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THE MOOT COURT BENCH

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RULES OF THE WTO MOOT COURT TRAINING PROGRAM  
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## **1. INTRODUCTION TO THE WTO MOOT COURT TRAINING PROGRAM**

- 1.1. The World Trade Organization (WTO) Moot Court Training Program is a component of the MCB International Trade Law (ITL) Program. The ITL Program is divided into three independent Components. These are: Component (i) the International Trade Law Summer Program, Component (ii) the WTO Moot Court Training Program, and Component (iii) the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition.
- 1.2. The WTO Moot Court Training Program is an initiative by the Moot Court Bench (“the MCB”) to conduct capacity-building of young professionals, graduates, and undergraduates in the fields of international trade law and policy.
- 1.3. The MCB will administer the WTO Moot Court Training Program according to the Rules of the WTO Moot Court Training Program (the Rules). It holds the final authority to implement these Rules, as well as any additional measures for the execution of the ITL Program.

## **2. ORGANIZATION OF THE PROGRAM**

- 2.1. The WTO Moot Court Training Program is organized by the MCB.
- 2.2. Any and all content, including the Problems used in the ITL Program, any documents and audiovisual recordings created or produced for, or during the course of the ITL Program, are or will become the exclusive property of the MCB, without whose express written consent these may not be used for any purpose outside the ITL Program.
- 2.3. The official language of the WTO Moot Court Training Program is English.

## **3. Eligibility, Application and Selection for the WTO Moot Court Training Program**

### **3.1. Eligibility for the WTO Moot Court Training Program:**

- 3.1.1. This Component of the International Trade Law Program is open to both local and international students. The MCB reserves the right to decide on the eligibility of a candidate on an individual basis. Eligibility to be selected to represent one’s university at the John H Jackson Moot will depend on the Rules of the John H Jackson Moot Court Competition.

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3.1.2. **Categories of Participants:** For the purposes of course fees, applicants will be categorized into “Local students” and “International students.” A “Student” entails an individual currently registered as a law student or law undergraduate at an educational institution or in the process of completing their Legal Apprenticeship.

3.2. **Application:**

3.2.1. Eligible candidates (pursuant to Rule 4.1) can submit their applications between 9<sup>th</sup> July - 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023 via the Google registration form provided on the MCB ITL webpage. An application will only be considered successful once the payment of the course fee has successfully been received, the payment slip has been emailed to [tradelaw@themootcourtbench.com](mailto:tradelaw@themootcourtbench.com), and the MCB ITL Team has confirmed the receipt of the Course Fee.

3.2.2. **Course Fees:** The Course Fees is as follows:

Local Students	LKR 25,000/-
Local Students who took part in the ITL Summer Program	LKR 12,000
International Students	USD 200

The payment of these Course Fees shall be made within 7 days of the issuance of the invoice.

3.2.3. The course fee is payable via bank transfer/online payment. The transfer must indicate the name of the participant for which the transfer was made. Any banking charges/transfer fees must be borne by the transferor. The MCB will provide the requisite payment instructions with the confirmation email, as well as an invoice.

3.2.4. Once payment is made, the participant must send a payment confirmation via email to [tradelaw@themootcourtbench.com](mailto:tradelaw@themootcourtbench.com).

3.2.5. The Course Fee is non-refundable.

3.2.6. Failure to duly pay the Course Fee, either by failing to pay on time or in full, will result in the removal of the participant from the WTO Moot Court Training Program unless a valid excuse is communicated in writing via email to [tradelaw@themootcourtbench.com](mailto:tradelaw@themootcourtbench.com). The MCB reserves the right to make the final decision in such instances.

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### 3.3. **Selection for the Program:**

- 3.3.1. Selection for Component (ii), the International Trade Law Summer Moot Court Training Program will be through an application and payment of the Course Fee, in accordance with Rule 3.2. Participants may apply on an individual basis.

