

2025

INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS MOOT COURT COMPETITION



ACADEMY ON HUMAN RIGHTS
& HUMANITARIAN LAW





What is the competition about?



The Competition is a unique trilingual (English, Portuguese, and Spanish) event created to educate law students on how to use the Inter-American Human Rights Legal System as a legitimate forum to seek reparations for human rights violations.



Since its creation, the competition has trained more than 4,900 students and professors from over 365 universities in the Americas and other continents. The hypothetical case, written on a cutting-edge issue currently being debated in the Inter-American system, serves as the basis for the competition. Students argue the merits of this case by drafting legal memoranda and preparing oral arguments to present before human rights experts acting as the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.



HISTORY OF THE COMPETITION

The Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law of the Washington College of Law at American University (hereinafter “the Academy”) manages and conducts the Moot Court Competition, which was founded in 1995 by Claudio Grossman, the former Dean of the Washington College of Law (hereinafter “the WCL”).

Since the Competition’s creation in 1996, thousands of lawyers have participated in our program as oral argument students, coaches, and volunteer judges. Each year, students argue the merits of a hypothetical case from the perspective of the State or the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

The Competition has become a world-renowned event. Law schools in the Americas have developed clinics and courses to prepare students for international human rights law practice. In addition, the Competition has enhanced the capacity of law schools in the region to teach classes on the rule of law and human rights.





50+

Participating countries

365

Participating universities



4900+

Competitors



2060+

Instructors



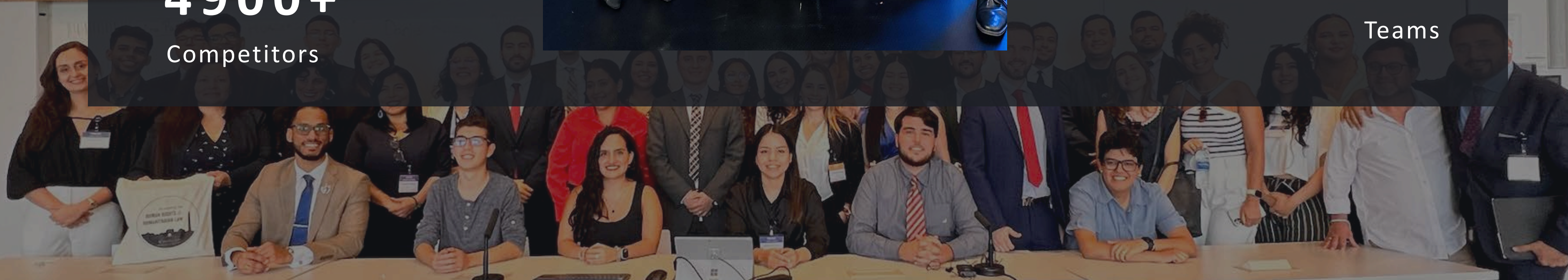
50+

Universities participating for more than 10 years



1650+

Teams



30th Anniversary of the competition

We proudly celebrate the 30th anniversary of the competition. This legacy has brought together more than 4,900 students and professors from over 365 universities in a joint effort to promote and defend human rights. During these three decades, we have created a vibrant space for exchange and learning, where law students and professionals from diverse disciplines - from academics to officials of international organizations and members of NGOs - have come together to debate the most relevant issues of the Inter-American Human Rights System.

This anniversary not only honors the dedication and commitment of thousands of students who have been part of this experience, but also reaffirms our intention to continue to grow and expand this initiative. We want more young people, including those outside the Americas, to have the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of the Inter-American system and become true agents of change in the defense of human rights.





OFFICIAL LANGUAGES



Portuguese

The Competition is held in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. While knowledge of two or more of these languages is helpful, it is not necessary for team members, coaches, and judges to be bilingual. When required, interpreters will provide simultaneous interpretation during oral rounds and other Competition events.



English



Spanish



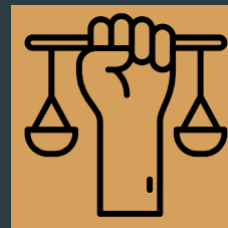


IMPORTANT DATES



NOVEMBER 15, 2024:

Online registration begins



DECEMBER 10, 2024:

Human Rights Day – hypothetical case available



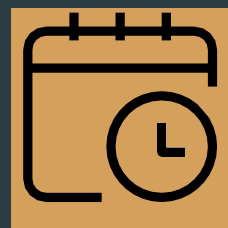
JANUARY 10, 2025:

Publication of the official version of the hypothetical case with the opportunity to ask clarifying questions until January 19



MARCH 12, 2025:

Deadline for team registration



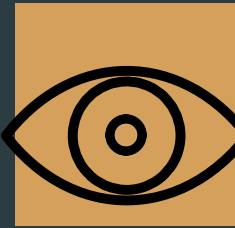
MARCH 25, 2025:

Deadline for submission of memorials



APRIL 11, 2025

Bailiffs Registration Deadline



APRIL 11, 2025

Observer registration deadline



APRIL 11, 2025

Judges Registration Deadline



MAY 19, 2025:

Opening Ceremony and Competition Registration



MAY 18- 23, 2025

Oral Rounds

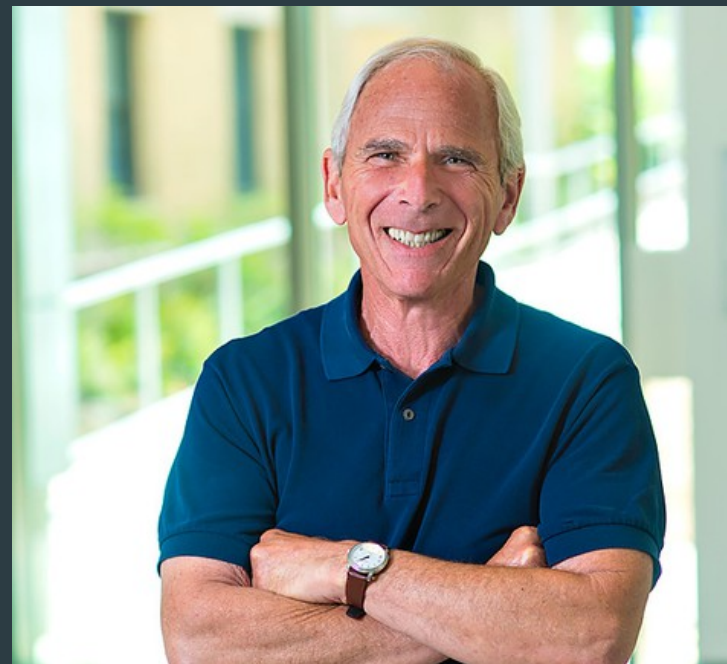




MEET OUR CO-PRESIDENTS AND CO-DIRECTORS



Claudio Grossman
Co-president



Robert K. Goldman
Co-president



Claudia Martin
Co-director



Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón
Co-director



PROGRAM COORDINATOR



Gabriel Ortiz



Inter-American
**HUMAN RIGHTS
MOOT COURT
COMPETITION**

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON
COLLEGE of LAW
WASHINGTON, DC



MOOT COURT STUDENTS FELLOWS



Tiffany Alarcón



Amanda Abbud



Paula Ramos



Marina de Almeida Rosa





TEAMS

All ABA-accredited U.S. law schools and all international law schools are eligible to send a team to participate in the Competition. Each team consists of two students and one or two coaches.

Participants are current law students pursuing Juris Doctor (J.D.) degrees or the international equivalent and may participate in two-person teams representing their schools through written and oral arguments.

Coaches assist teams in registering, fundraising, and obtaining official approval for their team's participation, as well as developing research strategies. Each team may have one or two coaches, usually professors of international law or lawyers with expertise in the field.





Bailiffs

Those interested in having a front-row seat at the oral rounds of the Competition are invited to participate as Bailiffs.

Bailiffs are responsible for maintaining time and order during the 90-minute oral rounds.





OBSERVERS

Deans, professors, and others involved in human rights can attend as observers to learn about the Competition model, the Inter-American legal system, and questions on that year's theme. Observers may attend all Competition events but may not present arguments.





JUDGES

Lawyers from various countries with extensive experience in International Law and/or Human Rights contribute to the Competition as volunteer judges. They participate by scoring written briefs or judging the oral rounds of the Competition.





ROUNDS



Memorial Round

Memorials are scored on a scale of 1 to 100 points, and each memorial is evaluated by at least three (3) judges. The judges' scores are averaged to determine the final score. Administrative penalties will be applied if the memorial is late and/or incorrectly formatted, for which points will be deducted once the average memorial score is determined.



Oral Rounds

Each oral round is scored by a panel of three or more judges. Each team member is scored on a scale of 1 to 100 points. The judges' individual scores are averaged and then the final individual scores of the teammates are added together to determine the team's overall score for that session.





2025 COMPETITION

THEME:

For the highly anticipated 30th edition of #IAMOOT, the theme was carefully chosen not only to align with contemporary needs, but also to address precise and evolving jurisprudential standards within the Inter-American Human Rights System.

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Inter-American
HUMAN RIGHTS
MOOT COURT
COMPETITION

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON
COLLEGE of LAW

ACADEMY ON HUMAN RIGHTS
& HUMANITARIAN LAW

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND HUMAN RIGHTS

2025 TOPIC

#IAMOOT2025
30TH ANNIVERSARY



Changes in the Rules Competition 2025 30th Anniversary

The Technical Committee of the Inter-American Human Rights Competition has decided to implement significant changes in the rules of the Competition to celebrate its 30th anniversary. These modifications, based on feedback from teams, coaches, and judges, seek to offer a more comprehensive experience and enrich the academic trajectory of all participants.

- Teams will be assigned to prepare written and oral arguments in both roles: Victims and the State. Teams will remain composed of two speakers and one or two coaches.
- Teams will be required to prepare two legal memorandums: one for the Victims and one for States
- Memorandums will be shorter, with a smaller number of words. The memorials will continue to be assessed based on the same system of scores that has been used in the Competition.
- Each team will participate in at least two preliminary oral rounds. In one round, the team will perform as the Victim; in the other, it will perform as the State.



