

THE
JOHN H. JACKSON
MOOT COURT COMPETITION

AFRICAN REGIONAL ROUNDS

**PROFILES &
SUCCESS STORIES**

2013-2025



The European Law Students' Association



WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION

FOREWORD

Over the years of our involvement with the Jackson Moot, we have heard countless stories about how participating in the competition can be a life-changing experience. Every year, we have had the chance to meet former students – alumni – of the Jackson Moot who had returned as coaches or judges. We watched as their careers soared to new heights. We thus knew, at least from an anecdotal perspective, the unparalleled impact the Jackson Moot had in the life of students and in the overall international trade community. An impact which continued to grow with each new generation of talented and driven Jackson alumni.

We were also aware of the significant financial challenges many students face when trying to participate in this competition. From covering the costs of flights and accommodation for regional rounds to potentially travelling to and staying in Geneva for the Final Oral Round, the expenses have always been high and are often one of the biggest barriers for prospective students. These challenges are especially pronounced in regions like Africa, where such costs can be prohibitive for many. This was the primary reason we sought financial support when introducing the Africa round in 2012. Our goal was to ensure broad and diverse participation, with the hope of building momentum in the region so that, in the future, African students would not hesitate to sign up for the competition.

For the past 12 years, African students have received generous support from the WTO, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and several private donors, including former Director-General Pascal Lamy, the Society for International Economic Law, and others.

The Jackson Moot is a long-term capacity-building initiative, and its true impact becomes clear only after participants complete their studies and begin their legal careers, ideally in trade law. The Testimonials Project is our first effort to systematically track the professional and academic progress of Jackson Moot alumni, highlighting the success many have achieved after participating in the competition. This project serves two purposes: to encourage prospective students by demonstrating that participating in the Jackson Moot is one of the best investments a young professional can make in international trade law, and to show generous donors supporting the African Regional Round that their financial contributions have gone a long way. Their support has not only changed lives but is also helping to shape the future trade leaders of Africa.

We hope you enjoy reading the 15 testimonials in this booklet and that you are as awed and inspired by the heartwarming stories you will read as we were.

The WTO Organizing Team



Aliena Trefny

Vice President in charge of Competitions

International Board of ELSA 2024/2025

Head of Organising Committee

23rd John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition

It is a great honour and pleasure to celebrate the 12th edition of the African Regional Round of the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition this year. Since 2014, this initiative has become a thriving platform for law students all over Africa to develop their legal skills, engage with experts, and compete on the international stage of WTO law.

Looking back on the past eleven editions, it is inspiring to see the impact of this Competition - not only on its participants but also on the broader legal landscape. Many former competitors have gone on to pursue careers in trade law, proving that the African Regional Round is more than just a moot court; it is a stepping stone to professional success and an investment to shape the future generations of trade law experts. The network, skills, and experiences gained through this Competition have opened doors for countless students. Some of these brilliant minds have agreed to share their journeys here and ELSA is incredibly proud to be part of them.

Thanks to the determination and dedication of my predecessors in the International Board of ELSA, the WTO and numerous institutional supporters, the African Regional Round of the Competition has created opportunities for students all over the continent to excel in trade law, contributing to a more inclusive global community in the field of international trade law.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the organisers, sponsors, panellists, and, most importantly, the students who make this Competition what it is. The African Regional Round is built on passion, perseverance, and a shared belief in the power of legal education, and we are confident that it will continue to flourish in the years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "AlienaTrefny".

Aliena Trefny



ABOUT ELSA

The European Law Student's Association

The European Law Students' Association (ELSA) is the world's largest independent, non-profit, non-political association run by and for law students and young lawyers.

The ELSA Vision is: "A just world in which there is respect for human dignity and cultural diversity."

Contributing to legal education and promoting Human Rights awareness are among the central aims of the association. Through various academically focused projects and events, ELSA provides opportunities for law students and young lawyers to apply theory in practice and to learn about other legal systems.



ABOUT WTO

The World Trade Organisation

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organisation dealing with the rules of trade between nations.

At its heart are the WTO Agreements, negotiated and signed by the majority of the world's trading nations, and ratified by their parliaments.

The WTO Agreements cover nearly 98 % of all global trade. The goal of the WTO is to develop trade rules in order to help Members' producers of goods and services, exporters, and importers conduct their business in a facilitated way.



