

# Programs Prospectus.

**MCB**  
THE MOOT COURT BENCH

THE MOOT COURT BENCH 2023/24

20  
24

“If everyone is working together, then success takes care of itself.”

– Henry Ford

THE MOOT COURT BENCH 2023/24

# Table of Contents

03

The Moot Court Bench

05

The International Commercial Arbitration (ICA) Program

10

The International Commercial Mediation (ICM) Program

16

The International Trade Law (ITL) Program

22

Contact us!



# The Moot Court Bench is Sri Lanka's first fully integrated legal advocacy training platform.

The main aim of the Moot Court Bench (MCB) is **enhancing the standard of the legal profession** by delivering education of global standards for students, focusing on International Commercial Arbitration, International Trade Law, and International Commercial Mediation and Negotiation. The MCB endeavors to create a forum for students to cultivate essential skills in written and oral advocacy.

Dedicated to delivering a top-tier legal education, this platform is wholly managed by enthusiastic volunteers and alumni with no profit motive, **driven solely by a commitment to create opportunity** for students in Sri Lanka and beyond.

# International Commercial Arbitration Program



ICA

# International Commercial Arbitration.

**Arbitration** is a widely used form of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) on a global scale, offering a swift and efficient means of resolving disputes outside traditional court settings. Parties involved are represented by their counsels before an Arbitral Tribunal, appointed either by the parties themselves, or a designated Arbitral Institution. Despite lacking the formal authority of courtrooms, the Arbitral Tribunal issues a binding Award, serving as its decision, at the conclusion of the arbitration proceedings.

## IS IT FOR YOU?

Learning arbitration will present you with many new avenues in your career as arbitration has been accepted widely inside Sri Lanka, and to an even greater extent outside.



# International Commercial Arbitration.

## THE MCB ICA PROGRAM

The Moot Court Bench International Commercial Arbitration (ICA) Program is an annual initiative designed to train law students on the skills of advocacy focusing on international commercial arbitration. The program aims to advance Arbitration in Sri Lanka by addressing the lacuna of resources available to students. That is, **to provide law students around the world, an opportunity to learn arbitration and hone other advocacy skills.** The course is taught by local and international legal academics and professionals along with MCB Alumni with sound knowledge in the respective areas.

The Program consists of three phases:



### Phase One

Participants are provided a foundation in International Commercial Arbitration, the International Sale of Goods (CISG), and Written and Oral Advocacy, throughout the course of 03 months.



### Phase Two

The top four contenders from each University will be selected to represent their University in the Moot Court Bench International Commercial Arbitration National Competition 2024.

