European Law Moot Court

Annual Report 2012-2013
The word of the president of the European Law Moot Court Society

The 2012-2013 season of the biggest Moot Court in the field of EU Law has been a very special year for multiple reasons.

First of all, the European Law Moot Court Society has celebrated the 25th anniversary of our competition! Founded in 1988, our Society organizes every year one of the most important Moot Courts in the world. In April 2013, after the European Final which was held in the Grande salle d’audience in front of 9 Judges of the Court of Justice of the European Union, we’ve organized, under Michel Debroux’s directions, our Gala dinner with more than 180 guests that have made the History of the European Law Moot Court. Judges, Partners, Professors, students, people from all over the world that make the living wealth of our competition. Michel Debroux, who has to be thanked once again, has also directed our first book Moot x25 - 1988-2013 : 25 years of European Law Moot Court gathering articles from all Moot actors, the cases and the best written pleadings of all these years. Buy it now as a souvenir of your experience but also as a work instrument for your next teams of students!

Moreover, and it’s starting to be a good habit, we’ve had four Regional Finals of exceptional level thanks to the participating team’s quality and to the great organization of the hosting Universities: Brussels, Neuchatel, Leiden and Lund, and their local organizing teams, have done a great work and managed to showcase the best of their respective cities & Law Schools.

Last but not least, this excellent vintage is the fruit of the hard work of our previous President Bartolomeu Costa Cabral. After many years leading the
ELMC Society Bart decided to retire from his position. We Thank him for his exceptional work, specifically in this times of financial crisis, that allowed our ELMC adventure to continue stronger than ever. At the European Law Moot Court Society meeting that was held after last European Final, our members elected me as the new president of a new collegial governance structure.

My name is Georges Vallindas, I hold a PhD in EU Law from the Aix en Provence Law School (Aix-Marseille University), and I’ve been a Référendaire at the EU General Court since 2008, for Judge Soldevila Fragoso, and at the CJEU since 2013, for Judge Rodin. I’ve participated in the ELMC as a student, then for 5 years as a Coach of the Aix en Provence team, before joining the Board of the Society in 2009.

My intention is to be the conductor, the bandleader of our new Board which is composed by Michel Debroux as our Development Officer (Sponsors & new projects) William Valasidis as our Secretary General (CJEU, Moot Judges), Javier Porras Belarra as our Executive Officer (Madrid Organizing Team), Isabel Gomez as our Finances Officer, Sébastien Thomas as our Communications Officer (website) and Andreas Mobert as our Academic Officer (case).

With the support of the others members of the Society, our Sponsors and our University partners, I’m convinced that we can keep on growing our university competition helping students from all over the world learn EU Law and meet the open spirit of our European Union.
The 2014 Regional Finals will take place at the Comenius University Law Faculty (Bratislava, Slovakia), at the Aix en Provence Law Faculty (Aix - Marseille University, France), at the Minho University (Braga, Portugal), and Torino University (Italy) ! We're eager of meeting you all next February and are working -almost- as hard as you till then!

A huge Thanks to our Sponsors that allowed us once again this year to organize the European Law Moot Court

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and for the support of the CJEU

Don’t forget that you can follow all our news on our new website www.europeanlawmootcourt.eu and on our Official Facebook Page www.facebook.com/EuropeanLawMootCourt where more than 1000 Mooties-Friends are gathered, a network of the best students, Professors, Lawyers & Judges passionate about EU Law.

Faithfully,

Georges VALLINDAS  
President, European Law Moot Court Society
Summary of the 2012-2013 European Law Moot Court

The case, as every year, was published on our website on September 1st, 2012.

More than 80 student teams from European & USA Universities registered and sent us their applicant & defendant written pleadings.

Once the submissions were anonymized, the written pleadings have been distributed to the number of our Moot Judges who have carried out the double marking of the pleadings. The results of this written phase have been published on our web site on the 15th January 2013.

Like every year, 48 teams -12 per Regional Final-, composed by 4 students and their Coach, designated only by their secret numbers, were qualified for the oral phase.

Four Regional Finals were held at the Universities of Neuchatel, Lund, Leiden and the Free University of Brussels over the four weekends of February. From Thursday afternoon to Sunday morning, students from dozens of nationalities faced constant questions of our Judges. What better way to choose the best litigators, in substance and form, who will have the unique opportunity to plead before the real Judges of the Court of Justice of the European Union?