THE JOHN H. JACKSON MOOT COURT COMPETITION

The John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition on WTO Law is a simulation of a WTO dispute settlement Panel with written submissions and regional rounds where oral arguments simulate Panel hearings. It is organised by the European Law Students Association (ELSA) and is the world's largest and most preeminent simulation of WTO dispute settlement proceedings.

The competition attracts hundreds of the best students from nearly 100 law schools across six continents. Regional Rounds take place in Europe, South and West Asia, East Asia and Oceania, the Americas, and Africa. The top teams from each regional round come to the Final Oral Round in Geneva (in 2024 co-hosted by the Graduate Institute and the WTO).

First organised in 2002 as the ELSA Moot Court Competition, it is now undergoing its 23rd edition. The competition was renamed in memory of Professor John Jackson whose contributions to international trade law were matched only by his devotion to his students and to legal education.

The two-tier structure ensures that all teams participate in their respective regional qualifying rounds, with the best teams from each region proceeding to Geneva to argue in the world finals at the WTO headquarters.

The aims of the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition are:

1 To encourage law students to develop their legal skills.

2 To enhance knowledge of international trade law and WTO dispute settlement procedures.

3 To enhance the capacity for meaningful engagement in multilateral trade in the long term.

STAGES OF THE COMPETITION

The John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition is divided into three phases:



Written Rounds

Teams prepare Written Submissions on behalf of both sides of the dispute – the Complainant and the Respondent.



Regional Rounds

Teams present their Oral Pleadings and are scored on their oral advocacy skills in cooperation with our national and local chapters as well as Universities all over the world. Per edition, we have six Regional Rounds.



Final Oral Round

The best 24 teams plead before trade law experts. Traditionally, the Final Oral Round is held at the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

THE AFRICAN REGIONAL ROUND

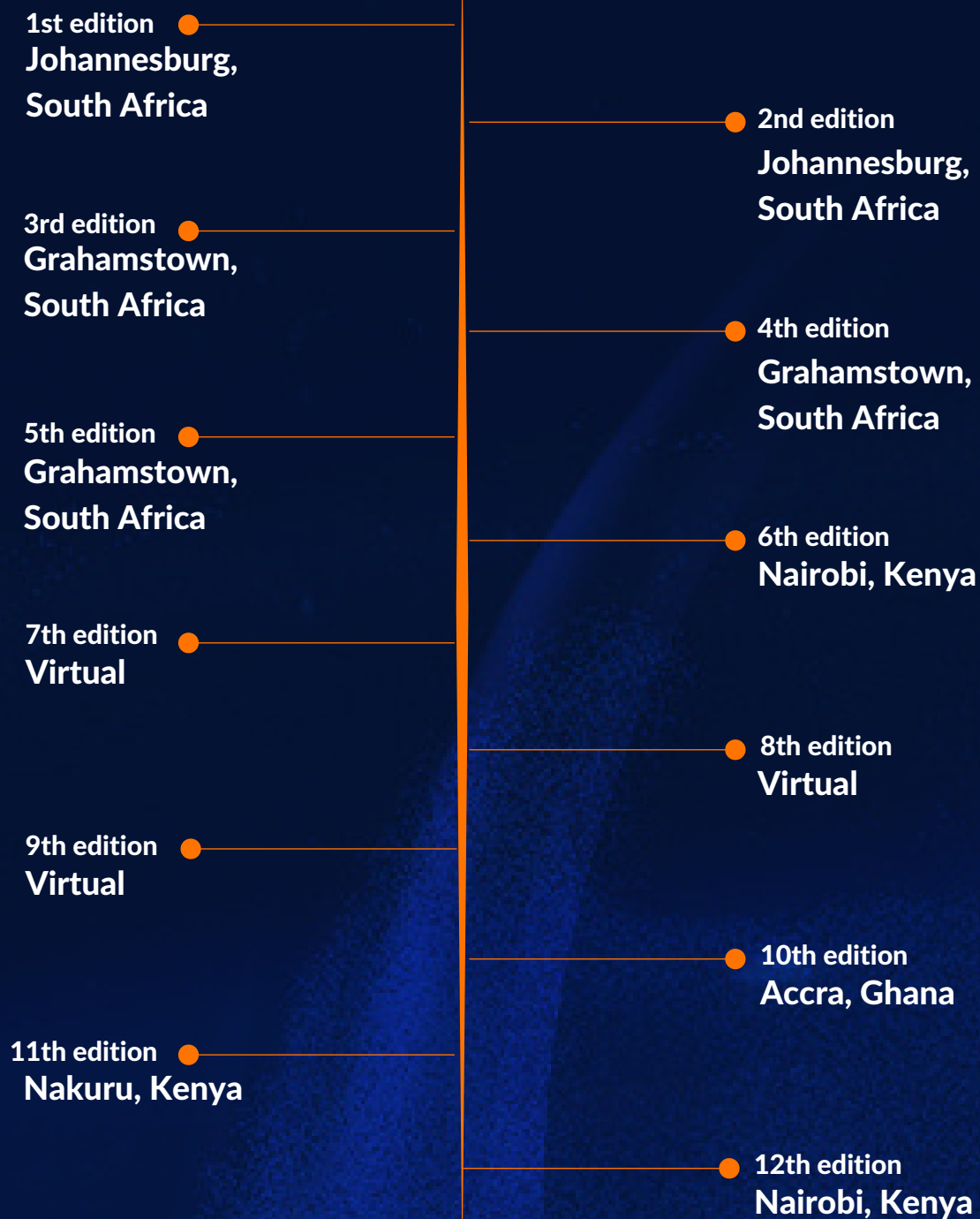
The African Regional Round has been held for the past 12 years, with the aim of supporting the continuing participation of African universities in the Competition and thereby enhancing knowledge and building capacity on international trade law and WTO dispute settlement procedures in Africa. The African Regional Round has proven to be a resounding success with an increasing number of countries and universities participating each year.

