An Introduction to Specialized International Programs at Loyola University Chicago

As we quickly approach the end of the academic year, now is the time to start thinking about what programs you might like to participate in next year and to go through the necessary application processes. In addition to the typical moot court and mock trial teams and Loyola’s many well-regarded law journals and reviews, there are a few specialized international programs available to you. In addition to the summer abroad programs (experiential descriptions of which can be found in Issue 2 of this year’s International Newsletter), you may wish to consider applying for Dean Faught’s London Comparative Advocacy Program and Professor Moses’ Vis Moot Arbitration Team.

The London Comparative Advocacy Program consists of course work during the fall semester leading up to a two-week trip to London. Both the course work and the trip focus on the comparative study of the American and the British common law systems. In this issue of the newsletter, Elizabeth Maddock shares her experiences in the program.

The Vis Moot Arbitration Team is a specialized moot team that participates in an international commercial arbitration moot that requires both brief-writing and oral advocacy in a hypothetical contract dispute for the sale of goods. It involves a participation in a seminar class in the fall semester called International Arbitration and the CISG. Enrollment in the course is limited to only sixteen students, who are all brief-writers for the team. At the end of the semester, eight of the class participants will be selected to be oral advocates and travel to either Hong Kong or Vienna to compete against schools from around the world.

After reading through former participants’ experiences with these programs in this issue, look to the last page to find out how to apply for them. We hope to see you in London, Hong Kong, or Vienna next year!

Some Highlights of the London Comparative Advocacy Program
Elizabeth Maddock

The four Inns of Court where barristers and solicitors have trained for centuries lie in the middle of London, and the London Comparative Advocacy students have the privilege of exploring them. I was surprised when walking along a bustling London street, Dean Faught opened doors into quiet, historic treasures where the Knights Templar lived or where Shakespeare performed or where Winston Churchill first met Franklin D. Roosevelt. Dean Faught is the
ultimate guide – he knows everything about everything; just wait until you walk around London with him – it is fantastic.

The trip has a good balance of “class time” and free time. I put “class time” in quotes because you are not necessarily in a classroom for all of the educational experiences. For example, during the second half of the trip, we spent mornings in the Old Bailey and spent the afternoons doing whatever we wanted. (I recommend going to the British Museum, getting tickets to see a play, and going for afternoon tea.)

The Old Bailey is the central criminal court of England and Wales.

Once you get over the sight of barristers and judges wearing wigs and black gowns, you begin to notice the differences between American and English legal procedures. For one, there is no voir dire of the jury. This is quite a stark contrast from American procedures where many lawyers believe choosing the right jurors can make or break the outcome of a trial.

Last, but certainly not least, you go on this trip with a great group of people. Every day is more fun because you are walking around an amazing city with amazing people. We students at Loyola are so lucky that the Deans and faculty started this program twenty-four years ago. You will know what I mean when you are all standing together watching the fireworks at midnight on New Years.

The Road to Vienna: The 20th Annual Willem C. Vis Moot Arbitration

David Yoshimura

Last month, I had the great pleasure of traveling to Austria to participate in the 20th annual Willem C. Vis Moot Arbitration with Loyola’s other Vis Moot Fellows. It was a long road, and it took a lot of work and preparation. But in the end, I can easily say that it was one of the most rewarding, enlightening, and fun experiences of the very busy academic year.

After spending the first ten weeks of 2013 writing a response brief and holding several practices a week with my teammates, we were able to leave Chicago with a lot of confidence in our ability to do well at the competition, but we didn’t realize how far we had to go before we actually argued our case in Vienna.

Our first stop was Belgrade, Serbia. The University of Belgrade Faculty of Law hosts an annual “pre-moot” invitational competition that takes place one week before the beginning of the actual moot in Vienna. After we touched down at Nikola Tesla Airport, we had just enough time to eat dinner and try to get a good night’s sleep before waking up and going straight to our first argument!

During the pre-moot, we were able to meet lots of fellow law students from Italy, Germany, and beyond while exploring the city. Loyola’s four pre-moot arguments took place at the Faculty of Law, the AmCham office and at the firm of Karanovic/Nikolic. The closing ceremony took place in Belgrade’s beautiful City Hall.

After the closing ceremony, all of the teams were invited to a cozy local restaurant that served Serbian cuisine.
The food went along great with the company—dozens of relieved law students and many newfound friends.

Finally, we left Croatia and were on our way to Vienna. Each year, the team stays in the Benediktushaus, the guest house of a Benedictine monastery in the city center. With barely enough time to take a breath, we were back into practice arguments in our final pre-moot in Vienna’s stunning Supreme Court.

In the pre-moot tradition, we enjoyed the company of many fellow students from distant countries, including Hong Kong and Mexico.

The actual moot competition started the next day and lasted for the following five days. During that time, in addition to making our final arguments, we had time to go out to the “official” club for Vis Moot participants, the Ost Club, try out numerous local restaurants (every single one of which serves some really good schnitzel), and scope out the incredible architecture that has evolved in remarkable ways throughout the city.

Additionally, because the competition always takes place the week leading up to the Easter holiday, the streets are lined with vendor stands selling artisan wares, locally sourced foods, and some startlingly beautiful Easter eggs! (I wasn’t brave enough to try to bring one of them safely home across the Atlantic.) For those of you who have been to Christkindlmarket in Chicago, it will be immediately apparent to you what our local Chicago event is attempting to emulate!

