of us. We would like to thank Fritz Winter not only for their generous support, but also for granting us such an exciting insight into the company.

## **Thursday , April 10 - Thursday, April 17, 2014**

Finally the week in Vienna was in front of us. We were excited to learn that we would meet nearly 2000 other Mooties, attend great events during the day and in the evenings and take part in challenging pleadings. We were particularly happy to meet teams again, to socialize and to have a great time.

At the beginning we were all thinking about the same thing: will Vienna be as it was promised?

As recent alumnis we are happy to confirm that those expectations were exceeded!

After 7 months of hard work we arrived in Vienna on Thursday. Thanks to excellent time management we had nearly two days to acclimatize ourselves. We were also lucky in that our pleadings were well scheduled, which means we had one pleading a day and did not have to stress ourselves. We were especially excited about the fact

that we were finally able to meet our opponents in the flesh. Particularly of interest were the teams that had to answer to our memorandum and the team whose memo was the foundation of our second one. In any event, we had our pleadings and those were also our last ones as we were not one of the lucky teams that made it to the round of 64.

A little bit downhearted but also still proud of our achievements, we wanted to make our way home. However, we wanted to close this chapter of the Moot with some fun and went to the „Prater“ (an all-season amusement park). This helped us to forget about the stress of the pleadings.

Ultimately there is only one thing left to say: thanks to all the people that made this semester possible and special thanks to our coaches who were there for us, night and day.

We not only built new friendships, had a lot of serious fun with Mooties from all over the world and had strong pleadings with our opponents but can proudly report that we got two honorable mentions for our two memoranda.

Both of our memos were thus ranked as one of the respective top 25 out of 300 memoranda. We were delighted that at the end of our time together as Mooties we were able to share such a moment. This also confirmed us in our belief that the work and effort we invested was well worth it.

### **Wednesday, March 19, 2014**

Hamburg Pre-Moot. We participated in our second Pre-Moot. At the one-day Hamburg Pre-Moot we could meet new teams and see all old friends of the already known teams again. We test our pleadings and got suggestions how to improve. Although no points were given we could learn a lot during the four pleadings. With this experience we are well prepared for the Düsseldorf Pre-Moot which already starts the next morning.

### **Thursday, March 19, 2014**

Good old Marburg served as a meeting point for teams from the outside of Hessen, in the form of the Marburg Mini Moot in its 6th iteration. This time we invited the

teams from Würzburg and Osnabrück to compete against us in a friendly and charming atmosphere in the great hall of the old university building. The pleadings were challenging and made this a very profitable event for all participating teams. The efforts of the arbitrators to show us all the potential moods of a tribunal were particularly appreciated and made this a diverse experience. We all had to laugh as one of the arbitrators proved to us how deep his understanding of the Mediterranean language (the Claimant's native language) was by speaking in this fantasy tongue.

This was also one of the topics during the following social get-together in the „Oberstadt“. While enjoying beer and coffee with the arbitrators, we discussed their feelings about this year's problem and other non-moot related topics.

### **Wednesday, March 5 - Monday, March 10, 2014**

Helsinki Pre-Moot. Our first foreign assignment and our first opportunity to compete against non-German teams. The Pre-Moot offered 16 teams from different countries to test their abilities and gather new impressions. And we had the chance to try our arguments under “Viennese conditions” find the weak spots. Though the variety of teams and arbitrators showed us how different a pleading can be structured and understood.

On our first day we could enjoy the evening at a reception at Castrén & Snellman. Here we could get in touch with the other teams for the first time. Since we were the only German team in the competition it was exiting to meet all the new people. But the first pleadings were already on the next day so we went home early to be up to the mark.

The following pleading days at the law firms of Castrén & Snellman, Roschier and Hannes Snellman went by too fast. At the end there was an interesting final between the universities of Zürich and Lappland.

On the next days we got the chance to discover the city. We walked through the city and visited for instance Temppeliaukio-church, Helsinki cathedral and the port. What remains are great experiences and memories.

### **Thursday, February 27 - Friday, February 28, 2014**

On February 27th and 28th the Frankfurt Advocacy School, organized by the Frankfurt Moot Alumni Association, took place. The Advocacy School is not a classic pre-moot. In addition to pleading against other teams we had the opportunity of participating in workshops for vocal and rhetorical training. There was even coaching to show us the right way to deal with nervousness and stress. By using our voices in the right manner we learned to control signs of stress and to hold a more authoritative pleading than before. The Frankfurt Advocacy School was very helpful and interesting and fresh change from our previous pleadings. As always it was a pleasure meeting old friends and getting to know new people. Not only the workshops but also the evening program gave us the perfect possibility for that.