## 4. **STRUCTURE OF THE WTO Moot Court Training Program**

- 4.1. Participants in the WTO Moot Court Training Program will be trained in WTO law, written advocacy and oral advocacy. This Component will also serve as the selection process for Component (iii) the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition.
- 4.2. The WTO Moot Court Training Program will be held virtually via MS Teams, in August 2023. It will consist of ten sessions over the course of five weekends.
- 4.3. **Attendance:** Attendance of participants will be tracked. Poor attendance and/or lack of engagement in the sessions may be considered as a factor in selection for Component (iii).
- 4.4. **Assessments:** Assessments for the WTO Moot Court Training Program will be in the form Oral Submissions and Written Submissions.
- 4.5. **Plagiarism and Cheating:** Plagiarism is not allowed and any submission by a participant containing plagiarism will not be accepted and it may result in the student being ineligible to receive any certification at the end of the Program. At the discretion of the MCB, a breach of this rule may result in the disqualification of a participant from being selected to compete in Component (iii) of the ITL Program.
- 4.6. Any participant found to be guilty of cheating/copying may be rendered ineligible to receive any certification at the end of the Program. At the discretion of MCB, a breach of this rule may result in the disqualification of a participant from being selected to compete in Component (iii) of the Program.
- 4.7. **Certificate of Completion:** Participants who complete all Assessments as detailed under rule 3.4, and who meet the required attendance detailed under rule 4.3 following the ten sessions in the WTO Moot Court Training Program will be eligible to receive a Certificate of Completion, endorsed by the MCB and institutional/educational partners.
- 4.8. **Withdrawal:** Any participant who wishes to withdraw from the ITL Program must inform the Head of the ITL Program and the Chief Administrator of the MCB via

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email. Withdrawal may affect a participant's ability to participate in future MCB programs and activities.

## 5. SCHOLARSHIPS

- 5.1. **Scholarships:** Participants may be eligible for a reduction of fees, if it can be proven that they are unable to pay the complete registration fee due to financial difficulties. Scholarships for payment are open to all Sri Lankan Students and Legal Apprentices, under Rule 4.3, who apply for the WTO Moot court Training Program before 11:59 pm on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. The purpose of considering such applications and granting scholarships is to accommodate students who are unable to pay the complete registration fee due to financial difficulties. All the requirements for a scholarship application (as per Rule 4.11) must be completed before this deadline.
- 5.2. To apply for a scholarship, an applicant must ensure that **all** the following documents are submitted by the deadline.
  - 5.2.1. **Both** a completed registration form **and** the scholarship form. In the scholarship form, applicants will be asked to provide: (i) the Student or Legal Apprentice's full name, email address, and phone number, (ii) university ID/registration number, (iii) a PDF of a document confirming their enrollment in a university program, (iv) a letter detailing their interest in the WTO Moot Court Training Program, and (v) the estimated date (month and year) of graduation/taking oaths. Both forms are available on the MCB website.
  - 5.2.2. A letter of recommendation from a lecturer/professor at the Student or Legal Apprentice's institution. This letter must be sent from an official university email address or using the official university letterhead.
- 5.3. The MCB may contact the relevant institution to verify the identity of the student and/or the lecturer or professor submitting the letter of recommendation.
- 5.4. The decision on scholarships, including the number of scholarships awarded remains at the discretion of the MCB.
- 5.5. Decisions on awarding scholarships will be made based on merit and financial need. Preference will be given to Sri Lankan students who indicate that they intend to participate in Component (iii) of the ITL Program. Applicants for scholarships may be invited for an interview.
- 5.6. Unsuccessful applicants will not be informed of the reason for their rejection.

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5.7. **Installment Plans:** The MCB reserves complete discretion to offer installment plans for payment of the course fee. The grant of installment plans will be communicated to the Applicant via email.

5.7.1. Students who agree to installment plans must strictly adhere to the dates of payment provided by the MCB ITL Team. Failure to comply with these deadlines may lead to the enforcement of penalties/discontinuation of the studentship at the Program, at the discretion of the MCB.

5.7.2. Students who benefit from installment plans/scholarships are required to maintain the confidentiality of this information.

5.8. **Institutional Discounts:** The MCB ITL Team reserves the right to award institutional discounts from the Course Fee for Professionals, to select institutions (including but not limited to law firms and companies).

5.8.1. Preference in granting institutional discounts will be given to institutions nominating multiple participants.

5.8.2. The specific amount of the discount would be at the discretion of the MCB.

## 6. MISCELLANEOUS

6.1. **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 MCB shall be final and conclusive. In the interpretation of the Rules, regard is to be given to the purpose and intent of the MCB and its Programs.

6.2. **AMENDMENT OF THE RULES:** The MCB may amend these Rules without prior notice and shall make such amended Rules available to the public within two days of such amendment on the MCB website. The amendments shall take effect upon being made accessible on the website.