

Boston University School of Law participated in the 32nd Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot (“Vis”) held in Vienna, Austria for yet another year. The Vis Moot is a competition for law students from around the world to promote the study and practice of international commercial sales law and arbitration. Each year, the students are presented with a problem relating to international private law and the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (“CISG”). The Vis Moot is one of the largest international arbitration moots in the world, with over 380 law schools participating each year.

Former Mootie and current assistant coach, Karen Hunt (LAW 24) said: “I competed as a student the last two years, and this year I came back to assist the BU team. In the general rounds our team argued against teams from Serbia, Moldova, Turkey, and Ukraine, and the arbitrators came from at least three continents and countries including Columbia, Peru, India, Singapore, Italy, the UK, Russia, Germany, Austria, and even Iran! It’s really interesting to hear what kind of feedback attorneys from different countries give the students, and there’s a big social component to the competition so it’s really great to network with students and lawyers from all over too.”

Former Mootie and current assistant coach, Marlisa Payne (LAW 24) described her experience as: “Participating as a mootie provided our students with a range of skills applicable to their developing legal careers. Further, the Vis challenges students to explore the realm of arbitration, which is often not explored in law school but relevant in practice. During the competition, all students participate in the General Rounds, along with approximately 400 other teams from around the world. Each round is monitored by three arbitrators and students are evaluated and given feedback based on their public speaking and oral advocacy, and written memoranda and teamwork. The Vis also grants students the opportunity to network and build relationships with arbitrators and attorneys from across the United States and around the world. The Vis is an incomparable experience that brings students together for the shared purpose of making mistakes, delving into new topics in the arbitration field, and creating new memories”.

3L student Gemma Del Carmen said: “The Vis Moot Court competition was a highlight of my law school experience. The competition’s problem allowed the team to dive into the world of arbitration - an often underdiscussed field of law in American law schools. The competition itself, which took place in Vienna, included nearly 400 law schools. As a result, the BU team had the opportunity to meet law students and arbitrators from all over the world. Vis was an incredibly educational experience, but also one to create community as representatives of BU law. I would recommend it to any law student interested in international law.”

3L student, Lucia Martinez said: “Participating in the Vis Moot was one of the highlights of my law school experience. I gained confidence in my ability to argue on behalf of clients and challenged myself to think on my feet. I really appreciated the team aspect of the moot. Learning is deepened when you are collaborating with others, and the experience is a good preparation for a career in litigation or arbitration. It was wonderful to be surrounded by law students from around the world, in the beautiful city of Vienna. I recommend this opportunity to anyone who is looking to level up their advocacy skillset.”

3L student, Emma Bowler said: “I am so grateful for the opportunity to experience what it means to be a VIS Mootie as part of the BU Law team this year. The competition allowed me to strengthen my oral advocacy and critical thinking skills, as well as understand the importance of teamwork and collaboration. Even more so, the VIS Moot provided invaluable networking

opportunities to connect with teams from around the world, creating friendships that span continents. I can't wait to keep tabs on how the team does next year!"

LLM Student Aziza Puti Bungsu said: "Participating in the Vis Moot as part of the Boston University team has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my academic journey. I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to compete in such a prestigious arbitration moot court with nearly 400 teams in Vienna, allowing me and the team to be exposed to this global network. The competition has deepened my understanding of international private law and the world of arbitration while growing alongside such inspiring and kind teammates. This journey pushed me intellectually and emotionally. It taught me how to advocate, how to listen, and how to grow with humility and courage. But more than that, it gave me friendships I'll always treasure and memories I'll carry with me long after the competition is over. Being a BU mootie wasn't just an academic challenge - it was a personal gift, and I'm so proud and thankful to have been part of it."

The BU Vis team has been led by coach, Dimitrios Ioannidis (CAS'86, LAW'90) all these years: "I want to recognize the administration of the school and especially Jennifer Taylor McCloskey, for making this possible for the students of our school."