Significantly, for the first time in the history of the Jackson Moot a team from Africa – Strathmore University Law School, Kenya) – won the Grand Final of the competition in Geneva in 2019, claiming victory over Harvard Law School. This was also the first African team ever to make it to the quarterfinals and final. Since then, numerous African teams have moved to advanced stages of the competition, both in the regional and Final Oral Rounds, and have been recipients of awards recognising the quality of their written submissions.



TIMELINE

of the 12 African Regional Rounds



TEAMS

from all over Africa



Participating Teams: In the 12th edition, teams from 10 different countries are participating in the African Regional Round, held in Strathmore University from the 23rd to the 26th of April 2025.



HOST OF THE 12TH EDITION OF THE AFRICAN REGIONAL ROUND

Strathmore University, Nairobi, Kenya

Strathmore University (SU) is a leading non-profit private university in Kenya, renowned for its commitment to academic excellence, professional education, and personal formation. Among its distinguished schools is Strathmore Law School (SLS), which was founded to cultivate top-tier legal professionals equipped with the knowledge and skills to drive societal transformation. The vision for a world-class law school in Kenya was conceived at SU in 2004, culminating in the official launch of SLS on April 28, 2012. Today, SLS boasts a dynamic faculty comprising local and international legal scholars, practitioners, and experts dedicated to providing students with a rigorous and holistic legal education.

SLS has remained steadfast in its mission to promote knowledge and engagement in international trade law. The school has a strong track record in this field, having previously hosted the competition in 2018. Strathmore Law School teams have consistently excelled on the global stage, emerging as the best team at the global rounds in 2019 and securing second place at the recently concluded John H. Jackson (JHJ) rounds in Geneva.

As hosts of this year's regional rounds, SLS is honored to welcome participants and look forward to an intellectually stimulating and engaging competition. Strathmore Law School remains committed to nurturing the next generation of legal minds and advancing discourse in international trade law.

