



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, D C

February 8, 2021

### **THIRD ANNOUNCEMENT 2021 INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS MOOT COURT COMPETITION**

Following our decision to organize the 26th Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition virtually, the Academy of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law provides more information about the 2021 Competition.

Our team has worked hard for several months to transfer the full experience of the Moot Court Competition to the online platform. Therefore, we are pleased to announce that the structure and spirit of the Competition, of serving as a forum to train future lawyers on how to use the Inter-American System as a tool to achieve reparation for human rights violations while integrating students and professionals in the region, will remain the same.

Registered Teams will continue to compete against opponents from various countries in the Americas and Judges from all over the region will grade written Memorials and will judge Oral Rounds. Meanwhile, participants will continue to enjoy all the different panels, interviews, and talks we have prepared.

To enjoy the same experience, the rules applicable to the written phase of the competition regarding Memorials will remain unchanged. Moreover, the Oral Rounds will take place as usual but within the virtual format. This includes the same time for each round, the same scoring system, and the same procedure for Rebuttal and Surrebuttal, among others.

The private Preliminary Rounds will guaranty the equality and the reservation of the arguments presented by the teams. The Rounds shall consist of two (2) Oral Argument Sessions per Team. In exceptional cases, some Participant Teams may be scheduled to argue a third time. The Semifinal Rounds shall consist of the top 20% of the Teams representing the Victims and/or Petitioners and/or Commission, as well as the State. Only the two (2) Teams with the highest score will qualify for the Final Round, which will be presided, as usual, by a panel of experts in the Inter-American Human Rights System. We will continue to provide teaching spaces to Participant Teams, Observers, Judges, Bailiffs, and other Volunteers. In addition, the academy will maintain the prizes awarded.

**However, the virtual nature of the 2021 Competition brings other changes.** The Academy will offer limited places only for the first **(sixty) 60 Teams to register and pay the fee.** The second important change is related to the extension of the Oral Rounds to a period of two (2) weeks from the opening date of the Competition. Therefore, the Competition will take place between **Sunday, May 16 and until Friday, May 28, 2021.** These changes will allow us to adapt to the Teams' time zones, to provide interpreters support when required, and to a personalized attention to each Oral round by our staff.

**ACADEMY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW**

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For more detailed information, we invite you to consult the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) you will find below. Follow us on social media **Facebook**, **Twitter**, **LinkedIn**, **Instagram**, using the hashtag #IAMOOT2021.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [iamoot@wcl.american.edu](mailto:iamoot@wcl.american.edu).

**We look forward to your participation in the Inter-American Human Rights Competition from May 16 to 28, 2021!**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claudia Martin'.

Claudia Martin  
Co-Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón'.

Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón  
Co-Director



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## **2021 INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS MOOT COURT COMPETITION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)**

### **1. When will the 2021 Competition be held?**

The 2021 Virtual Competition will take place from **May 16 to 28, 2021**. We recommend all participants to review our website for more information.

### **2. Are there any changes to the Official Rules of the 2021 Competition?**

Yes. Although most of the Rules remain the same, some rules have changed to accommodate the 2021 virtual competition. All Competitors, Coaches, Judges, Observers, Bailiffs, Volunteers, and other participants should carefully read the Official Rules and the General and Technology Guidelines for Virtual Audiences of the 2021 Competition. These documents must be interpreted in light of the extraordinary circumstances derived from the COVID-19 pandemic, within the powers of the Technical Committee to administer the Competition while taking into account the best interest of the participants, the community, and the nature of the Competition. If you have specific questions about the Official Rules or the General and Technology Guidelines, email us at [iamoot@wcl.american.edu](mailto:iamoot@wcl.american.edu).

### **3. Is there a change in the registration fee?**

We have decided to maintain the registration fee for all the Teams. These fees will be used to organize a virtual competition accessible to all participants. To develop this titanic task, we must invest in technological, logistical support, new administrative staff, as well as other costs associated with holding a virtual competition for the over 300 participants who will be joining us.

We also hope that by saving on visas, air tickets, accommodation, and miscellaneous the Teams will lower their participation costs, and allow them to register for the 2021 Competition. Likewise, we hope that virtuality will open the doors for new Teams interested in participating in the 26th edition of the Competition.

### **4. Can Teams obtain their Role and Identification Number before completing their registration?**

They cannot. In accordance with **Rule 3.1.**, each Participating Team must complete the online Registration Form, upload the Dean's authorization form to their registration account, and pay the fee before the deadline established in the Competition's Calendar. Only upon receiving the authorization form from the Dean and the registration fee, will Participating Teams be assigned the Role and an Identification Number to be used during the Competition. Only in exceptional cases, the Team Role will be assigned without receipt the registration fee. A Team is only considered registered once it has received its Identification Number and has been assigned its Role.

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### **5. Can Teams request a Registration fee refund?**

They cannot. In accordance with **Rule 3.1.3.**, No refund will be made once the Registration fee has been paid, except in exceptional circumstances such as the case indicated in Rule 2.2.

### **6. What can we do if my Team is having difficulties paying the registration fee this year? Can we request a reduced rate?**

Reduced registration fees will be offered only to Teams in the most demanding circumstances. Teams must also have exhausted all fundraising and sponsorship options. If you think your Team may qualify for a reduced rate and you have exhausted all avenues of alternative support, please email us at [iamoot@wcl.american.edu](mailto:iamoot@wcl.american.edu).

### **7. What platform will be used for the 2021 Oral Rounds?**

The Oral Rounds of the 2021 Competition will be held by Zoom. Team Members, Judges, Court Officials, and Volunteers will receive a Guideline for the Virtual Competition prior to the Oral Rounds. The Technical Committee recommends that the entire Competition community familiarize themselves with this platform.

### **8. What do the participants need to attend the Competition?**

Team Members and other participants must have high-speed Internet access for their rounds. They must have headphones and a microphone to ensure the quality and fluency of communication, and they must have a quiet space for the development of the rounds. It is the responsibility of all participants to have these elements. We will provide guidance, additional details, and other recommendations prior to the Oral Rounds of the Competition.

### **9. Will the 2022 Competition be held virtually?**

Although it is too early to predict what will happen in 2022, we hope to organize the Competition in person in Washington next year if local and international sanitary measures and regulations allow it. In any case, the Academy has a long history offering hybrid programs that will undoubtedly allow us to continue bringing together students and human rights defenders from around the world.

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