



IBA ICC MOOT COURT
Organised by the Grotius Centre

Frequently Asked Questions
For Judges

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A. ABOUT THE COMPETITION

1. What is the IBA ICCMCC?

The International Bar Association International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition (IBA ICCMCC) is focused on international criminal law (ICL), and worldwide the largest of its kind in the English language. The IBA ICCMCC is organized in partnership with the International Bar Association (IBA), a global association of legal professionals. The competition also receives support from the International Criminal Court (ICC), which is the permanent international court established to prosecute the international crimes of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and aggression. Further information can be found here: www.iccmoot.com.

2. What is the objective of the Competition?

The Competition aims to simulate the proceedings of the ICC, providing participants with an opportunity to develop their skills in international criminal law and gain practical experience in courtroom advocacy. Participants in the IBA ICCMCC engage in both written and oral arguments, presenting their case in the form of Memorials and as Oral Arguments. The Evaluators of the Memorials and the Judges of the Oral Rounds assess their legal arguments, advocacy skills, and knowledge of international criminal law. The Competition thus offers a platform for law students from around the world to engage in rigorous legal analysis, develop critical thinking abilities, and network with legal professionals in the field of international criminal law.

3. What is the IBA?

The International Bar Association (IBA) is the most prominent organization where international legal professionals, bar associations and legal societies are brought together. The IBA seeks to aid global stability and peace through the administration of justice. More information on the IBA can be found [here](#).

The IBA offers many resources for international legal practice, and also [specifically for the IBA ICCMCC](#). Additionally, opportunities are offered for [education and internships](#) as well as special [memberships for students](#).

4. What is the ICC?

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is the permanent international institution tasked with the prosecution of the gravest crimes that are the concern of the international community as a whole. Information about its organization, methods and State parties can be found [here](#). The ICC provides for a plethora of sources on international criminal law available for free in its [Resource Library](#).

5. What is the setup of the competition?

The Teams will present their arguments in the form of Memorials and as Oral Pleadings. The written Memorials are evaluated by professionals that are elected to the International Panel of Evaluators (IPE). The Oral Pleadings will be judged by a selection of Judges during the Team's presentations in The Hague. The focus of the assessment are the Team's legal arguments, advocacy skills, and their knowledge of international criminal law.

6. Where can I find out more about this year's case?

The Case of the IBA ICCMCC is drafted every year by a panel of international criminal law professionals, led by Case Author Prof. [Michael P. Scharf](#), Chair of the IBA ICCMCC Board of Advisors. Each year, the Case is inspired by a topical issue of international criminal law that challenges the participants to be creative in their arguments and presentation.

The Case is usually released in September of the previous calendar year, before the opening of the Registration for Teams. For the 2024 edition, the Case is available [here](#)

7. Where does the competition take place?

The Written Round of the Competition, when the Teams have to turn in Memorials, is held completely digitally. Submission of the Memorials will be done via the official e-mail address of the Competition: ICCMCC@law.leidenuniv.nl. The conditions for submission can be found in the [Rules of Procedure](#).

The Oral Round of the Competition takes place on location in The Hague, The Netherlands, at Leiden University Campus The Hague, [Wijnhaven](#). The address is: Turfmarkt 99, 2511 DP The Hague, The Netherlands. The Preliminary Rounds of the oral stage will be held here, as well as the Quarter-Finals and the Semi-Finals.

The Final Round will be held at the [ICC](#) itself, at Oude Waalsdorperweg 10, 2597 AK The Hague, The Netherlands. Both venues can be reached easily with public transport and are accessible for people with disabilities.

8. When does the competition take place?

The upcoming edition of the IBA ICCMCC will take place in 2024, with the Oral Round taking place from Friday 31 May to Friday 7 June.

B. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

9. How can I become Judge?

The IBA ICCMCC Organizing Office will extend the invitation to all contacts in their database, as well as the database of the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies. In addition, the IBA will extend an invitation to their database. Invited individuals may share the invitation with their network.