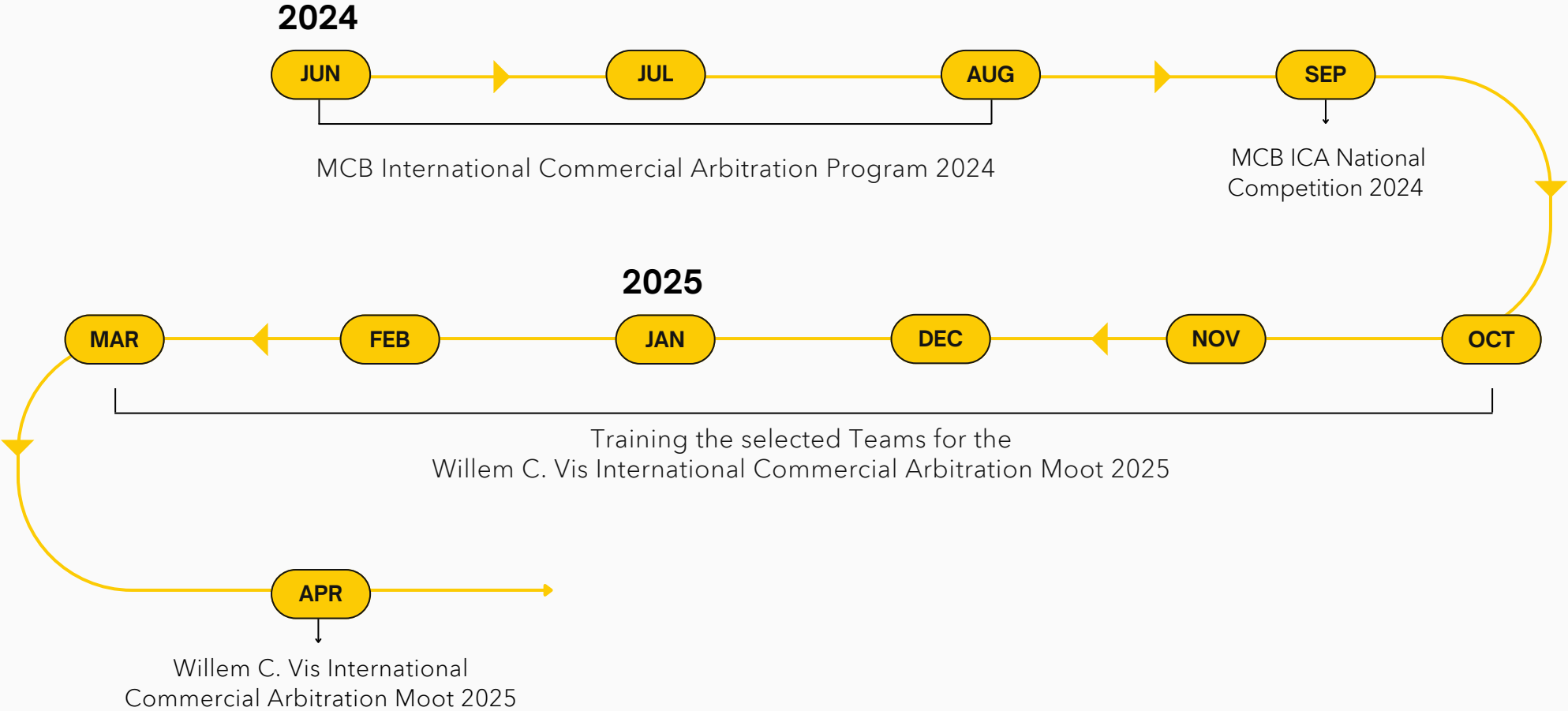


### Phase Three

Top teams at the MCB ICA National Competition will be selected to represent Sri Lanka in the prestigious Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot held annually in Vienna, Austria or its sister moot, The Vis (East) Moot which is held annually in Hong Kong.

# International Commercial Arbitration.

## THE ICA PROGRAM TIMELINE





# International Commercial Arbitration.

## TESTIMONIALS FROM ICA ALUMNI

“I felt that the ICA program gave me a wonderfully gentle introduction to the world of arbitration. The program was a lively platform to learn and engage with an area of law that I probably wouldn't have encountered within my undergraduate studies. It's certainly a brilliant opportunity for any curious and eager law student!”

– **TRESHAN FERNANDO**

ICA Program Participant and Vis Mootie 2022/23

“The ICA program serves two purposes. On one hand it prepares mooties for their journey towards the Vis Moot, which is the pinnacle of any mooties journey. On the other hand, it provides participants with a foundation in arbitration knowledge. Hence, the ICA program serves as a means of acquiring knowledge and experience in the world of arbitration through Practitioners and Vis Alumni. Moreover, it serves as a process through which participants are placed in a community with connections and an experience that will last a lifetime.”

– **NAIKA GOONERATNE**

ICA Program Participant and Vis Mootie 2022/23

# International Commercial Mediation Program

ICM

# International Commercial Mediation.

**Mediation** in Sri Lanka, has the potential of becoming a predominant ADR mechanism as one of its most important benefits is the creation of a stable society and a sound economic environment which, especially in today's context, is crucial to maintaining a secure and sustainable future for our country.

