

28 September 2018

Dear colleagues and friends of the IMLAM Moot,

20th Annual International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot Competition
30 June – 5 July 2019

I am delighted to announce that in 2019, the International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot will be hosted by the School of Law, Erasmus University in Rotterdam.

The IMLAM Moot is designed to expose law students to the intellectual challenges of maritime law. Teams of students are given a complex real life scenario 7 months before the oral competition. They research the law, prepare memoranda and then prepare their oral arguments for the panel.

I am emailing you to ask for your support for this competition by donating your time and expertise to act as an arbitrator during the oral rounds in Rotterdam.

There will be general round sessions from Monday 1 July – Wednesday 3 July 2019. On Thursday 4 July we will hold the preliminary finals (top 16) and quarter-finals (top 8). On Friday 5 July we will hold the semi-finals (morning) and the grand final (afternoon).

Over the years, members of the legal and maritime professions in Australia, England, Singapore and Hong Kong have given their time, sponsorship and enthusiastic support to the moot. I hope that you will consider spending some time with us, thereby enriching the experience for the students. Past arbitrators say they find the moots most enjoyable and intellectually stimulating. They are struck by the high quality of the students' advocacy and their eagerness to learn. (Of course, it is also an opportunity for firms to do some talent scouting for future graduates: many IMLAM alumni have joined maritime law firms over the years!)

In 2018, twenty eight teams comprising 86 orallists from 13 countries joined us at University of Queensland. As 2019 is the moot's first appearance in continental Europe, we are confident we will eclipse that record!

As a result, we expect to run at least 60 moots in the general rounds, followed by 15 moots in the finals. Each of those moots requires 3 arbitrators. To run the competition we will have more than 200 arbitrator seats to fill. Therefore I particularly welcome registrations for a full day, and for two or more days. I will be doing my best to ensure that there is a mix of experienced arbitrators, senior and junior lawyers, industry personnel and former mooters making up each panel of three. Arbitrators will attend a briefing before their first session and receive a kit including an arbitrator guide to the scenario, a sample scoresheet, and logistical information. Other than some pre-reading, no additional preparation is required.

I sincerely hope that you might be able to find time to assist, and/or perhaps encourage some colleagues to assist in this worthwhile venture. To that end, please feel free to pass this request on to anyone who you feel may be interested in being involved.

If you are able to help, please nominate for your preferred sessions online at the following site:

<http://www.murdoch.edu.au/School-of-Law/International-Maritime-Law-Arbitration-Moot/Registration-for-Arbitrators/>

Please mark your diaries with the sessions for which you have volunteered. In early 2019 we will get in touch with registered volunteers to confirm your involvement and organise the logistics.

Our website also sets out additional information about the IMLAM Competition.

All of us involved in IMLAM appreciate your assistance in training the maritime lawyers of the future! I look forward to hearing from you, and hope to see you at some point during the moot itself.

Yours sincerely



Professor Kate Lewins

Moot Director

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