JANET MACHARIA NJAMBI

Head of Organising Committee
12th African Regional Round, Strathmore University



NUMBERS

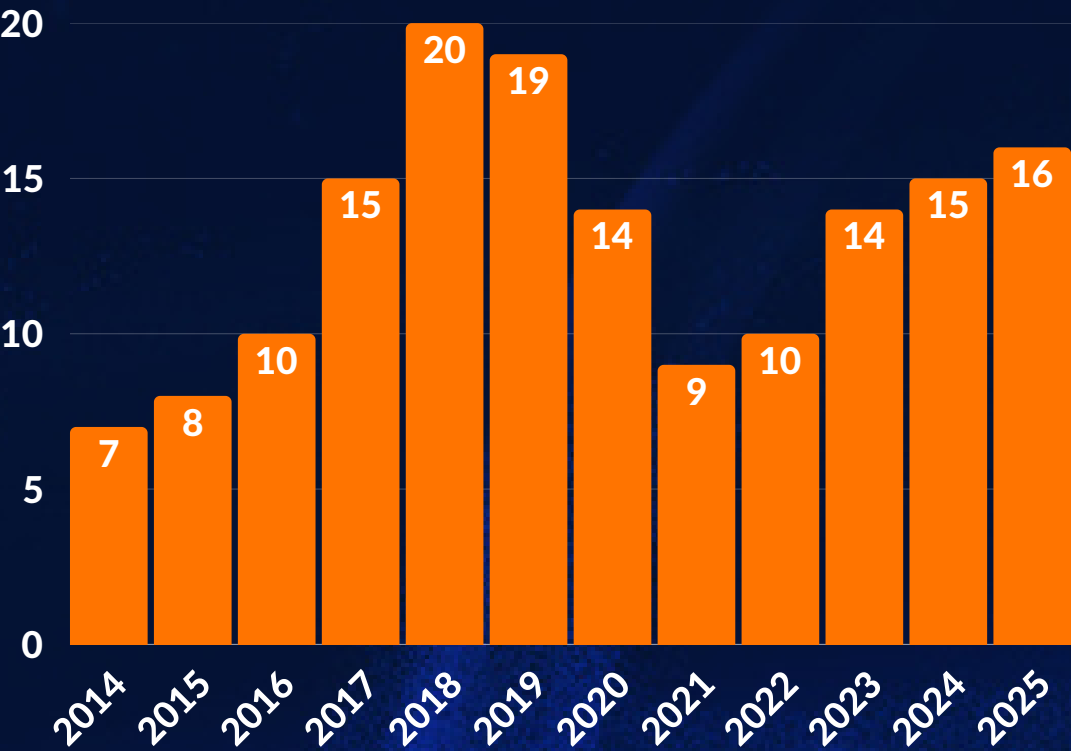
of the African Regional Rounds



editions of African Regional Rounds



teams have competed over those years



GEOGRAPHICAL REACH

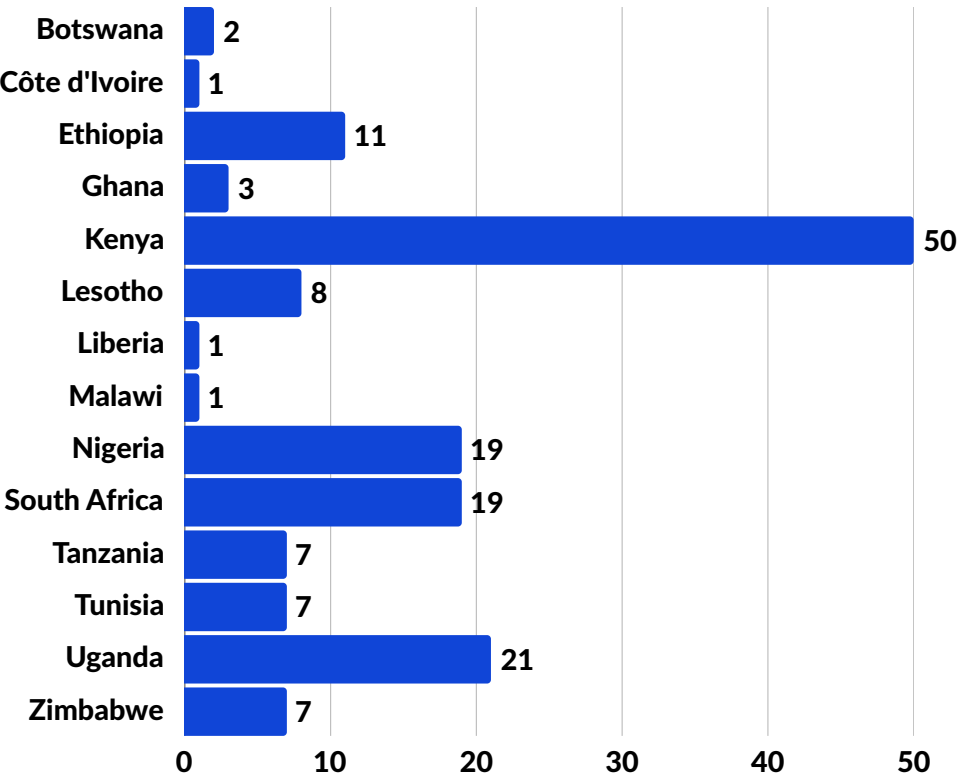
of the African Regional Round



countries represented



universities represented



Number of teams per country across the 12 editions

AFRICAN TEAMS IN THE FINAL ORAL ROUND

of the JHJMCC

32

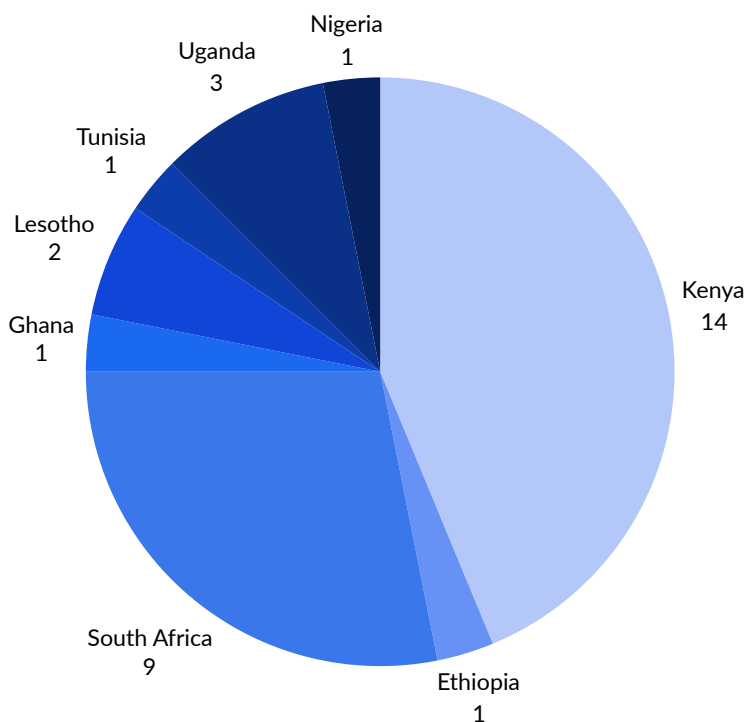
qualifying teams to the
Final Oral Round

1

African team won the
Final Oral Round

1

African team finished
the Competition as the
Runner-up



Out of the 157 teams participating in the African Regional Round, 32 have qualified for the Final Oral Round, representing 8 different countries

TESTIMONIALS

Participants of Previous Editions



CAROLINE MELISSA CHITA

University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

6th Edition, 2019

Caroline is currently a legal practitioner with Knight & Knight Attorneys and Law Consultants, a leading full-service law firm in Malawi. Her journey to becoming an attorney included enriching internships at NBS Bank Malawi and Asyla Attorneys in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

She graduated with a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania in December 2020. She was formally admitted to the bar in July 2024.

"Participating in the Jackson Moot was a transformative experience that greatly shaped my academic and professional journey. It enhanced my confidence in public speaking and my ability to articulate ideas effectively. Observing other competitors taught me professionalism and innovative approaches to tackling complex legal issues. The competition also provided invaluable exposure to international legal discourse, broadening my understanding of diverse legal systems. It sharpened my legal research and analysis skills, which remain integral to my daily work as a lawyer. Moreover, working under pressure with individuals from diverse backgrounds taught me composure and adaptability, qualities essential for effectively serving clients with varied personalities and needs. This exposure not only enriched my perspective on the legal profession but also equipped me to provide exceptional legal services in my current role."

"I was fortunate to receive financial support from ELSA, which played a crucial role in my successful participation in the Jackson Moot. This aid enabled me to focus entirely on the competition, without the burden of financial constraints, ensuring I could fully prepare and perform to the best of my abilities. It also reinforced the importance of access to opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds, a principle I deeply value and advocate for in my professional life."

