

THE
JOHN H. JACKSON
MOOT COURT COMPETITION



WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION

GENERAL OUTLINE

elsa

The European Law Students' Association

24th EDITION | 2025 - 2026

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What is the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition?

History

The first edition of the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition (formerly the ELSA Moot Court Competition) was organised in July 2003. For a long time, establishing an international Moot Court Competition was one of ELSA's long-term goals. Today, it has become larger than what anyone could have ever imagined.

Something that in 2002 was an idea of a European competition for our Members, became a global challenge that is gathering students from all around the world every year. During the past 22 years, the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition has been contributing to the legal education of law students and young lawyers and helping ELSA achieve its vision and purpose. The aims of the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition are to encourage law students to develop their legal skills, enhance knowledge of international trade law and WTO dispute settlement procedures, and enhance the capacity for meaningful engagement in multilateral trade in the long term.

Structure

The Teams examine a fictitious case written by international trade law professionals and draft a set of Written Submissions for the Complainant and Respondent respectively. Experts in the field of WTO law score the Written Submissions. Furthermore, all teams must take part in one of the six mandatory Regional Rounds organised all around the world.

The best 24 Teams, based on their performance in the Written Submissions and the Regional Rounds, get a chance to plead in the Final Oral Round which takes place in the WTO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The Competition is held entirely in English. The Competition is open to all law students in ELSA Member Countries as well as WTO Member Countries.

Timeline of the 24th Edition

Deadline	Activity
17th September 2025	<p>Competition Launch via Website ELSA International officially launches the Competition, by publishing relevant documents on the <u>Website of the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition</u>.</p>
	<p>Release of the Registration form and the Case ELSA International releases the Case for the 24th Edition and opens the registration for the Competition.</p>
2nd November 2025	<p>Team Registration Deadline</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To be eligible for participating in the competition, teams must register by the online <u>Team Registration Form</u> on the Website and pay the Registration Fee. 2. The deadline for submission of the electronic Team Registration Forms is 23:59 Central European Time. 3. ELSA will provide each registered team with a team number by email which must be used for all further communication. 4. Late registration is only possible upon request to ELSA International.
	<p>Deadline for Requests for Financial Aid Teams may ask for a partial or complete waiver of the Registration Fee, they need to submit a letter of motivation, a letter of recommendation and a curriculum vitae via the <u>Financial Aid Form</u>.</p>
5th November 2025	<p>Clarification Question Deadline Final date for each Team to send a maximum of 5 clarification questions to the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition case, which must be sent to ELSA International via the <u>Clarification Questions Form</u> on the Website of the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition.</p>
10th November 2025	<p>Regional Rounds Allocation List ELSA will publish an "Allocation List" detailing the Teams (by Team Number) participating in each Regional Round.</p>
24th November 2025	<p>Team Registration Fee Deadline</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teams are required to pay the competition Registration Fee directly to ELSA. 2. Late payment of the Team Registration Fee is at the discretion of ELSA International. 3. ELSA will send an invoice for Team Registration Fee to the nominated Team Contact Person on the Team Registration Form. 4. In any case, late payment is only possible upon request to ELSA International.

Timeline of the 24th Edition

11th January 2026	<p>Written Submission Deadline</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Deadline for registered Teams to dispatch electronic copies of the Written Submissions via the <u>Written Submissions Form</u>. The deadline for dispatch shall be 23:59 Central European Time and sent via the relevant form on the Website. 	
17th - 20th February 2026	1st European Regional Round, Brussels, Belgium	<p>Regional Rounds</p> <p>Each Team participates in one Regional Round. The official dates will be published on the website of the Competition.</p>
10th - 13th March 2026	2nd European Regional Round, Oslo, Norway	
17th - 20th March 2026	West & South Asia Regional Round, Jodhpur, India	
24th - 27th March 2026	All-American Regional Round, Lima, Peru	
30th March - 2nd April 2026	African Regional Round, Yaoundé, Cameroon	
27th - 30th April 2026	East Asia & Oceania Regional Round, Beijing, China	
May 2026	<p>Announcement of finalists</p> <p>The official announcement of the 24 Teams that have been selected to plead in the Final Oral Round.</p>	
23rd - 27th June 2026	<p>Final Oral Round, Geneva</p> <p>Lasting 5 days, consisting of Preliminary Rounds, Quarter Finals and Semi Finals and the Grand Final. The Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and the Grand Final of the Competition will happen at the WTO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.</p>	

How can you promote the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition amongst your Members?

1. Sharing Promotional Materials

Share the promotional materials of ELSA's Instagram and LinkedIn page. Do not limit yourself to sharing it merely with the social media pages of your Group; you can also share the post yourself and encourage your Board, Directors, Assistants and other team members to do the same.

Additionally, your Marketer can also create promotional materials, using this [Marketing Kit](#) and taking inspiration in this [factsheet](#)!

Share the materials in relevant circles. This can be social media groups of your law faculty, social media groups of international students in your city, online platforms for law students at your university etc. Be creative!

2. Promoting and Highlighting Opportunities for the Students of your University

Discuss with your faculty. Focus especially on the International Law Department or even with the Trade Law Department, should your university have one. As the winning team is promoted through the social media platforms and website of the Competition, it is a great opportunity for the faculty to gain promotion too.

Ask for the opportunity of awarding credits to the participants. In many degrees, credits are awarded for participation in international moot court competitions. Prepare well for the meeting with the dean or other person responsible for the academic programme by researching the credit system at your university looking into previous similar cases and bringing reports on previous moots. Furthermore, remember to use the reputation of ELSA as one of your main tools. Finally, recommendations from alumni, sponsoring firms, professors and former participants could assist you, if delivered in an appropriate manner and on time.

If your university holds classes in person, promote the event during Trade Law-focused classes. Do not forget to ask the permission of the teacher first. A short presentation or handing out brochures can help a great deal in attracting new students, both to your ELSA Group and the JHJMCC. You might even convince the professor to assist a Team (as a coach or for proofreading their Written Submissions).

Feature the event in your faculty's newsletter or magazine. Most faculties have at least one internal newsletter or magazine, reaching all students at once. It could also be worth checking if there are any specific newsletters for employees to promote the idea amongst all professors. Sometimes there is even a newsletter specifically for international students. Also, reach out to university services/administration and ask them to allow you to send out information about JHJMCC via the university/faculty mailing list.

3. Trade Law-Focused Organisations in Your City

Approach trade law-focused associations in your city and look into collaborating with them to promote the Competition. This can be as big as, for example, holding a mini moot court, or as small as asking them to promote the JHJMCC materials as well.

Hold promotional events. This can range from a general trade law-based event where the JHJMCC is mentioned to organising an informational event specifically for ELSA's International Moots (the HPMCC and the John H. Jackson MCC), or even to organising your own moot court competition to let participants have a taste of the experience. Organising an online info session is also highly recommended. An idea is to organise a networking event for interested participants who do not have a team yet; that way they can work together in forming a team.

4. Word-of-mouth Marketing

Ask former participants for testimonials. The words of former participants are usually much more convincing than those of organisers and hence you should use them wisely. Featuring testimonials is also a nice opportunity to give former participants recognition for their hard work and efforts.

5. Educating the ELSA Officers

Educate other Officers. Make sure to highlight the existence of the JHJMCC as well as this document during your Council Meetings and/or Officers' Meetings. This will allow for the information to trickle down through the Network.

We sincerely thank you for your support in promoting the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition and wish you lots of success in this endeavour,

Inês Ribeiro

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Vice President in charge of Competitions
International Board of ELSA 2025/2026