The Court of Justice of the European Union has hosted the European Final of the European Law Moot Court on Friday, April 12th 2013. The competition ended in style with a big Gala Dinner celebrating the 25th anniversary of our Moot Court Competition in EU law.

Here are the results of the Regional Finals and the All-European Final!
ELMC European Final
Court of Justice of the European Union
Luxembourg, 11th and 12th of April 2013

Winning team: Leiden University
Best Advocate-General: Paris II Panthéon Assas
Best Commission Agent: Turin University

Finalist Team: Leuven Catholic University
Finalist AG: Heidelberg University
Finalist CA: Maastricht University

Semi-Finalist Teams: Aix Marseille Université
Berlin Free University
Judges of the Court of Justice of the European Union who made us the honour of serving in this European Final:

Semi-Finals:

Judge Ilešič (President of the Third Chamber, Court of justice)
Judge Soldevila Fragoso (General Court)
Judge Bradley (Civil Service Court)

Final:
Judge Ilešič (President of the 3rd Chamber, Court of justice)
Judge Bay Larsen (President of the 4th Chamber, Court of Justice)
Judge Rosas (President of the Tenth Chamber, Court of Justice)
Judge Borg Barthet (Court of Justice)
Judge Ó Caoimh (Court of Justice)
Advocate General Sharpston (Court of Justice)
Judge Azizi (General Court)
Judge Soldevila Fragoso (General Court)
Judge Bradley (Civil Service Tribunal)

And here there is a brief summary of the program of our European Final:

Thursday: visit to the Court of Justice, followed by a hearing and presentation of the institution by référendaires.

Friday: pleadings in front of the Court of Justice of the European Union, drink offered by the Court, presentation of the book, Gala Dinner celebrating the 25th anniversary of the European Law Moot Court Society and our traditional singing contest.
25th Anniversary Gala Dinner and & Launch of the European Law Moot Book

In April 2013, over 180 guests gathered in Luxembourg during our 25th Anniversary gala dinner. Former and current Mooties, coming from several countries and with different backgrounds, shared fond Moot memories and fun stories during the dinner and the traditional Moot Court Song Contest. Our Alumni Network has been revitalized and is stronger than ever, with 400+ members: academics, lawyers, entrepreneurs, judges, in-house lawyers, executives, from all over Europe and beyond. To quote one of the Court of Justice judges, “we see many former Mooties among the best”.

This party was also our previous president’s last in office.

Bartolomeu Costa Cabral has taken the reins of the Society in 2004 and his exceptional work and efforts helped developing it further and maintaining it safe and strong through the difficult recent years.

We again express our deepest gratitude to Bart for the time, efforts and skill he dedicated to the ELMC.

During this Anniversary Gala we also launched our Moot Book, a collective work spanning over the first 25 years of existence of the Society, supervised by Michel Debroux. This book contains stories and anecdotes written by all the key actors of the
"European Law Moot Court" and allows the readers to fully grasp the Moot spirit.

No doubt it will also become a priceless resource for all future ELMC participants, since it contains all past cases and many best written pleadings in English and French!

Every EU law library should have a copy on their shelves, as well as all future teams!

You can contact us to order a copy!
Participate in the European Law Moot Court with a student team!

On average, more than 80 European and American Universities participate in the European Law Moot Court every year. Being part of it is very simple:

- You form a student team usually consisting of LLM students (3rd to 5th year of law studies in the EU).

- They draft a pleading for the applicant and a pleading for the defendant (in English or French, the Competition is bilingual) under supervision of a Coach (usually a PhD candidate) on the basis of a case published on the 1st September each year on our website www.europeanlawmootcourt.eu

- 4 students and a Coach register online by paying the fee of 100 Euros (usually paid by the Faculty of Law) and send us by e-mail, by the end of November, the two written pleadings.

- The results of the written phase are published online on the 15th of January. 48 teams qualify for the oral rounds, the ELMC Regional Finals.

- The participation fees (250 Euros per student and 300 Euros per Coach) are paid to the organisers of each Regional Final and are usually paid by your University, as well as the travelling expenses. Your team is of course free to find other sponsors.

