GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

VIS INTERNATIONAL MOOT COMPETITION (LAW 127)
FALL 2013 (1 “IN CLASS” CREDIT)
SPRING 2014 (2 CREDITS: 1 “IN CLASS” AND 1 “OUT OF CLASS”)

INSTRUCTORS:

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Note: Students will have the option of withdrawing from Law 127 at any time up to October 15, 2013, but should confer with an academic advisor before deciding in order to understand the tuition and other implications, if any.

The Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot is an annual competition of teams representing law schools throughout the world (the "Moot"). The Moot is held in Vienna, Austria. The 2014 dates have yet to be announced but, in years prior, oral arguments have begun on the Saturday a week before Easter and closed on Thursday of Easter week. The goal of the Moot is to foster the study of international commercial law and arbitration for the resolution of international business disputes, and to train future law leaders in methods of alternative dispute resolution. Through the Moot, students will have the opportunity to interpret the texts of international commercial law and to develop an expertise in advocating a position before an arbitral panel composed of arbitrators from different legal systems. More information about the Vis Moot is available at: www.cisg.law.pace.edu/vis.html.

Students enrolled in this course must have the written permission of the instructors to enroll, and must first complete Law 391 – International Commercial Arbitration – (or have taken its equivalent) as a prerequisite. Law 391 is being offered over the first seven weeks of the Fall 2013 semester. Students participating in the Vis competition will subsequently spend the last seven weeks of the fall semester completing the Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot course (Law 127) for one credit (in-class) and, in the spring semester, Law 127 for two credits (one in-class and one out-of-class).

As part of Law 127, students will be required to collectively prepare and submit two Memoranda: the Claimant's Memorandum which will be due in early December and a Respondent's Memorandum which will be due in January. The instructors will set schedules and
deadlines for completion of interim drafts and the final Memoranda, and will meet with the team to provide instruction and ensure that satisfactory progress is being made.

Shortly after the submission of the Respondent's Memoranda in January, the instructors will begin holding practice oral arguments. During the practice arguments, students will receive instruction on the procedure for making oral arguments in international arbitrations and substantive instruction / suggestions on the arguments made. The course instructors will conduct most of the early sessions but other professors and practicing attorneys will participate in the later ones. An intramural competition will be held and two students from the team will be selected to travel to Vienna to represent George Mason at the Moot. All Vis students will continue preparing as a team until the competition.

What is the cost of participating?

Students who register for the Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot course are responsible for the corresponding tuition (as with any other law school course). Students will not be responsible for the competition registration fee (provided that the registration fee is funded by the Student Bar Association (SBA) pursuant to a request from the law school's Alternative Dispute Resolution Society). The students selected to travel to Vienna for the competition will have additional expenses associated with their travel. The ADR Society will request funding from the SBA to cover or offset airfare, lodging, and other expenses, and will explore additional outside funding options. Depending on the exchange rate, choice of lodging, and length of stay, the funds allocated by the SBA, in addition to the support of outside sponsors, should be sufficient to cover travel expenses for the students selected to travel to the competition.

Course Outline: This course meets Mondays, from 6:00 pm to 7:50 pm beginning mid-semester.

October 7, 2013

• Distribution and Discussion of the Vis Problem

October 15, 2013

• Selection: Last day for Law 127 students to transfer to Law 391 and Law 391 students to transfer to Law 127
• Written Assignment: Vis students prepare preliminary outline of issues raised by the Vis Problem.

October 21, 2013-December 6, 2013*

• Preparation of Claimant’s Memorials; due on December 6, 2013

* Classes will generally remain at 6:00 p.m. on Monday nights, but may adjust during exam period and oral competitions.
December 9, 2012-January 20, 2014*:
- Preparation of Respondent’s Memorial

January 18, 2014-March 2014*
- Intramural Oral Competition

March 2014*
- Final Competition for Selection of Traveling Team

March 2014*
- Practice Sessions and Pre-Moots for Traveling Team

TBA
- Competition in Vienna

**GRADING**

Fall Semester: Knowledgeable class participation will constitute 30% of the grade; and participation in preparation of Claimant’s Memorial will constitute 70% of the grade.

Spring Semester: Knowledgeable class participation will constitute 20% of the grade, participation in preparing the Respondent’s Memorial will constitute 40% of the grade; quality of oral arguments in intramural competitions and selection competition will constitute 40% of the grade.