

The Activities

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| from September 2014 | Preparation of how to write a memorandum, International Arbitration and CISG |
| October 3, 2014 | Distribution of the “problem” in form of an extract from a case file. The “problem” serves as basis for the Moot Court competition |
| December 11, 2014 | Deadline for submission of Claimant’s memorandum |
| January 22, 2015 | Deadline for submission of Respondent’s memorandum |
| until March 2015 | Preparation for the oral pleadings |
| March 26 to April 2, 2015 | Oral pleadings in Vienna |



Wednesday, 28 May 2014 – We get to know each other

Today we had our first get-together as a team. After being raised to the honourable rank of a mootie, we readily followed the invitation to a joint breakfast – the perfect opportunity to get to know the coaches Julian Christmann and Miriam Kerzan as well as the other mooties in a convenient atmosphere. This time we are a foursome of mooties, consisting of Maximilian Horn, Sonya Mehdizadeh, Anastasia Molchanova and Simon Weichert.

The initial silence showed: Until then none of us mooties was used to talk in English, particularly in the early morning. The coaches therefore broke the ice first. In the end we were more comfortable with one another and looked forward to an exciting and successful time together!

18-20 September 2014 – Frankfurt Drafting School

We had three great days at the Frankfurt Drafting School (FDS)! The seminar took place at the IG-Farben building on Campus Westend. Besides us, many other teams from all over Germany had travelled to Frankfurt to take part in the FDS. Before the “problem” would appear, all of us wanted to get a detailed overview of the UN Sales Convention, arbitration and the eponymous trade of FDS: the drafting of a memorandum. These key issues of the Vis Moot Court are taught at FDS for ten years now.

Three days full of lectures and workshops were waiting for us. Just as the teams, the speakers came from all over Germany. We were very excited about meeting other teams for the first time. Moreover, we have to admit that the unfamiliar high number of suits and costumes in only one room made us feel a bit nervous in the beginning. However, we were put at ease quite fast after the initial icebreaker and the beginning of the first lecture.

We really liked the programme which was a well-balanced combination of lecture and practice. We spent the evening visiting some of Frankfurt's well-attended bars with the other teams. Unfortunately, the major part of us had to catch the train back to Marburg quite early. It is needless to say that we exchanged contact information with the other teams and are already looking forward to future meetings.

We say 'Thank you' to all the organizers and speakers – who did a great job –, making our time at the FDS a great pleasure with a lasting learning effect.

1 September to 3 October 2014 – Preparation phase

The 22nd Vis Moot Court started for us on the first of September. The important preparation phase had begun, which included useful workshops and first official meetings as a team.

To get a better idea of the upcoming tasks, we received a test case by our coaches, which, for a start, was limited on substantive issues. At first we created an outline – just as in a “real” memorandum. We subsequently developed our first own Memorandum for Claimant and later the Respondent's Memorandum.

This made it possible that we now feel well-prepared for this year's case, which was published on the third of October. The “problem” deals with two parties from the coltan industry which do not only dispute about a possible avoidance of the contract but also question whether the parent company of the Claimant has become a party to the agreement.





Thursday, 11 December 2014 – The first submission

On 3rd October, the long-awaited Problem of the 22nd Vis Moot Court was published. As soon as we printed the 64 pages, we directly started to analyse the problem file.

After some first outlines and thoughts, we started to work on our first memorandum in the next days and months.

With strict discipline we worked towards our common goal – the submission on 11th December. Two months passed in a flash and all of a sudden we found ourselves sitting in the library with a few hours left until the submission.

The last day was a roller coaster of emotions. While it started rather relaxedly in the morning, we were pretty tensed in the evening hours. However, after having successfully uploaded our memorandum, all the strains of the last weeks seemed to be forgotten.

We are now looking forward to the next challenge – the second memorandum.



Thursday, 22 January 2015 – Memorandum for Respondent: submitted!

After we submitted our Memorandum for Claimant, we had a short break for a weekend and then started to work on our second memorandum – the Memorandum for Respondent. After an intensive collective brainstorming, we already had some good ideas and started drafting straight away. Only a week later, we received our opponent's memorandum, which came from the University of Pennsylvania. We were very glad to receive a Memorandum from a common law country – and it actually turned out to be a very interesting experience. One could straight away see a different way of drafting and style of argument. We think that we drafted a more than good responding memorandum and we cannot wait to meet the Pennsylvanian students in Vienna!

The 22nd January was the final submission day. We did our last-minute corrections and submitted the draft at quarter to midnight. All in all, it went very smooth and we were happy to celebrate the submission with a glass of champagne. Now we look forward to the oral phase!

Monday, 9 February 2015 – Oral Advocacy: Getting Started

The first two weeks of the orals passed quickly due to a very full schedule. Already on Monday after the submission, we had our first workshop about oral skills at Noerr. It gave us a valuable and extensive input about oral persuasiveness. After this motivating session, we continued our preparation by working on substance of our oral submissions and rehearsing the pleadings internally with our coaches as arbitrators.