Changes in the Rules Competition 2025 30th Anniversary

- For the preliminary rounds, Judges will deliberate directly after each round and decide which team has won the session and will make the announcement immediately after deliberation. No scoring system will be used to determine the winner of each confrontation.
- In the preliminary rounds, teams that won two rounds will automatically qualify for the semifinals. Teams that lose their two rounds will not advance to the semifinals. Teams that lose one round and win another may be advanced based on the average score of the two memorials submitted. Only a limited number of teams in this category will be selected for the semifinal.
- Individual speakers' scores will remain awarded based on the criteria for points scores assigned by the judges in the rounds.
- Scores from the semifinal rounds will remain awarded based on points score criteria, in the same way they have been in previous years. Only the best Victim and the best State will advance to the Final Round.



Jorge Meza Flores

Jorge Meza Flores has served as the Deputy Executive Secretary for the Petition, Cases, and Friendly Settlement System of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) since May 1, 2022.

Over the past 13 years, he has held various positions within the IACHR, including Coordinator of the Case Section and the Precautionary Measures Section, as well as specialist in case management for the former Court Group and the Rapporteurship on Human Rights Defenders.

Prior to joining the IACHR, he provided consultancy services to human rights and research institutions in Mexico and coordinated several training programs on the Inter-American System.

He holds a Master of Legal Studies from Georgetown University with a Certification in Human Rights, and a law degree from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). He has also taught public international law and human rights at UNAM's Faculty of Law. His extensive professional experience and academic background have equipped him with a comprehensive understanding of the various mechanisms within the Inter-American Human Rights System.





Marina de Almeida Rosa

Marina Rosa is a Brazilian attorney and consultant at the Section of Cases III of the Executive Secretariat of Petitions, Cases, and Friendly Settlements of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

LL.M. candidate in International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law at American University, Washington College of Law. Master's in public law from the University of Vale do Rio dos Sinos with a CAPES/PROEX scholarship (from the Brazilian Ministry of Education). Specialist in International Law from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul. Law graduate from the Superior School of the Public Prosecutor's Office Foundation. Guest professor of International Law in undergraduate and graduate courses at universities in Brazil, Argentina, and Colombia.

Prior to the Commission, worked on issues related to human mobility in academia and civil society.





Nydia María Juárez González

Nydia Juárez is a Guatemalan attorney who graduated from Rafael Landívar University and holds specializations in human rights.

Since 2020, she has been a consultant and human rights specialist in the Rapporteurship on Human Mobility of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and was a fellow of the same Rapporteurship in 2019. At the IACHR, she has collaborated in strategic monitoring and the development of inter-American standards in identifying and protecting victims of crimes in migratory contexts, including human trafficking; migratory regularization and international protection; and the right to nationality and prevention of statelessness.

Previously, she served as an advisor at the Presidential Commission for the Coordination of Executive Policy in Human Rights Matters (COPREDEH) in Guatemala and as a coordinating attorney at the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman. She has also been an advisor and consultant to civil society organizations, including topics related to the prosecution and punishment of the crime of human trafficking.





FORMER PARTICIPANTS

The LLM in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights of the Academy will offer two scholarships to former participants (Judge, Team, Observer, Coach, or Bailiff) of the Academy's Inter-American Human Rights Competition. The scholarships cover up to 12 credits for each of the two qualifying students.





WINNERS

Internships

Each year, the four students who make it to the final round of the competition traditionally obtain an internship at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights or the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.





BRIAN TITTEMORE MEMORIAL FUND

Brian Douglas Tittlemore passed away at the age of 40 after a brief but courageous battle with cancer on December 12, 2006.

In recognition of his commendable professional contributions and unwavering support of Washington College of Law, the Brian Tittlemore Memorial Fund in Human Rights has been established, which will be a permanent legacy for an incredibly talented and generous man.

Brian wrote the hypothetical cases for the Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition in 2000 and 2005, which he judged in other years. Brian believed that the Moot Court Competition was having a lasting impact on the lives of its student participants and was a valuable training tool for future human rights lawyers as well as strengthening the Inter-American System.





BRIAN TITTEMORE MEMORIAL FUND

Each year, the four students who make it to the final round of the Competition traditionally get an internship. Unfortunately, as the internships are unpaid, several students have not been able to take advantage of them in the past.

One of the purposes of the Brian Tittimore Memorial Fund will be to provide a stipend to each of the four students who agree to intern at the Court or the Commission, allowing them to gain invaluable experience for their future careers in the field of human rights.

Another objective of the Memorial Fund is to help sponsor teams from law schools in disadvantaged areas of the hemisphere where human rights legal training is not readily available. The resources given to this Memorial Fund will be used to increase and geographically extend the lasting impacts of the Competition, and to cover the expenses of the Competition to ensure its longevity.





OUR HONORARY JURY





IAMOOT 2025 COSTS

TEAM: \$1,275

COACH: \$460

OBSERVER: \$460

TEAM + 2ND COACH: \$1735





THIS YEAR WE WILL ACCEPT
CREDIT CARDS





THANK YOU!