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THE MOOT COURT BENCH

RULES of the INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW
PROGRAM of the MOOT COURT BENCH

24 MAY 2021

1. THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW PROGRAM OF THE MOOT COURT BENCH

- 1.1 The International Trade Law Program of the Moot Court Bench ("the Program") is an initiative by the members of the Moot Court Bench of Sri Lanka ("the Moot Court Bench") to select, instruct and train Sri Lankan law students on the skills of advocacy and international trade law by way of mooting-related activities, including the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition ("the Moot").
- 1.2 The Moot is divided into the Regional Selection Rounds and the Final Oral Round.
- 1.3 The West and South Asian Regional Round would be usually held in February, March or April, to select the top-ranked teams that would represent the region in the Final Oral Round.
- 1.4 The Final Oral Round would be held in Geneva usually in June, and would be adjudged by eminent professionals including sitting members of the Appellate Body of the World Trade Organization ("WTO").
- 1.5 The aforementioned timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the organizers of The Moot - The European Law Students' Association ("ELSA"). The selected team/teams would be fully sponsored by the Commercial Law Development Program ("CLDP") of the United States Department of Commerce. The discretion of choosing the number of teams that would be selected to represent Sri Lanka in the Moots would lie jointly with the CLDP and the Moot Court Bench.
- 1.6 The Program would be conducted once every year.

2. THE JOHN H. JACKSON MOOT COURT COMPETITION

- 2.1 The WTO is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO Agreements, negotiated and signed by the majority of the world's trading nations and ratified by their parliaments. The WTO Agreements cover nearly 98 % of all global trade. The goal of the WTO is to develop trade rules in order to help Members' producers of goods and services, exporters, and importers conduct their business in a facilitated way.
- 2.2 ELSA is the world's largest independent, non-profit, non-political association run by and for law students and young lawyers. The ELSA's vision is: "A just world in which there is respect for human dignity and cultural diversity." Contributing to legal education and promoting human rights awareness are among the central aims of the association. Through various academically focused projects and events, ELSA provides opportunities for law students and young lawyers to apply theory in practice and to learn about other legal systems.
- 2.3 In view of these goals, ELSA International seeks to combine its role in on-going action to contribute to Clinical Legal Education globally and the need to support and enhance the development of trade between nations. That is why since 2001, ELSA annually organizes an international moot court competition on WTO Law. The John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition (formerly known as the ELSA Moot Court Competition on WTO Law) seeks to educate law students from all over the world to develop their legal and oral

presentation skills and to educate the new generation of lawyers in the field international trade law. The competition brings together the brightest students from four corners of the world, WTO experts from legal academia, the WTO Secretariat and international trade law practitioners.

3. ORGANIZATION

3.1 The Program is organized by the members of the Moot Court Bench; it is sponsored by the CLDP of the United States Department of Commerce.

3.2 The Program would be divided into: (i) the Selection Phase; and (ii) the Training Phase.

3.3 The Selection Phase would be focused on selecting the best prospective students to represent Sri Lanka, and would consist of multiple stages.

3.4 The Training Phase would be aimed at preparing the students for the Moot.

3.5 The Program would be conducted entirely in English.

4. APPLICATION, SELECTION AND WITHDRAWAL

4.1 ELIGIBILITY AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

4.1.1 All students from universities which provide legal education in Sri Lanka are eligible to register for the Program. However, third year LLB Students will not be eligible to apply to the Program if their course of study at their respective university ends before the completion of the Program. In such an event, those students must apply for the Program after/if they become registered students of Sri Lanka Law College.

4.1.2 The registration for the Program for 2021/2022 would open during May. The specificities as to the time, date and process of registration would be made known to all interested parties via an email request or, alternatively, be found on the Moot Court Bench website.

4.1.3 It is recommended that all communication between participating universities and the Moot Court Bench be by the designated contact person for each university.

4.1.4 Throughout the Program, all deadlines must be met. No extensions would be granted.

4.1.5 COURSE FEE: The courses would be conducted free of charge for all students throughout the length of the entire program. Students are expected to bear their personal costs of meals, printing, and transportation.

4.1.6 Mooties who are part of one Program of the Moot Court Bench cannot apply for another Program unless and until they formally withdraw from their respective Program first.

4.2 SELECTION PHASE

- 4.2.1 The application process for the Program would consist of multiple levels of screening and evaluation.
- 4.2.2 Level one: Each student applying must upload their resume and a 2-minute video clip explaining why they are interested in taking part in the program. Students who display the requisite fluency in English and the most amount of potential would proceed to level two.
- 4.2.3 Level two: Students will face an interview which would seek to evaluate, among other things: communication skills, ability to commit, competency, and preparedness. In the event an interviewee is not present on time at their interview, their application would not be considered any further.
- 4.2.4 Selection: A maximum of 4 students from each university would be selected for the Moot. However, under exceptional circumstances, allowances may be made as per the discretion of the Moot Court Bench.
- 4.2.5 Withdrawal: Students may withdraw from the Program at this stage by informing their respective University and the Head of External Affairs of the Moot Court Bench the reasons for withdrawal. Withdrawal may disqualify a student's participation in future Moot Court Bench activities.

4.3 TRAINING PHASE

- 4.3.1 Four students with the highest scores from the Selection Phase would be selected from each university. These students would be trained by a leading practitioner/academic in the field of international trade law and members of the Moot Court Bench.
- 4.3.2 Withdrawal: Students are not allowed to withdraw from Phase Two of the Program unless exceptional circumstances warrant the same. Withdrawal may disqualify a student's participation in future Moot Court Bench activities.

5. MISCELLANEOUS

- 5.1 INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES: In the event any ambiguity is to arise in the interpretation of these rules, the interpretation of the said rule/s by the Moot Court Bench shall be final and conclusive. In the Interpretation of the rules, regard is to be given to the purpose and intent of the Moot Court Bench and its programs.
- 5.2 AMENDMENT OF RULES: The Moot Court Bench may amend these rules without prior notice and shall make such amended rules available to the public within 2 days of such amendment on the Moot Court Bench website. The amendments shall take effect upon being made accessible on the website.
- 5.3 COVID - 19: In light with the developments following the COVID-19 pandemic, the structure of the program and schedule may be subject to change without prior notice or warning. The safety and wellbeing of the program's participants will be treated as priority.