### **Wednesday, February 12 – Friday, February 14, 2014**

The team was invited to visit the University of Cologne's Vis Moot School. It was the first event of its kind in Cologne and we were therefore all the more excited to take part. After we found our unorthodox, but charming, hotel, Wednesday evening began with an introduction and a reception at Oppenhoff & Partner. Feeling warmly welcomed, we began the next day with two workshops: one about the methods of presentation in an oral hearing, the second about voice training. Both of them were very helpful and informative but also a lot of fun. Friday brought the chance to practice both topics. Every team had two opportunities to plead against another team at Oppenhoff & Partner. Every pleading was recorded with a camera and the speakers received feedback from both a lawyer's and a voice trainer's perspective. We would like to congratulate the organisers on a very successful and enjoyable event!

### **Monday, February 10, 2014**

After two weeks of practicing amongst ourselves it was about time to plead against other teams. The oral phase of the Vis Moot Court has begun. While the written phase allowed us to collect arguments, we now have now learned how to concentrate on our strongest points in our 30 minute pleadings. The law firm Gleiss Lutz kindly provided

us with the opportunity to practice what we had learned to date when they invited us to Stuttgart. While we were there we realized for the first time how many different solutions had been developed by the many other teams. During a pleading it is our task to react to their as yet unknown argumentation in the most elegant way. This may seem trivial at first glance, but it requires a lot of practice. We were therefore very thankful for the opportunity to practice at Gleiss Lutz.

### **Thursday, January 23, 2014**

The Memorandum for Respondent has been submitted. We were not promised too much: writing the second memo was a unique experience. Each team received the Memorandum for Claimant of another participating team and had to switch its own previous role to answer to it. Being forced to consider an argument from both sides was certainly a moral challenge. The very arguments we had put our faith in to that point were suddenly the ones we had to overcome. This feeling was only amplified by the fact that the opposing team, the University of Bucharest, had used a similar train of thought to our own.

At the end of the day, we are very content with the result of our second memorandum since we were able to greatly improve once more in the second written phase of the competition.

### **Thursday, December 12, 2013**

After two months of writing, about two dozen meetings and countless litres of coffee it is done: the memorandum for Claimant is finalised and sent. On 35 pages we tried to explain why our claim, contrary to Respondent's insolent assertions, should not be dismissed. This may not sound like too much of a trial. Nevertheless, on many a night we had to research all night long to get to this result. Our faces are thus pale, our eyes red and our cigarettes all gone. Now we are excited about our next task, which will be the destruction of everything we have done so far: writing the memorandum for the Respondent. Only this time in just a month.

### **Monday, September 9, 2013 – Wednesday, September 11, 2013**

The Team had the privilege of participating in the 9th Annual Frankfurt Drafting School organised by the Frankfurt Alumni Association e.V., a non-profit organisation founded and run by former moot-participants from the University of Frankfurt. The lecturing practitioners spoke on a broad range of topics, ranging from an introduction to the basics of arbitration and the CISG to a workshop labeled "how to draft a memorandum".

In addition to the lectures we were able to meet other German teams for the first time. We shared our experiences thus far and were able to get some idea of how the Moot and other university teams are organised.

Looking back, the Frankfurt Drafting School was a very rewarding and highly recommendable event. Now we are excited about our next big event in two weeks: the 7th Düsseldorf International Arbitration School.

### **Sunday, September 1, 2013**

The team has finally survived its first "Test Case". After having been treated to an informative drafting workshop by Oliver Rust on August 12 we had been eager to put our new-found knowledge into practice.

The coaches gave us two and a half weeks to draft a memorandum for a fictional case: as children we would have probably have broken a few laws if we had known about the existence of the object of this particular dispute: the Zenith 3D-O-Matic, a 3D-printer for toys! This time it at least generated the first moot-meme: the Finn-O-Mat.

### **Tuesday, June 18, 2013**

It is the hottest day of the previous year and we had decided to arrange a photo-session in the city centre of Marburg. Dressed in full business attire we search for the best perspectives and backgrounds, despite a temperature of over 34°C, in which the other pedestrians seem to prefer shorts and bikinis. The coaches repeatedly point out the importance of the event for "training purposes", resulting in us being able to wear a suit at any temperature in the future. Even the extreme weather conditions cannot stop us now and we have a great time again.

**Thursday, May 16, 2013**

Finally the Vis Moot Team of 2013/14 has met for the first time - to have breakfast together. This time there are six of us: Miriam Kerzan, Rebecca Richter, Alexander Tews, Julian F. Christmann, Moritz Hartz und Finn B. B. Baumhaus. We already know our coaches, Maren Wibke Weigl, Jeremy Fenner and Masud Ulfat, as well as the initiators of the project, Dr. Reinmar Wolff and Oliver Rust, from the pleasant and surprisingly unstressful interviews.

But this time it is about us as a team. We have fun, learn about each other while drinking coffee from cups designed in the real "Vis Moot Franchise style" and finally understand why the Vis Moot logo includes such a gorgeous sailing ship: it just looks good!

The ambiance is great and we are looking forward to an exciting time together.