The IBA ICCMCC Organizing Office also welcomes spontaneous application from individuals interested in participating in the Competition via the [digital application form](#).

10. Can I participate as a Judge via Zoom link?

No. Remote participation as a judge in the Oral Rounds is not possible. You will be able however to register as a memorial evaluator.

11. I received an invitation. What should I do next?

The invitation to apply as Judge includes a link to the digital application form. You need to fill out and submit the form before **30 April 2024**.

12. I did not receive an invitation, but I am interested to participate as a Judge. What should I do next?

If you have not received an invitation, you are still welcome to apply for the role of the Evaluator. You can do so via the digital application form found on [our website](#).

13. Can I apply to become both an Evaluator in the Written Round and a Judge in the Oral Round?

Yes, you are welcome to apply as both an Evaluator and as a Judge.

14. What is the deadline to apply to become a Judge in the IBA ICCMCC?

Applications for the role of Judge are accepted until **30 April 2024**. No applications will be accepted after the deadline.

15. I submitted my application. What should I do next?

Once we receive your application, we will assess it based on the eligibility criteria and will inform you of the outcome via email. This process may take up to 14 working days.

16. Who can be a Judge?

A person may act as a judge or an evaluator if he/she holds at least a Master's degree in law in any jurisdiction, or a Master's degree in an international law-related field. Experience in the practice of law is accepted in lieu of a Master's degree. Experience or academic background in international (criminal) law is highly desirable. The Organization will determine the eligibility of persons to serve as Judges in the Competition.

17. How does the IBA ICCMCC Organizing Office determine the eligibility of a Judge?

If you have participated as a Judge in previous editions, you are (almost) guaranteed a judging seat in the new edition

If you have never participated as a Judge in previous editions, you are requested to attach your current CV to the digital application. The Organizing Office will then determine your eligibility based on your CV, taking into consideration: academic qualifications and practical experience. The field of law you practice in, and your experience (both academic and professional) with (international) criminal law and human rights cases will be taken into account.

18. I am an alumnus of a university participating in the competition, can I be a Judge?

Yes, having graduated from a university participating in the competition does not constitute a conflict of interest as long as you are not involved in the preparation of this university's team.

19. I am an (assistant) coach, can I be a Judge?

No, (assistant) coaches may not act as Judges.

20. I work at a university participating in the competition, can I be a Judge?

If you are an employee of one of the schools participating in the Moot where such employment is sufficiently remote from the activities of the Team as to dispel any reasonable suspicion of partiality, you may act as a Judge.

21. I was accepted as a Judge. What should I do now?

Your acceptance email will include a link to a new online form where you can provide us with your availability for the Oral Rounds. The form includes the schedule of every day of the Preliminary Rounds. You can choose as many or as few sessions to participate you as your agenda allows you to. You will be scheduled for ALL sessions you select.

In the meantime, we encourage the Judges to become familiar with the [IBA ICCMCC Case](#) and the [Rules of Procedure of the Competition](#).

22. Can I cancel my participation as Judge in the Competition?

Yes, should you no longer be able to participate as an Evaluator in the Competition, please inform the IBA ICCMCC Organizing Office via [email](#) by **15 May 2024**.

23. Do you offer any monetary compensation for Judges travelling from outside the Netherlands?

Much to our regret, unfortunately, we are not in a position to provide funding or accommodation to Judges for their participation in the Competition. All Judges participate on a voluntary basis, using their own means.

24. Does the Organizing Office provide an invitation letter in support of the visa application?

Yes, we are happy to provide Judges with an invitation letter in support of their visa application. If you need a visa to travel to The Hague and participate as a Judge in the IBA ICCMCC, please send us the details listed below via email to iccmcc@law.leidenuniv.nl until **1 May 2024**. Upon receipt of the details, we will provide you with a letter in support of your visa application. Full name as appears on passport;

- Date of birth;
- Nationality;
- Passport number;
- Full address of the embassy you will be applying at for the visa.