One of the many steps taken by the Mediation Wing of the Moot Court Bench (MCB) to expand the pool of trained ADR professionals in Sri Lanka is our International Commercial Mediation (ICM) Program, **the first and only one of its kind in Sri Lanka**. The Program contributes towards the development of a generation of young, skilled Mediators and Mediation Advocates competent in mediation skills and techniques, by enabling them to learn from the best scholars in the world to sustainably and conclusively create future leaders of the field – locally and internationally.

Now in its 4th year of operations, the annual ICM Program provides a holistic understanding in Commercial Mediation to all participants, who are trained, mentored and assessed by world renown experts in Mediation and Negotiation.

In 2023, we opened doors to International participants too: a testimony to how the impact of the MCB Mediation Program has **reverberated globally**.

# International Commercial Mediation.

The ICM Program is executed in three phases:



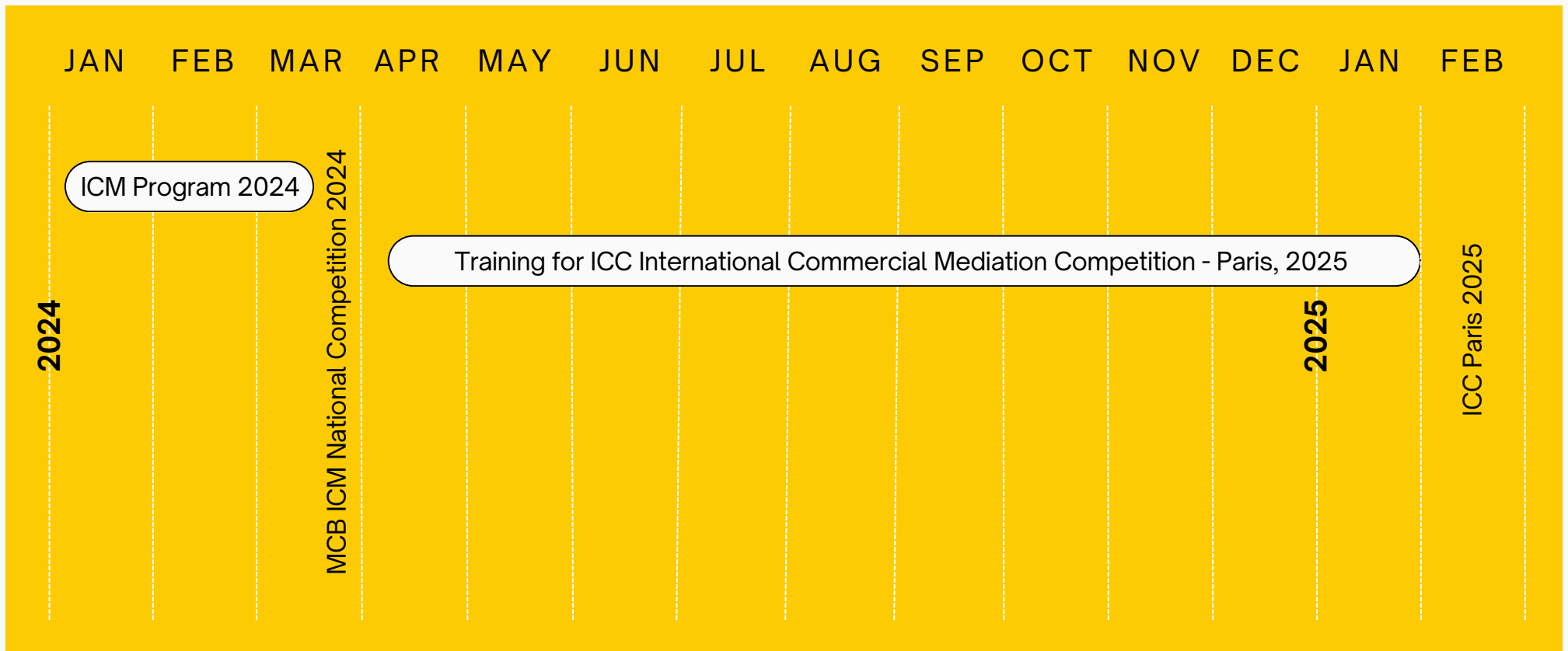
Since 2021, the MCB has coached and sponsored teams to represent Sri Lanka at:

- the **ICC Paris** International Commercial Mediation Competition (ICC Paris),
- the **ICC Asia Pacific** Commercial Mediation Competition,
- the **Bucerius** Mediation Competition, and
- International Mediation Singapore (**IMSG**) Competition.

