

THE JOHN H. JACKSON MOOT COURT COMPETITION

1. The European Law Students' Association is an international, independent, non-political, non-profit-making organisation run by and for students and recent graduates. ELSA supports the study of international trade law through its organization of an annual Moot Court Competition on WTO Law. The John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition is a simulation of a WTO panel proceeding conducted in English. Each participating team represents both the complainant and the respondent in the fictional case and prepares both written and oral submissions. Oral pleadings are made before panels consisting of WTO law experts.

3. The John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition has been organized on an annual basis since 2002. It is currently the only global student competition on WTO law. The participating teams first compete in a Regional Round. The best teams from the Regional Rounds advance to the Final Oral Round held in Geneva, Switzerland. The winning team is selected following a final pleading before WTO law experts. The John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition involves teams from universities in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America, North America, and the Middle East.

4. The John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition has been instrumental in fostering awareness and in-depth study of the WTO and its dispute settlement system in law schools in many parts of the world. It is an extremely powerful capacity-building activity. As has been observed over the last few years, many competition participants have pursued careers in international trade law or economics as academics, private practitioners and government officials. Indeed, several of the missions to the WTO, of both the developed and developing countries, currently employ as delegates, past participants of the competition.

There have been five previous African Regional Rounds, since 2014, four of which were hosted in South Africa. The fifth African Regional Round was hosted for the first time outside of South Africa by Strathmore University, Nairobi, Kenya from 24-29th April 2018. The Kenya School of Law started participating in this competition in 2016 at which it emerged third overall, in the continent. In 2017 and 2018, the Kenya School of Law beat about 20 African Teams to win the rights to represent the African Continent at the global round hosted at the Graduate Institute in Geneva, Switzerland.

It is with this in mind that the Kenya School of Law, in collaboration with the WTO and ELSA, agreed to host this year's competition at its Karen Campus in Nairobi. Twenty teams from the entire continent and trade law scholars will be converging at the Kenya School of Law from 23 April 2019 to 27 April 2019 for the Regional Round. The competition has attracted local sponsorship from law firms such as Robson and Harris Advocates, Kioko Kilukumi and Company Advocates, Coulson and Harney Advocates, National Council for Law Reporting, Prof. PLO Lumumba (former Director/CEO, Kenya School of Law) and Ms. Annah Konuche (Assistant Director, Advocates Training Programme, Kenya School of Law). It is expected that more local sponsors will step forward to support the event.