TERIQUE CARIM

University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
11th Edition, 2024



Terique is a final-year Bachelor of Laws student at the University of the Witwatersrand. He is set to start work as a candidate attorney at Webber Wentzel in 2025. Throughout law school, he has actively participated in domestic and international moot court competitions, with topics ranging from criminal law to environmental law. In 2023, he completed a summer course in German and European law at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich.

Terique participated in the 2024 Africa Regional Round, representing the University of the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg, South Africa). His team also participated in the Final Oral Round in Geneva.

"Although I am newly entering the workforce, I believe my participation in the John H. Jackson Moot has broadened my opportunities. Preparing for it was almost like taking on another university course, through which I have learnt a vastly different but invigorating field of law. Though the moot case was common to all participants, the nature of the competition and the questions involved invited a diversity of approaches, allowing me to benefit from fresh perspectives that reframed my thinking. After each round, I took away a new insight that had not occurred to me when I looked at the problem. The moot also allowed me to develop as a lawyer, teaching me how to effectively present technical points and field tough questions (and there were many!). I had the good fortune to be named the best orator in the preliminary and semi-final rounds in the 2024 Africa Regional Round."

Tarique's team was fortunate to receive funding from UNECA for accommodation in the final round, held in Geneva, and partial funding for the flights as well as their participation in the African Regional Round.

"This allowed us to participate smoothly and made possible the many benefits already outlined. Additionally, our rooms were helpfully located near those of other participating teams, and so we were able to make friends and share our experiences after each day, which made our participation much more memorable."

REAGAN ETALE

Kenya School of Law, Kenya
4th Edition, 2017



Reagan works as a lawyer at the UK's Department for Business and Trade (DBT). He advises government officials on multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations, trade controls and state aid/subsidy control. He is qualified as an advocate of the High Court of Kenya and as a solicitor of the Senior Courts in England & Wales.

Reagan holds a Bachelor of Laws from Kenyatta University (Kenya) and a Postgraduate Diploma in law from the Kenya School of Law. He also holds a Master of Laws (LLM) in international economic law and policy from the University of Barcelona. Following his LLM, he undertook an internship at the WTO's Legal Affairs Division from January to July 2019 followed by another internship at Van Bael & Bellis from January to December 2020.

"The Jackson Moot played a key role on my academic and professional trajectory. All three members of my team were awarded scholarships by the University of Barcelona to pursue the IELPO LLM, which marked the start of my international trade career. Through the competition, I met professionals in the trade field who have since advised, mentored, and recommended me for various roles and who have hence helped to shape my success."

"When I participated in the 2016/2017 competition, UNECA sponsored my team. The funding enabled us to travel to Grahamstown, South Africa for the Africa Regional Round as well as travel to Geneva for the Final Oral Round. We would not have been able to participate in the competition if UNECA had not sponsored my team."



KEANEN-TROY JOHNSON

Rhodes University, South Africa
7th Edition, 2020

Keanen-Troy is currently pursuing a master's in law at the University of London. His professional journey has been focused on commercial law and litigation, where he has advised and represented corporate clients on complex issues such as contract interpretation, dispute resolution, and arbitration.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in law and a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from Rhodes University, South Africa. After completing his LLB, he undertook articles at two prominent law firms in Cape Town, qualifying as an attorney and notary of the High Court in March 2023.

"Participating in the Jackson Moot gave me valuable practical experience with procedural aspects of international law, such as drafting detailed submissions, meeting strict deadlines, and preparing for oral arguments. Working closely with my teammates taught me the importance of collaboration, effective communication, and dividing tasks to meet our goals. The experience improved my ability to manage time and handle pressure, skills that have been essential in my academic and professional journey.

Despite the challenges, the experience was incredibly enriching. We engaged with esteemed panellists and students from universities across Africa, ultimately advancing to the top four. This achievement earned us an invitation to the world rounds in Geneva, Switzerland, an incredible opportunity for a South African university.

However, the ongoing pandemic meant the global rounds also took place virtually. Competing against Harvard Law School was a significant highlight of the competition — a surreal moment to face off against a university we had always admired from afar."

"Due to the impact of COVID-19, we did not receive any financial aid from ELSA or UNECA for our participation in the Jackson Moot. Although the pandemic was an unexpected challenge, ELSA did an excellent job in quickly adapting and organizing a virtual plan B, ensuring the competition continued smoothly. Despite the shift to a virtual format, the experience remained valuable."