Students who successfully completed the ICM Program 2023 received **scholarships** for courses on mediation and mediation from the **International Mediation Campus, Mediator Academy, Edwards Mediation Academy, and Accords International** and **internships** at the International Mediation Institute. These self-learning opportunities immensely benefited students as they gained further knowledge of mediation advocacy, mediation, and exposure to professionals who shared their experiences in **real-life mediation**.

# International Commercial Mediation.

## THE ICM PROGRAM TIMELINE



# International Commercial Mediation.

## TESTIMONIALS FROM ICM ALUMNI

“Before I joined the ICM program, I had very limited knowledge about mediation. But through the useful and informative sessions conducted by the MCB, I gained a lot of insight into the field of mediation. It built the foundation for my mediation journey and the program was very well organized and structured. It also enhanced my advocacy skills and introduced me to a network of professionals and students locally and internationally.

I would recommend this program to anyone who is interested in mediation. It was definitely a worthwhile experience for me and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

**– ELISHA COSTA**

Member of the Runner-Up Mediator Team, University of Colombo

“I am so grateful for having received a scholarship to do the Edwards Mediation Academy (EMA) course on Mediation Advocacy from the Moot Court Bench. I cannot begin to explain how truly mind-opening it was. EMA opens the doors for mediation enthusiasts to truly understand how the application of mediation works in the real world through the views of international experts, all from the comfort of your home. They bring in their real-life mediation experiences to teach you not just to become a better negotiator but to also grow further as a person, all the while showcasing what an effective tool Mediation can be even in resolving the toughest of challenges!”

**– THEREEN DHARMADASA**

Member of the Winning Mediator Team – Royal Institute of Colombo  
On the ‘Mediation Advocacy’ course by Edwards Mediation Academy

THE ICM PROGRAM

# International Commercial Mediation.



# International Trade Law Program





# International Trade Law.

The Moot Court Bench International Trade Law (ITL) program spearheads a multitude of different initiatives throughout the year focused on students, legal professionals and individuals interested in the world of trade. Our primary goals at the ITL program are **capacity building** in international trade and **knowledge enhancement**.

Some of the initiatives of the ITL program are:



## ITL TRAINING PROGRAM

Consists of:

- The ITL Summer Program
- The WTO Moot Court Training Program



## JOHN H. JACKSON MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Since its introduction to Sri Lanka in 2020, a growing number of students has been coached under the ITL program.



## THE COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

The ITL Program's very own Blog and Newsletter:  
[themootcourtbench.com/blog](http://themootcourtbench.com/blog)

# International Trade Law.

## ITL Training Program

ITL Training Program is an initiative by the ITL program, launched in 2023. It serves a dual purpose: **(1)** introducing the world of trade and the WTO dispute settlement system to national and international students, practitioners, and academics of diverse fields, and **(2)** preparing students for the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition.

The Program constitutes of the **ITL Summer Course** followed by the **WTO Moot Court Training** at the end of which students would be selected to participate in the esteemed John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition.

### ITL SUMMER COURSE

The Summer Course aims to introduce the basics of international trade law with a focus on both local and international rules governing this field. The Course is carefully curated for anyone interested in learning more about this field: law students, legal professionals, and policy makers.

### WTO MOOT COURT TRAINING

The WTO Moot Court Training offers a platform for students to learn and hone their written and oral advocacy skills with an emphasis on the WTO dispute settlement system.

The **National Competition** held at the end of the program is open to all participants of the WTO Moot Court Training Program, affiliated to a Sri Lankan institution offering legal education. The selected team/s will go on to represent their respective institutions in the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition.

