

**PHILLIP C. JESSUP
INTERNATIONAL LAW MOOT
COURT
COMPETITION**

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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.