RUKIYA IBRAHIM

Kenya School of Law, Kenya
5th Edition, 2018

Rukiya is currently a junior counsel at the Advisory Centre on WTO Law (ACWL). She has six years of experience in legal practice, including representing the Government of Kenya in environmental, employment, and constitutional law matters in court as a senior state counsel at the Office of the Attorney General and Department of Justice. She also has experience in negotiating bilateral trade agreements on behalf of the government.

Rukiya holds a Bachelor of Laws from Strathmore University in Nairobi, as well as a Postgraduate Diploma from the Kenya School of Law. She also completed her Master of Laws in international law, specializing in international economic law, from the Geneva Graduate Institute.

She participated in the 2018 Africa Regional Round representing the Kenya School of Law and won the round. Her team made it to the Final Oral Round in Geneva.

"The John H. Jackson Moot opened my eyes to the world of international trade law. The organizers of the moot court consisted of academic institutions, law firms as well as international organizations like the WTO, UNECA and ACWL, all of which are involved in the practice of international trade. This gave me a glimpse into how my future in international trade law would look whether or not I decided to go down the academia or practice route. Fortunately, I was able to do both. I intentionally pursued my studies in international law and opted to specialize in international economic law at the Geneva Graduate Institute. Studying in Geneva strategically positioned me at the centre of trade practice and I attended academic discussions at the Geneva Graduate Institute as well as the WTO public forum. The John. H Jackson moot court therefore illuminated the path for me to pursue further studies and I now work in the international trade field, which I remain eternally grateful for."

Her team participated in the Final Oral Round in Geneva where flights and accommodation costs were covered by UNECA.

SAWERIA MWANGI

Kenya School of Law, Kenya
3rd Edition, 2016



Saweria Mwangi is a Kenyan lawyer working in international trade law. She is currently an associate at VVGB Law, Brussels, where she represents governments in WTO disputes relating to trade remedies, defends exporting countries and companies in trade remedies investigations, and advises clients on various aspects of international trade law. Previously, she worked as a dispute settlement lawyer in the Rules and Legal Affairs Divisions of the WTO.

She holds a Master of Laws in international economic law and policy (IELPO) from the University of Barcelona (Spain) and a Bachelor of Laws from Kenyatta University (Kenya).

She participated in the 2016 Africa Regional Round, representing the Kenya School of Law. Her team proceeded to the Final Oral Round in Geneva, where they were awarded the best respondent written submission.

"The competition case was based on subsidies law, which triggered my interest in trade remedies law. The depth of the competition allowed me to gain substantive knowledge in this area of law, engage with complex legal issues, test my drafting and pleading skills, and overall, exposed me to the world of WTO dispute settlement.

The competition also enabled me to further my education, and subsequently my career. Through the competition, I was awarded a scholarship to undertake my Master of Laws (LLM) in international economic law and policy at the University of Barcelona. Moreover, at the competition, and subsequently during my LLM, I met experts in international trade law, some of whom ended up interviewing me for roles and being my colleagues and collaborators in various projects. The competition was an incredible avenue for me to network. "

"My participation in the Jackson Moot was facilitated, and to a large extent made possible, by donors who generously sponsored our team. Our school could only provide limited resources in this respect. I am therefore grateful to those donors, specifically UNECA, for their generous support."



LOZINDABA MBVUNDULA

University of Malawi, Malawi
5th Edition, 2018

Lozindaba is a lawyer with six years standing at the Malawi Bar. She has a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Malawi, a Master of Laws degree in international trade law from the University of Cape Town and a Master of Laws degree in law and development from the University of London. She also has a Postgraduate Diploma in public international law and a Postgraduate Certificate in environmental and natural resources law, both from the University of London.

She has practiced law in Malawi since 2018, with competition law as her area of specialization. She worked at the World Trade Organization under the Young Professionals Programme.

“The moot sparked my interest in international trade law and informed my choice of area of specialization after I obtained my degree. At the time, my university did not offer a course in international trade law and the moot competition was my first opportunity to learn about the subject. My drive to participate in the competition motivated me to quickly familiarize myself with the area. Arguing the hypothetical case was a valuable learning opportunity. It also connected me with professionals working in international trade, inspiring me to consider venturing into the field in the future. After I obtained my degree, recalling this remarkable experience, I decided to obtain a master's degree in international trade law and later, in law and development, which featured international economic law. This choice has been instrumental in the trajectory of my career, not least by contributing to my suitability for the role of a Young Professional at the WTO, which has built my capacity for further work in the field.”