This organisation allows the numerous Universities to grade the students & the ELMC as a Seminar: usually the work invested in the preparation for the written phase is graded in the first semester and the work invested in the preparation of the oral pleadings is graded in the second semester.

The European Law Moot Court is a unique experience for the students, introducing them to research and bilingual work, but it also allows the Universities to establish a solid reputation amongst the best EU Law circles.

Around 80 European and North American universities participate every year in the European Law Moot Court Competition.

Contact us for more information!
Organize a Regional Final at your University!

Many students or coaches, after participating in a Regional Final of the European Law Moot Court, ask us how they could organize such an event at their own University or Law School.

With the support of a Professor who will supervise the event, a student or PhD Candidate will build a local team that will organize the Regional Final. Along this process you will receive direct support from our side.

The ELMC Society will select 12 teams that will participate in your Regional Final. More than 12,000 Euros will be paid by the participating teams to the organizers of the Regional Final. Complementary funding might be provided by the Faculty, University, Local and Regional Authorities, Publishing Companies, Law Firms and other possible private sponsors in in order to cover the requirements of the overall budget of your Regional Final.

The event starts on Thursday afternoon with the teams’ arrival, the 5 Moot Court Judges appointed by the ELMC Society and the 4 representatives of the Society (2 OT Members that will support you with the students program and 2 Society Members who will supervise the Competition and resolve all issues related to Rules and Judges).

An official welcome reception must be planned on Thursday evening (18h00). Concerning the venue for this event, there are many options: the Town Hall or the University Hall are usually the most reliable choices.

On Friday you must have 2 Court Rooms at your Faculty available from 8h30 to 18h30: 6 sessions will be carried out with 4 or 5 Judges in each court room. At the end of the day the Judges will announce which teams move forward to the semi-finals on the following day. For Friday evening you must consider a place where the students can have dinner and you must organize a dinner for judges.
On Saturday, 2 court rooms will host the semi-finals from 09h30 to 12h30. Once these are finished the judges will announce the 2 finalist teams that will plead against each other in front of a bench of 8-10 judges from 15h00 to 17h00. After the Final there will be a deliberation period, followed by the announcement of the Winning Team, Best Commission Representative / Advocate General and a Prize Awards Ceremony.

On Friday Night you are expected to organize a Farewell Dinner & Drinks and the traditional Moot Court Song Contest, during which the students will have the opportunity to mingle with the judges for the first time.

**Why should you organize a Regional Final of the European Law Moot Court?**

Because it’s a unique event that allows your University, Law School, EU Law Program, to be under great media exposure for a whole year!

A first level Media presence is assured by all communication means of the European Law Moot Court Society, as a leading and well-known competition around the world that will contribute to the promotion of your institution and programs. Our Society grants you 25 years of know-how and access to the greatest network of EU Law specialists.

Moreover, organizing a Regional Final allows you to welcome over 60 international students fully dedicated to EU Law, of many different nationalities and representing highly recognized Universities on an International level, as well as 4-5 invited judges and the 4 Society representatives. The benefits of hosting such an event are highly effective and usually spread quickly on the next generations of students. Your guests will be your next Ambassadors.

_for further information please do not hesitate to contact us!_
Sponsor the *European Law Moot Court*!

Since its foundation in 1988, the *European Law Moot Court* has consistently been sponsored by some of the finest law firms active in European law. We are also supported by the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg, whose members compose the benches at the competition’s European Final, hosted by the Court in Luxembourg.

Our current law firm sponsors are (2013-2014):

![Mannheimer Swartling](image)

![Van Bael & Bellis](image)

![De Brauw Blackstone Westbroek](image)

We express our deepest gratitude to our sponsors’ support, without which nothing would be possible. It is worth highlighting that all the members of the ELMC Society are unpaid volunteers and our budget is fully dedicated to the competition’s running.

Partnering with the *European Law Moot Court* allows our sponsors to increase their visibility towards the best EU law students among the best universities worldwide, thanks to all the Society’s communication tools. This highly focused communication provides our sponsors with a unique opportunity to establish strong links with the finest EU law circles and brightest students.

*For more information, please contact Michel Debroux, who is in charge of the European Law Moot Court sponsoring.*