Only one week later we had our first external law firm pleading. Facing other teams as opposing counsels was a new challenging opportunity to practice our oral presentations. Yet we did not do a bad job in in clashing our arguments against teams from Mainz and Frankfurt and reacting to the Tribunal's questions. Feedback from experienced practitioners provided us with useful advice and motivated us even more. Confident about our progress, we continued to exercise with our coaches. Soon enough we had another valuable opportunity to plead at the DIS40 Moot Event in Stuttgart. There, with a little bit more experience, we had two pleadings with teams from Würzburg and Freiburg. Again, we did our best to convince the Tribunals and the feedback gave us ideas to further improve our pleadings. All in all, we are very optimistic and look forward to the approaching pre-moots!





Thursday, 26 February 2015 – A different kind of sponsors visit

On 26th February, the iron foundry Fritz Winter opened their doors for us. Mr Höbler and Ms Kremper, in-house lawyers of Fritz Winter, gave us an introduction about the history of Europe's largest independent iron foundry as well as the life of an in-house counsel. After an interesting presentation about the family company, founded in 1951, Mr Martin guided us through the production site of Fritz Winter. We were able to gain a rare and unique insight into the operating processes of an iron foundry and the production of automotive parts. Hereby we would like to thank Fritz Winter for this extraordinary opportunity.



12 to 14 March 2015 – The first Pre-Moot

The Dusseldorf Pre-Moot was our very first (and also international) pre-moot. No wonder that already after receiving the pleading schedule we were very much looking forward to it. And indeed, the Dusseldorf Pre-Moot turned out to be very international and well-organised. It was a well-balanced mixture of excellent training possibilities as well as a great opportunity to get to know many other teams. We pleaded against an Australian team and teams from Belgium and Austria. Thanks to the numerous social events before, after and between the pleadings, we had ample opportunity to get to know the other teams – like, for example, teams from New Zealand, Poland and Italy.

We thank all organizers for this outstanding pre-moot and we moreover wish to thank all the skilled arbitrators for their contributions to our progress!

18 March 2015 – “Hamburg, meine Perle”

Our second international Pre-Moot took place in Hamburg. Hamburg welcomed us with nice weather and a number of equally nice pleading sessions. We pleaded against teams from Denmark, Indonesia and Sweden, who turned out to be very challenging and engaging opponents. Due to the fact that the Hanseatic Pre-Moot was a one-day event, we could apply the feedback in the next rounds right away. Unfortunately, we had to leave rather early since we had to fly to Belgrade on the next morning. Nonetheless, this pre-moot was a very good opportunity to help us prepare for the fast approaching competition in Vienna. Yet again we say "Thank you" for the pleasant time in the north of Germany.



19 to 23 March 2015 – Let's go to Belgrade!

On 19 March, our “Serbian Adventure” began. Five exciting days in Belgrade were waiting for us – at Europe's largest pre-moot. About 70 international teams made their way to Serbia's capital. Accompanied by a solar eclipse, we walked around in the capital of Serbia and obtained some new and interesting insights into the culture of our Eastern European neighbour. We also heard a lot of intriguing presentations from international lawyers and participated in four exciting pleadings which helped to prepare us for our final journey to Vienna.

26 March to 2 April 2015 – Vienna Calling

“Vienna is magnificent!” – Like this or in a similar way former mooties described their time in Vienna when we asked them – referring rather to a time than to a city. “Vienna” in moot-terms is not only a mere accumulation of beautiful old buildings. For us mooties, Vienna means to spend one week with thousands of people from all over the world, sharing the same little world.



Accordingly, we entered the train with high expectations and pleasant anticipation. After months of preparation, which had already been full of great experiences, we were now on the way to the great final of our long journey. But we were not the only ones that had been looking forward to this event – about 300 teams from all around the world populated the city together with us. For that reason, it was no surprise to see a conspicuously high amount of young people in suits straying through Vienna as we explored the city-center.

As we still had some time until our first pleading, we used it to get to know the city and visit the first official receptions. At that point in time, we were already pleased to see so many old and new faces.

At the weekend, the time had come: Our pleadings started.

Finally, we saw the teams we had already got to know on paper during the written phase. At this point, we were happy about our excellent preparation due to the many pre-moots and test-pleadings we had had before. Our tension was high, but this only motivated us to give our best. Unfortunately it was not enough for the round of 64. A little sad but still pleased by our performance, we visited the Prater to relax.

Although our pleadings were over, the rest of the week was anything but boring or monotone. More receptions, city-tours, museums and moot parties were waiting for us until the official banquet at the end of the Week. At the banquet, we even received an honourable mention for Sonya, as one of the best individual speakers.

We have only been in Vienna for one week. But “Vienna”, this is safe to say, will stay in our heads for a lifetime and will make us smile every time we will tell the new mooties: “Vienna is magnificent!”



Wednesday, 15 April 2015 – Date the Dean

On 15 April, the official end of our moot time had come. Our dean, Prof. Dr. Müller-Franken, received us and the ICC team back in Marburg. During a glass of sparkling wine, we exchanged our experiences of the last weeks and months. After the presentation of the certificates and a pleasant conversation, the dean released us back into the daily routine of a normal student.

We may now (officially) call ourselves Moot alumni and we are looking back at some eventful and instructive months – which maybe passed a bit too quickly in the end.