

Call for African Regional Round Organiser

The John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition is a simulated hearing of the WTO dispute settlement system. Teams make written submissions as both complainant and respondent and then travel to one of 6 Regional Rounds (Europe, Americas, Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Middle East) to make oral pleadings against other teams before distinguished Panellists. Teams that advance from the regional rounds compete against each other in the Final Oral Round, which takes place in Geneva with the Grand Final at the WTO Headquarters.

The Jackson is one of the most prestigious moot court competitions in the world. The 17th edition had over 90 participating teams from over 30 countries and importantly 21 teams competed in the African Regional Round.

The 18th edition will be launched on the 15th September 2019 with the release of the Case. ELSA is currently searching for a host for the African Regional Round which will include teams coming from the whole of the African continent, as well as WTO law practitioners, academics and representatives from the WTO serving as Panellists. In hosting the African Regional Round ELSA is proud to sponsor with the UN Economic Commission for Africa who provides valuable financial support to the teams to facilitate their participation.

The past edition was significant for African participants because for the first time in history of the competition an African team won the competition. Students from Strathmore University in Kenya pleaded against students from Harvard University and managed to outperform them because of their long preparation and sharp legal arguments. We hope this 18th edition will continue to build on the strong role the African teams play in the overall competition.

We are looking for hosts among universities, student associations or NGOs with an interest in international trade law and the right infrastructure to provide a successful round.

Host candidates must provide the following documents (see template, please disregard the fact that it refers to "ELSA Groups" and to "European Regional Rounds"):

- A motivation letter
- A draft budget
- A draft agenda including social or academic programming
- A draft timetable for achieving certain milestones in the planning of the round

Factors the candidate should consider in making its bid:

- ELSA International will manage the registration of all teams and convey that information to the selected Regional Round organiser
- The appointed organiser will work closely with the Members of the Academic Board/Member of the ELSA International and have regular contact with them updating on the work of finding Panellists, sponsors, venues, etc.
- The appointed organiser is required to send monthly updates to ELSA International based on provided template, detailing progress with logistical arrangements, selecting Panellists, and with finances.
- The Regional Round Organiser is responsible for fundraising for the event and collecting the participation fee from participating teams. ELSA International and WTO will provide assistance regarding fundraising and provide Organiser with contacts to last year's sponsors.

Factors that will be considered in evaluating bids are:

- The location should be secure and easily accessible for the participants and Panellists (including the ease of obtaining visas, if required);
- Demonstrated ability to manage the logistical and administrative aspects of a Moot Court Competitions or similar academic events (conferences, symposia). In particular,
 - The host must have a plan for covering costs of accommodation, meals, opening and award ceremony, sponsors reception and pleading rooms from participant fees and independent fundraising.
 - The host must have the ability to manage publicizing the Regional Round to all eligible universities and institutions and communicate with the teams that register to participate in the competition.
 - Ability to manage the selection of Panellists as well as the logistics of their participation – including transportation, accommodation, and meals during the competition. Panellists must be international trade law academics or practitioners and may include teaching staff from the host. The JHJMCC Academic Board will provide guidance on potential Panellists and the WTO is likely to sponsor at least one WTO official to serve as a Panellist.

If you have further questions about the application, please contact the Vice President for Moot Court Competitions of ELSA International at mootcourts@elsa.org.

Face the challenge and apply to host a Regional Round of one of the most prestigious Moot Court Competitions in the world!