

# CTLS VIS MOOT REPORT 2026

## *33<sup>rd</sup> Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot*

Our journey into the 33<sup>rd</sup> Willem C. Vis Moot began with an interview: we met Jennifer Hillman, Professor at Georgetown Law, and Grace Cheng, Barrister, a former mootie, and our coach throughout the season. Grace introduced us to the competition with the authority of someone who has lived it from every angle: as a student, as a practitioner and as a coach. She asked hard questions, made sure we knew what we were signing up for, and made clear that the experience would demand as much as it would give.

In October 2025, the Problem was released: a document of 56 pages comprising arbitration filings, party communications, expert reports, and witness statements. We divided the issues, assigned legal research, and began building the arguments that would carry us through two memoranda, four pre-moots, and four oral hearings in Vienna.



## MEMORANDA

The defining feature of the CTLS Vis Moot Team is its transnational composition across three universities on three continents: O.P. Jindal Global University in India, the University of Melbourne in Australia, and the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. This diversity was one of the team's greatest strengths... and its most demanding logistical reality! We operated across a time difference of up to ten hours and became fluent in the rhythms of remote collaboration: annotating arguments on shared files, managing asynchronous document drafts circulating across time zones, while sustaining great team dynamic.

The memoranda for Claimant and Respondent are the first deliverable submissions of the Vis Moot and among its most demanding. Both documents require deep engagement with the CISG, international arbitration procedure, and the specific legal issues raised by the Problem. Grace's regular feedback sessions were essential in this process, providing not only substantive guidance on our arguments but a shared point of reference that kept the team aligned through the most pressured stretches of the season.

## 23<sup>RD</sup> CIETAC CUP (CHINA INT'L ECONOMIC AND TRADE ARBITRATION COMMISSION)



*CTLS Team from left to right: Grace Cheng (CTLS Vis Moot Coach), Samuel Lake (Melbourne), Nadia Masson (Fribourg), Bhuvana Katakam (O.P. Jindal)*

Our team competed in the 23<sup>rd</sup> CIETAC Cup, one of the most prestigious dedicated arbitration moot competitions in the Asia-Pacific region and widely regarded as a rigorous and revealing preparation event for the Vis Moot proper. The standard of competition at the CIETAC Cup is consistently high, and the arbitrator panels are drawn from leading practitioners in international commercial arbitration.

Our performance exceeded all expectations: every team member received a Best Oralist award, an outcome that reflects the consistency of advocacy quality we delivered across all rounds. The team was additionally awarded Second Prize and Nadia Masson was recognised with an Outstanding Contribution Award, acknowledging our engagement with the competition.

## PRE-MOOT COMPETITIONS



Organised by law firms, arbitral institutions, or law schools with deep roots in the Vis Moot community, pre-moots simulate the oral hearing experience offer the opportunity to test arguments before experienced arbitrators, receive detailed feedback, and identify weaknesses in both substance and delivery before the stakes are highest. We qualified for and competed in the APAC Pre-Moot (Top 32), Boston Pre-Moot (*ex parte* rounds), SMU Dedman Pre-Moot, and Budapest Pre-Moot.

The Budapest Pre-Moot held particular significance, as it offered the first opportunity to compete in person before Vienna – to stand behind a table, look arbitrators in the eye, and deliver arguments in a room rather than through a screen. Beyond the rounds themselves, Budapest offered what every pre-moot at its best provides: the chance to meet fellow mooties from around the world, share experiences, and begin to feel part of the broader Vis Moot community.

## 33<sup>RD</sup> VIS MOOT IN VIENNA



The 33<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Vis Moot welcomed more than 2500 students and 1089 arbitrators to Vienna. The Juridicum of the University of Vienna Wien served as the largest hearing center in the world: more than 780 hearings were scheduled across the week! Our team competed in four rounds against Paris Bar School, University of Greifswald, University of Salzburg and concluded the general rounds against the University of Helsinki.

Each hearing brought a different tribunal, a different opponent, and a different set of challenges. The questions we faced pushed us beyond the arguments we had rehearsed and required exactly the kind of adaptability that months of practice. Competing among more than 400 teams, many backed by decades of mooting tradition and strong coaching support, it was a true honor to represent a young and inspiring institution like the CTLS.

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*The Vis Moot does not begin in Vienna, and it does not end there either. What we brought to those hearings – the arguments, the composure, the ability to deliver convincing answers to the arbitrators – was built across months of late nights, early mornings, and sessions across timezones. We discovered the spirit of the Vis Moot and are proud to be part of the Vis Moot community.*

*We are grateful to the Center for Transnational Legal Studies for the opportunity, with a special thanks to Grace. Her coaching was exacting, her feedback honest, and her investment in this team genuine throughout. She made us better advocates. The rest, the memories, the friendships, the experience of standing in a hearing room in Vienna, we get to keep. Wishing great success to the next CTLS Vis Moot teams!*

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