Please keep in mind we are not able to schedule appointments on your behalf. We have no influence on the application process of obtaining a visa, or the embassies' timelines.

25. Where can I find practical information about my visit in The Hague?

To assist you in this regard, we have drafted a booklet with useful information about getting to the Hague, places to stay and eat, as well as information about the venues and their accessibility. The booklet is available [here](#).

C. The Role of the Judge

26. What am I expected to do as a Judge?

Judges serve as members of a panel during the Oral Round of the Competition. During the 2-hour session, judges assess the validity of the participants' arguments, the persuasiveness of their presentation, their poise and advocacy skills, and the thoroughness of their preparation. The Organization shall invite duly qualified persons to act as members of the Judging panels during the Preliminary, Quarter-final and Semi-final Rounds.

27. Do I receive any preparation materials in advance of the Competition?

You will receive an email with final information, as well as the Judge's package in the beginning of May via email. The Judge's package includes the Case, the bench memorandum, the Judge's Guide, the Rules of Procedure, and your personal schedule. The personal schedule will reflect the sessions which you selected to be assigned to.

28. Do I receive the teams' memorials in advance?

No. As a judge, you must score the teams solely on their oral presentations. This decision relies on the fact that a Team's oral pleadings are not limited to the scope of the Team's Memorial, as well as from a practical perspective: the schedule is very frequently changed (even on the spot, 5 minutes before the start of the session), so it may happen that judges will see different teams from those in the initial schedule.

29. I arrived at the Competition Venue. Where do I go?

When you arrive at the Competition venue, it is necessary to complete your check-in process with the Organizing Office located in the Judges' Room before your first session. Clear signage will be provided to assist you in finding your way. We kindly request that you arrive with ample time to spare, allowing for a smooth registration process and ensuring that each session starts promptly. Your punctuality is greatly appreciated.

30. I completed my check-in at the Competition venue. What do I do now?

You may now have a seat in the Judges' Room, help yourself to a coffee, and get to know the other judges. 5 minutes before your session starts, the Organizing Office will give a briefing to remind you of the most important rules of procedure of the Oral Rounds, as well as answer any questions you may have. After the briefing, each judging panel will be called in turns to the front of the room to meet the Bench Clerk who will escort you to the Courtroom.

31. How many judges are in a courtroom?

There are three judges per courtroom with one of them acting as a presiding judge. The Organizing Office may also appoint a fourth judge. In the absence of a judge, the Organizing Office may also appoint only two judges per courtroom.

32. Who is the presiding judge? What do they do?

The Organizing Office will appoint a presiding judge per session. The Presiding Judge is tasked with:

- Opening and closing the session;

- Inviting the Speakers to take the floor;
- Moderating the feedback session.

A judge may be appointed presiding judge for one session but not for another.

33. I am a presiding judge. What should I say in the opening/closing of the hearing?

- Example text of opening: *Please be seated. Good morning /Good afternoon and welcome to the hearing of the Appeal of the Pre Trial Chamber’s Decision in the case “the case of The Prosecutor v. Lionel Strong, in the Situation in The Republic of Sirax”. My name is... and I will be presiding today’s session. I am joined by my colleagues, ... and I shall now give the floor to the Counsel for the Prosecution.*
- Example text of closing: *This concludes our hearing today. Thank you to all parties who presented their arguments before us today.*

34. May I reveal my affiliation/nationality/employer during the opening of the session?

No, please refrain from revealing any information about your affiliation or nationality during the opening of the session. You may do so if you wish after the closing of the session

35. What is the role of the Bench Clerk?

Bench Clerks support the Judges during the Oral Rounds in matters of organization. Such responsibilities include escorting Judges to the Courtroom and back to the Judges’ Room, briefing and advising the Bench Members of the Rules of Procedure during the session as necessary, ensuring that scores are delivered to the Organization upon the end of the session, and generally keeping order during the session. They are also responsible for keeping the time for the Bench and the participating Teams during the sessions

36. Can I participate as a Judge in the Quarter-final and/or Semi-final rounds?

Judging seats in the Quarter-final and Semi-final rounds are reserved for veteran judges who have been involved in the Competition for more than 6 years. The Organizing Office reserves the right to appoint Judges to the Quarter-final and Semi-final rounds based on their experience in international criminal law.