We also visited the famous Café Central for a coffee, where many important intellectuals gathered throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

In the end, our team advanced to and through the elimination rounds of the competition until the round of 32, where we were defeated by a team that ultimately was one of the two final teams. Since the competition hosted nearly 300 teams this year, the result was a strong showing for Loyola, and a great pay-off for the months and months of intense preparation work.

If you are able to participate in the Vis Moot (which I can’t recommend highly enough), I’m sure that you’ll agree with me that it is an academic and skills-intensive experience without equal. Not only did I have a great time traveling and seeing a new part of the world, I made a lot of connections with practitioners and academics that could fundamentally shape my career path. And I made even more friendships that will—cliché or not—truly last for a lifetime.

Professor Margaret Moses, David Yoshimura, Susan Lee, Ebony Smith, & Natnael Moges
The Vis East Moot Arbitration in Hong Kong

Kaite Smeenk

In early March the Vis East Team, comprised of Kyle Lennox (3L), Erin Collins (3L), J.T. Luljak (2L), Katie Smeenk (3L) and coach John Calhoun, departed for our two-week competition in Shanghai and Hong Kong. Prior to leaving for Asia our Vis East Team had placed first overall at Loyola’s own pre-moot competition, and the Team had practiced our arbitration arguments for a case involving child labor in an international business transaction since fall of 2012. However, we were not entirely sure what to expect from the two competitions we were to compete in overseas.

The Team arrived in Shanghai for another pre-moot and had a few days to curb our jetlag and explore the city of over 23,000,000 people. Once the competition started we faced teams from China, Hong Kong, Mexico and Japan. The Shanghai pre-moot was a relatively small competition with only twenty teams, most of which were from Asia, with the exception of three teams from the United States. After four preliminary arguments the Team advanced to the quarterfinals. As opposed to the preliminary rounds where you were scored against all other teams, during the playoff rounds teams advanced only if they were deemed by the arbitration panel to defeat their opposition. After a long day of three arguments, Loyola gave a strong argument and was narrowly defeated by a team from East China University. We were later informed that East China University had won the national arbitration moot competition in China.

Although the defeat was quite disappointing we learned a great deal from competing against teams from other legal cultures and felt well prepared to proceed to the main event in Hong Kong. We also were thrilled with the fact that Kyle Lennox took home the honor of being named Runner-Up Best Oralist of the whole competition. This meant that Kyle had the second highest overall individual scores in the entire competition- very impressive indeed! Also on the bright side, we had an additional day to enjoy Shanghai, explore the ancient Yuyuan Gardens, and do some souvenir shopping around the Bund.

We then proceeded to Hong Kong where we arrived to see the incredibly large skylines and feel the international flare of the city immediately surround us, along with the humidity! The Team took advantage of our free days before the competition by rehashing our arbitration arguments and taking a high-speed ferry to Macau. In Macau Erin Collins bungee jumped off of the Macau Tower, the tallest bungee jump in the world. Post-Macau we were refreshed and ready for the Vis East opening ceremony, where there were over 90 teams from Europe, Australia, Asia, and the Americas.

During the preliminary rounds of the Vis East, Loyola faced teams from South Korea, India, Denmark and Hong Kong. Again, it was an amazing learning experience to see the different approaches to the problem and the argument style that both teams and arbitrators from different cultures embraced.

In the Vis East competition, only 16 out of the 93 teams advance to the playoff rounds. Although our performances were strong and we received very positive feedback throughout the whole competition, we did not advance to the top 16. Again, although this was a bit of a disappointment, we quickly realized that statistically it was very difficult to advance even if you had scored well. We also quickly realized that this gave us some more time to explore the culture that Hong Kong has to offer and we had an amazing day at
the Hong Kong Peak before the final seafood banquet on Lamma Island and the closing ceremonies the next day.

Overall, participating in the Vis East was an incredible experience, and certainly one of the best experiences I have had in law school. As even domestic legal culture continues to rapidly involve international components, this exposure to international arbitration will undoubtedly benefit my teammates and I no matter where our future careers take us. As such, our team would especially like to thank our coaches John Calhoun and Josh Heffernan, as well as Prof. Bill Davis and Prof. Margaret Moses.

How to Apply for the London Program and the Vis Moot Competition Teams

If either of these programs sound interesting to you, now is the time to apply to make sure that you can participate! The deadlines for each are coming up in April, so make sure that you pay close attention to your calendar. The information provided to us by the organizers of each program is included below.

London Comparative Advocacy

The twenty-fifth annual London Comparative Advocacy Program will be conducted in London for approximately 16 days from late December to early January, 2014. The program is open to students who have completed their first year of law school and is a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience first-hand, the British legal culture and the foundations of the common law. This year's participants will provide information about next year's program. Program applications, due April 29, will be available at the sessions and participants will be selected shortly thereafter.

[Note: The dates of the information sessions are sent out in the daily announcements. If you are unable to attend the sessions, contact Dean Faught at jfaught@luc.edu to schedule a meeting at which he will provide you with the application materials.]

Vis Moot Arbitration Team

Students who would like to participate in the 2013–14 Vis Moot Program, with oral argument in the spring semester in Vienna or Hong Kong, must take International Commercial Arbitration and the CISG in the fall of 2013. Sixteen students will be admitted to the course. At the end of the semester, eight will be chosen to be Vis Moot Fellows. To be admitted to the class, you need to email a resume and a statement of interest to Prof. Moses, mmoses1@luc.edu. You should send the statement of interest and resume by April 22. Because the final decision as to admission will not be made until late April, you need to register for a full course load, but be prepared to drop a course if you are selected for admission to the arbitration class. You cannot take this class if you are a Corboy Fellow or on a moot court team that competes in the fall semester.