# International Trade Law.

## John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition

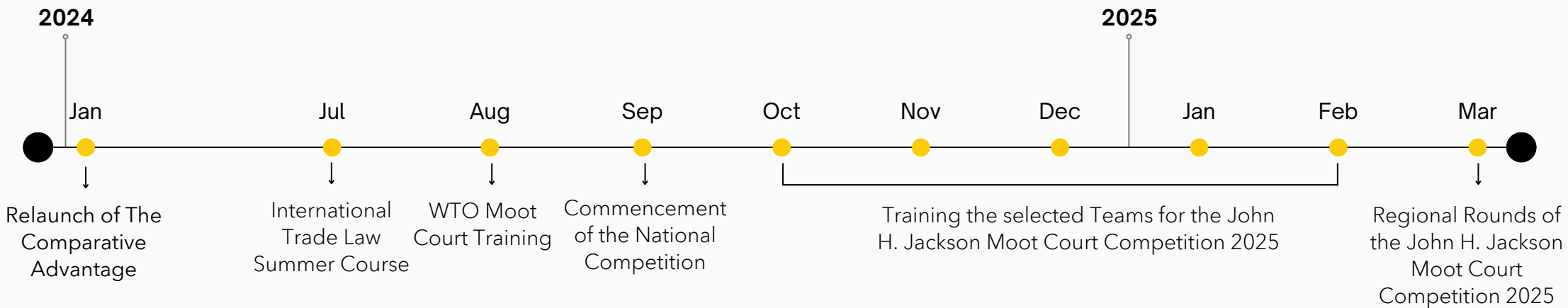
The John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition aims to enhance students' knowledge in international trade law and the World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement procedures. The Jackson Moot is annually organized by the European Law Students' Association (ELSA) and has a written submission phase and a regional oral round phase which, qualifies teams for the global final oral round held in Geneva, Switzerland.

With the introduction of the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition on WTO Law to Sri Lanka in 2020, a growing cohort of students has been coached under the ITL program. **The Program was able to produce the Global Champions in the very first year of our participation (2020 - 2021)**, marking the first instance that a Sri Lankan team has won a global moot. Since then, our teams have performed exceptionally well at the competition.

The teams that hope to participate in the Jackson moot are required to complete the ITL Summer Program and the WTO Moot Court Training, at the end of which a National Competition is held to select teams to represent their respective institutions and the Moot Court Bench at the competition.

# International Trade Law.

## THE ITL PROGRAM TIMELINE



## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS



### 2020/21

- Champions in the Global Final Rounds of the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition
- Best Speakers in the Global Finals and the Global Quarter-Finals
- Best Written Submission on behalf of the Respondent at the Global Final Rounds
- Semi-finalists in the West and South Asian Regional Rounds



### 2021/22

- Quarter-Finalists in the Global Final Rounds of the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition
- Best Speaker in the Preliminary Rounds and the Global Final Rounds
- Finalists in the West and South Asian Regional Rounds
- Best Speaker in the Preliminary, Semi-Final and Final of the West and South Asian Regional Rounds



### 2021/22

- Best Written Submission on behalf of the Respondent at the West and South Asian Regional Rounds

## TESTIMONIALS FROM ITL PROGRAM ALUMNI

“The ITL Program was a training experience unlike any other. You get a comprehensive understanding of international trade law by international and local coaches. The consistency of the program instills in you a sense of discipline, while it also moulds you to be more critical, pushing you to improve your research, writing and oral skills all together”

– **NAVEERA PERERA**

Participant - 20th Edition, John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition

“Overall, the MCB ITL Program was an enlightening and enriching experience that significantly contributed to my professional development. It deepened my understanding of international trade law, refined my advocacy skills, and provided me with a competitive edge. I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to have been part of such a remarkable program.”

– **SANDUN BATAGODA**

Participant - 19th Edition, John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition

# Get in touch.



Stay connected.