37. How many sessions is it advisable to participate in per day?

We advise judges not to participate in more than three (3) sessions per day. However, it is entirely up to each individual to decide how many sessions they wish to be involved in.

38. What is the bench memorandum? Can I share the bench memorandum?

The bench memorandum is a document prepared for judges to provide them with a concise summary of the key issues, arguments, and relevant legal authorities related to the case at hand. The purpose of the bench memorandum is to assist judges in quickly understanding the case before them, facilitating more efficient evaluation of memorials and oral pleadings.

The bench memorandum is strictly confidential and judges must not share the entire memorandum or excerpts of it with the teams.

39. How long does a session take?

The Organizing Office reserves two (2) hours for a full session. The two hours include the opening of the session by the presiding judge, the teams' presentations and rebuttals, and the Judges' feedback.

40. What is the order of appearance and the time division?

The order of the pleadings in each Hearing is:

- Presentation by Prosecution Counsel (20 minutes);
- Presentation by Victims' Counsel (20 minutes);
- Presentation by Defense Counsel (20 minutes);
- Rebuttal by Prosecution Counsel (10 minutes);
- Rebuttal by Victims' Counsel (10 minutes);
- Rebuttal by Defense Counsel (10 minutes).

41. On the basis of what criteria are oral submissions graded?

An overview of the grading criteria used to evaluate oral submissions is found on [Annex 2 of the Rules of Procedure](#). Annex 2 is also the template of the scoresheet the Judges will be required to fill out at the end of the session.

42. What kind of questions am I expected to ask?

The questions you ask play a pivotal role in assessing the participants' legal acumen and advocacy skills. You may consider a range of questions:

- Clarification Questions: Judges seek to clarify specific points, facts, or legal principles presented by participants.
- Counterargument Questions: Judges may present opposing viewpoints and ask participants to respond effectively.
- Policy Questions: Depending on the case, judges may inquire about policy implications.
- Precedent Questions: Judges may ask about relevant legal precedents and their application.
- Procedural Questions: Questions about procedural aspects, such as jurisdiction or standing, may be raised.
- Factual Questions: Judges may inquire about case-specific details to assess participants' grasp of the facts.

The Bench Memo also provides judges with questions which may be asked. We do encourage judges to formulate questions beyond those provided to them, so to avoid teams receiving the same questions multiple times.

43. Are my questions part of the team's speaking time?

Yes. Your questions form an integral part of the team's allocated speaking time. While teams anticipate, and are prepared to incorporate your questions into their presentations, we kindly urge judges to exercise discretion and avoid excessive disruptions, particularly if there are less than two minutes remaining. Please be aware that no questions should be posed after a speaker's allotted time has concluded.

Please keep your questions short and concrete. This will allow students to answer your question, as well as continue their presentation.

44. What kind of feedback should we provide the teams with at the end of the session?

Each panel of judges is requested to provide teams with 10 minutes of feedback (in total, not per judge), right after the closing of the pleadings.

- The feedback should only make reference to oral skills: speed of presentation, intonation, body language. feedback on the substance of the arguments is completely prohibited.
- When providing feedback to teams, please keep in mind most of the participants are non-English native speakers, therefore, please do not make any language remarks.
- Please provide generalized feedback, as opposed to spotlighting a specific speaker.
- The panel of judges may not take a deliberation break before providing teams with feedback.

