# PHILLIP C. JESSUP INTERNATIONAL LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Gabriel Armas-Cardona & Simon Schuster

11 October 2018

Project head: David Koppe

#### SYNOPSIS OF JESSUP MOOT COURT

- Jessup is the largest international moot court: 700+ universities from 100+ countries participate
- Each year there is a convoluted factual situation created between two fictional States that raises complex questions in international law
- Each team engages in oral and written advocacy in English against other universities in a national competition
  - Top teams continue on to the international competition

## PEDAGOGICAL BENEFITS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

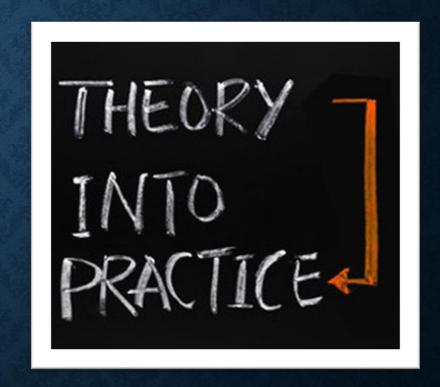
Substantive Legal knowledge
Pragmatic, Real-World Lawyering
Universal Professional Skills

#### PEDAGOGICAL BENEFITS: SUBSTANTIVE LEGAL KNOWLEDGE

- Deep knowledge from multiple fields of international law
  - This year's fictional situation includes issues regarding:
    - Public-private partnerships and State responsibility
    - Endangered species and the environment
    - Cultural and religious rights
    - Ownership of IP derived from traditional practices
- The issues raised are unresolved, cutting-edge questions in international law

### PEDAGOGICAL BENEFITS: PRAGMATIC, REAL-WORLD LAWYERING

- Substantial research
  - Research is the core work of the students
  - Most research is self-guided
- Applying legal theory to a complex factual scenario
  - Students consider both legal and non-legal rationales and consequences
- Intense focus on written and oral advocacy



#### PEDAGOGICAL BENEFITS: UNIVERSAL PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Presenting
- Competency in legal English
- Planning months in advance to meet deadlines
- Collective, team-based responsibility with individual work
- Networking with professionals: legal experts, law firms and other law students

### METHODOLOGY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- Previous academic year: Hold try outs and recruit 5 students
- Current academic year:
  - Part 1: seminar-style biweekly meetings to provide a foundation in international law and "thinking like a (litigation) lawyer".
  - Part 2: Weekly meetings where students are primarily researching. The weekly meeting is to answer questions and to keep the students on target.
  - Part 3: During the crunch times of January and March, biweekly meetings to practice and hone arguments.