

We, the CTLS team for the 31st Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, happily share our Vis Moot journey.

For most of us, our journey started with a conversation with Itay, fellow CTLS student and participant at the 30th Vis Moot last year. When applications for the CTLS Vis team opened, he took it upon himself to convince as many CTLS students as possible to sign up for this experience, which he described as one of the best things he had done in his law degree. Proving that he had meant what he had said, Itay went on to become one of our coaches.



Once convinced, we found ourselves in the conference room at CTLS, where we met Grace Cheng, barrister, arbitrator, a former "mootie" herself, and our head coach for the journey. Grace asked us critical questions, and making sure we knew what we had signed up for.

Soon, the "problem", a sixty-page document containing (fictional) internal e-mails, witness statements, and more, was published. Based on those documents, we set out to build our case.

We worked intensively on researching, drafting, and editing our memoranda. We had regular meetings with Itay and Grace, who not only provided us with valuable feedback on our draft submissions, but also permitted a glimpse into the life of a barrister and arbitrator in London.

Along the way, we also participated in several pre-moots, where we had the opportunity to plead against teams from different countries and receive feedback from arbitrators. We joined the virtual pre-moot organized by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, where two of our team members, Daniel Shahar and Jorim Braun, got honoured with certificates for "Best Individual Oralist", as well as by the pre-moot organized by the Asian International Arbitration Centre.

In March, we flew to Budapest for the 14th Budapest Pre-Moot, where we met each other again in person after months of being back at our home institutions. We competed against teams from around the world and received constructive feedback from experienced arbitrators. We also had the chance to act as arbitrators ourselves, and to socialize with other teams, both during a tasting of Hungarian wine, as well as on a boat tour on the Danube.





After the Budapest Pre-Moot, we travelled to Vienna for the actual Vis Moot competition. We attended the opening ceremony at the Vienna Konzerthaus, where we listened to inspiring speeches from renowned scholars and practitioners and witnessed the first live performance of the CISG song by a group of scholars from around the world, after Professor Flechtner retired after last year.

The next days were filled with exciting and challenging hearings. We faced teams from Turkey, the United States, India, and Lithuania, and we argued before distinguished arbitrators from different legal backgrounds. We enjoyed every moment of the pleadings and learned a lot from the questions and comments we received. Sadly, we did not qualify for the upcoming elimination rounds.

Our disappointment did not last long, however, as we now had time to discover the city of Vienna, and the various events that the Moot had to offer; among others a simulated arbitration session where the arbitrators were replaced by artificial intelligence. Before long, our Vis Moot journey came to an end with the closing ceremony. Together with all the other participants, we attended the final round between the teams of Vienna University and Bucerius Law School of Hamburg, before we were treated with a late lunch. The



winners of the multiple awards were announced, and we cheered when Jorim Braun, one of our team members, was awarded with an honourable mention for the Martin Domke Award for best individual oralist.

We would like to express our gratitude to our coaches, Grace and Itay, for everything they did during our Vis-participation. We would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank CTLS for making our Vis Moot journey possible and encourage everyone who has the chance to do the same.

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