45. The session has finished. What do I do now?

Upon the closing of the session of the presiding judge, the Bench Clerk will escort you and the rest of the panel members to the Judges' Room. Here, you will have the opportunity to deliberate with your fellow judges about the scores and the performance of the teams.

46. How does the scoring of teams work?

Each judge will receive three scoring sheets, one for each team (template can be found in [Annex 2 of the Rules of Procedure](#)). Even though we encourage deliberation and discussion with the other panel members, each judge must submit an independent score sheet for each team in their session. Once you fill out all three of your score sheets, please hand them over to one of the members of the Organizing Office.

47. How have oral submissions been graded in previous editions?

In the previous edition of the IBA ICCMCC teams needed an average of 87/100 points (in the Oral Rounds) to qualify to the Quarter-finals, and an average of 96/100 to secure the Best Oralist Award in each specific category (Prosecution Counsel, Victims' Counsel, Defense Counsel).

48. I already provided feedback to the teams after the session. Should I still fill out the 'Comments' session on the score sheet?

Yes. The teams will receive all scoresheets upon the cessation of the Competition. Therefore, we ask judges to provide written feedback as well, from which students can learn and implement in their future studies/careers. This is also an opportunity to provide students with substantive feedback on their arguments.

D. Practical Questions

49. Is there a dress code for Judges?

There is no strict dress code for Judges, but we recommend to consider smart-casual attire as a starting point. Teams will be wearing formal attire, such as suits. Past experience shows that 90% of judges wear business/formal clothing.

50. What amenities are provided during the Competition?

Throughout the Competition, judges will have access to the following amenities: two receptions featuring beverages and snacks, one following the opening ceremony and the other after the awards ceremony, in addition to a farewell dinner and party. Each day at the venue, complimentary coffee, tea, water, and lunch will be provided. Furthermore, WiFi connectivity will be available for all participants.

51. Can I attend the Final Round?

Yes. You may watch the Final Round from the Public Gallery of the ICC Courtroom, on the Court's premises. If you are not able to attend the Final Round in person, you can watch the livestream on the Court's website.

52. Do I receive a certificate as a Judge?

Yes. The Organizing Office will provide you with a hard-copy of the certificate after your last session. If you also wish to receive a digital copy, please do send an email to iccmcc@law.leidenuniv.nl between 15 June and 15 July 2024.

53. How will my contribution be recognized?

Your name and affiliation will be published on [our website](#), as well as in our digital and paper Competition booklet. The paper format of the Competition booklet will be distributed to all participating teams, judges present during the Oral Round, and guests of the Competition.

54. Can I participate in side-events as a judge?

Yes. You are invited to join side-events as a judge. While some events may be exclusive to either judges or students, any such distinctions will be clearly indicated in the competition's schedule for your convenience. All side-events will be communicated to you previous to the Competition and require registration in advance.

55. How can I find out who won the Competition?

Once the Oral Round of the Competition is completed, the Organizing Office will send out an official email to all Judges with the results of the Competition, pictures from the Oral Round, as well as the official booklet.

E. Contact

56. How can I get in touch with the Organizing Committee?

You can reach out to the Organizing Committee at ICCMCC@law.leidenuniv.nl. Please keep in mind that while we are active on various social media platforms, our primary focus is on responding to inquiries sent via email.

57. What constitutes an emergency?

Kindly note that the phone number provided during the Oral Round is only to be used in times of emergency, i.e., sudden and unforeseen situations that may disrupt the normal proceedings of the competition and require the immediate attention of the Organizing Committee.

Emergencies include, but are not limited to, participants' misconduct, delay in attending a hearing, medical emergencies, security concerns, natural disasters and exposure to fire or hazardous materials.

58. What if I have not yet received a reply to my email?

While we make every effort to promptly address emails, please understand that due to the significant volume of emails we receive, it may take a few days before you receive a reply.