

MIDDLE TEMPLE VIS MOOT TEAM

2020/2021

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

WHAT IS IT?

The prestigious Willem C Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot is being held online in April 2021. The competition lasts for one week, and attracts over 360 teams from around the globe.

As part of the Middle Temple team, you will be competing against international teams of law students and trainee lawyers and arguing your own case before some of the world's leading arbitrators.

You will receive regular coaching sessions from October 2020 to April 2021 and help to prepare two written memoranda. You will also participate in at least two London-based pre-moots, gain invaluable experience of online hearings, and potentially (COVID-permitting) travel to other European cities for pre-moots. The final moot competition in April is intense, stimulating and great fun.

Every year the moot problem involves two sale of goods issues and two arbitration issues, but no specialist expertise is required, and the teams are marked on their advocacy, not on getting the “right answer”. You don’t need to be aiming for a commercial law practice either: previous team members have gone on to practise in crime, family, Chancery, construction and other areas.

The biggest benefit from taking part will be the confidence boost to your advocacy skills. Many former team members have said how it helped them with pupillage interviews, as well as winning them CV points for actual advocacy experience. Sadly, the fun side of travelling and meeting other competitors is greatly reduced this year thanks to COVID-19, but the coaches are hoping to provide at least some face to face events.

Comments from last year’s team included:

The opportunities to excel your advocacy and drafting skills are immeasurable...If you find yourself only able to commit to one extracurricular during the Bar Course, I strongly recommend the Vis Moot, for the rewards, both professional and personal, are aplenty.

Looking back, the Willem C Vis Moot was one of the best events I've ever taken part in. I'd strongly encourage anyone thinking of applying to go for it. You won't regret it. Vis provided me with an unparalleled opportunity to develop my advocacy skills in the exciting area of international commercial arbitration, all under the expert guidance of Middle Temple's coaching team, whose insights and feedback were invaluable. Vis' virtual format, whilst no substitute for in person hearings in Vienna, gave me an insight into the future of dispute resolution.

If you would like to attend a Zoom session on the evening of Monday 28 September 2020 to learn more about the moot, please email z.mcglone@4stonebuildings.com for login details.

Further details, including dates, can be found at:
<https://vismoot.pace.edu/>

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

The Middle Temple has a history of success. Previous teams have reached the final rounds in Vienna and have won the London pre-moots, with individual mooters also receiving winning scores. The 2018 team beat the Cambridge team (eventual runners-up in Vienna) in a moot before Lord Phillips.

Applicants must be student members of Middle Temple. We are looking for individuals who are hungry to learn, and a team which is committed to working hard and to winning. In particular, we will be looking for evidence of:

- Team working skills;
- Strong organisational and time management skills;
- Academic ability;
- Drive and determination.

Experience of debating, mooting or other public speaking is desirable but not essential.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Under the tuition of Zoe O'Sullivan QC (Serle Court) and Zara McGlone (4 Stone Buildings) you will:

- Receive advocacy training from leading experts in arbitration;
- Develop an astute understanding of international commercial law;
- Learn which arguments work and which don't
- Learn to draft professional memoranda;
- Learn to manage your time effectively; and
- Begin to understand the realities of case management.

We are flexible about the place, format and time of the coaching sessions and can accommodate team members who work or who are based outside London, as in previous years.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Please prepare an email statement of:

- A maximum 80 words on why you want to be part of the Middle Temple Vis team; and
- A maximum 200 words, setting out how you meet the criteria described in 'What are we looking for?'

Send this with a copy of your CV (maximum 2 pages), and your Middle Temple membership number, to: z.mcglone@4stonebuildings.com by **Friday 2 October 2020 at 7pm**.

There are up to 6 places on the team. 10-12 shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview. Interviews will be conducted by the coaches, and will be held online on Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 October 2020 – applicants should ensure that they are available on those dates. Successful applicants will be informed of the exact date and time by email. Please note that it will not be possible to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants.