

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW**

*PART 1 OF VIS INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION MOOT (LAW 127)*

**INSTRUCTORS:**

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Note: Law 391 (Intro to Commercial Arbitration) is a prerequisite to Law 127.

**Law 127 LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

Students will become familiar with the UNCITRAL Model Law on Arbitration, the selected arbitral institution's rules of arbitration and the Convention on the International Sale of Goods. Through the Vis Moot experience, students will learn and address complex issues regarding arbitral jurisdiction and procedure, as well as the substantive law regarding the international sale of goods. The students will learn to identify issues, perform research on international arbitration and the CISG and write persuasive memorials/briefs as the Claimant and Respondent in an international arbitration setting.

The Willem C. Vis Moot Arbitration Competition offers students the opportunity to research and analyze procedural arbitration issues and substantive law questions subject to the Convention on the International Sale of Goods. Students will prepare written memorials/briefs arguing on behalf of the Claimant and Respondent in a mock arbitration based on a cross border sale (or more typically a failed sale) of goods. The Vis competition is held in Vienna, Austria every year and the GMU travel team (if the competition proceeds in person) will travel first to a Pre-moot in Budapest, Hungary and then to Vienna to argue in four general rounds before a tribunal of three arbitrators. The Vis provides a learning, networking and socializing opportunity that has opened doors for students and been universally described as the best experience in their law school history.

George Mason University has participated in the Vis Moot since 2012 and has reached the finals three times and competed through the round of 16 twice and the round of 32 once. In 2019, the last in-person Vis, 354 teams from 81 jurisdictions around the world competed in Vienna. The competition is fierce and the experience cannot be matched.”

## **SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS**

### **1. October 12, 2023:**

*Recent Developments*

#### **Readings:**

- To be provided

#### **Written Assignment**

- Discuss Vis Problem

### **2. October 19, 2023:**

- Discuss Vis problem

### **3. October 26, 2023:**

- **Vis Memorial**
- Vis students prepare preliminary outline of issues raised by the Vis Problem and Requests for Clarification due October 29, 2021

### **4. November 2, 2023:**

- **Research Vis Memorial**

### **5. November 9, 2023**

- **Research and draft Vis Memorial**

### **6. November 16, 2023**

- **Prepare Vis Memorial**

**October 27, 2023: Deadline for Requests for Clarification of Problem**

**Closing Date for Submission of Registration Form November 23, 2023**

**Claimant's Memorial due for submission December 7, 2023**

**Payment of Registration Fee due January 12 2024**

**Memorandum for Respondent due January 18, 2024**

**Official Vis Moot Opening Ceremony March 22, 2024**

**General Rounds of Argument March 23-26, 2024**

**Elimination Rounds of Argument March 26-28, 2024**

**Awards Ceremony March 28, 2024**

**GRADING**

Fall Semester: Informed class participation will constitute 25% of the grade; and Effective participation in preparation of Claimant’s Memorial will constitute 75% of the grade.

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

Law 127 is a highly competitive course. It should be assumed that class attendance and participation in the preparation of the Memorial alone will not justify a high grade. The instructors will evaluate the quality of the participation.

**BOOKS**

**Kluwer Law International, “Comparative International Commercial Arbitration.” Readings will be made available to students electronically prior to the first day of class.**