She received financial aid from UNECA, enabling her to participate in the competition by covering transportation and accommodation costs.



MONICA NANG'AYO WERIMO

Kabarak University, Kenya
7th Edition, 2020

Monica is a candidate at the National Law University, Delhi pursuing a Master of Laws in Intellectual Property Law and Management. She is a practising advocate of the High Court of Kenya with a special interest in international trade and investment law, international mediation and arbitration and intellectual property law. She holds a Bachelor of Laws from Kabarak University (Kenya) and a Diploma in Law from the Kenya School of Law.

“The John H. Jackson Moot introduced me to the world of international trade law and the role of multilateral institutions like the World Trade Organization. As a young student then, I was immediately enthused. I gained valuable lessons in advocacy, teamwork and developed excellent research skills. Since then, I have worked with organizations like CUTS International Geneva and Trade Law Centre that work on building capacity in international trade in countries in the global south. The moot also inspired me to pursue a master's in intellectual property law and management and merge my passion for trade law with intellectual property.”

She did not receive financial support from ELSA or UNECA as the moot was held in virtual format.



ANNABEL NANJIRA

Kabarak University, Kenya
5th Edition, 2018

Annabel's professional experience spans over two years in international trade law, policy advisory, and sustainable development research. In 2024, she was a Young Professional in the Legal Affairs Division of the WTO. Her previous roles include trade policy advisor for the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Kenya, focusing on the WTO and Africa, and international trade and investment associate at ALP-East Africa Advocates.

She holds a Master of Laws in international trade and investment law from the University of Pretoria, South Africa, a Bachelor of Laws from Kabarak University, Kenya, and a Postgraduate Diploma in law from the Kenya School of Law.

Annabel participated in 2018 Africa Regional Round, representing Kabarak University, Kenya. Her team qualified for the Final Oral Round in Geneva.

"Participating in the ELSA WTO Moot Court Competition was a transformative experience that significantly shaped my academic and professional trajectory. It honed my legal research and advocacy skills, which were instrumental in my work at the WTO and other international organizations. The competition also deepened my understanding of international trade law and introduced me to a network of peers and professionals passionate about the field."

"I received financial support from UNECA to participate in the ELSA WTO Moot Court global rounds. This aid was crucial in enabling my team and me to travel to Geneva, where we had the invaluable opportunity to compete on an international stage, gain exposure to high-level trade law discussions, and interact with leading professionals and scholars."

ANELE SIMON

University of Pretoria, South Africa
2nd Edition, 2015



Anele Simon currently serves as the Secretary General of the Independent Continental Youth Advisory Council of the AfCFTA (African Continental Free Trade Area) (ICOYACA). She holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Pretoria (South Africa) and a Master of Laws (LLM) in European and international trade and investment law from the Catholic University of Lyon, France.

After her LLM, she completed an internship with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programs. During this time, she contributed to the Economic Development in Africa Report 2021, specifically on the implementation of the AfCFTA Dispute Settlement Protocol.

She participated in the 2015 Africa Regional Round, representing the University of Pretoria, South Africa. Her team won the round and went on to participate in the Final Oral Round in Geneva.

"My participation in the Jackson Moot was a pivotal moment in my academic and professional journey. In South Africa, international trade law is not taught at the undergraduate level. The rigorous research, critical thinking and practical experience it offered inspired me to pursue an LLM in international trade law and pursue a career in this field. Today, I contribute to the implementation of the AfCFTA, focusing on supporting micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises by demystifying the Agreement's protocols and legal implications through capacity-building initiatives across Africa. Without the Jackson Moot, I probably would not have gained this invaluable insight into international trade; for this life-changing opportunity, I'm extremely grateful."

"During our participation in Geneva, the three African teams received support from ELSA and private donations, which covered accommodation and included a daily allowance subsidy. This financial assistance was extremely helpful in easing the cost burden and ensuring we could focus on competing. While we also undertook fundraising efforts to cover flights and other costs, ELSA's support played a significant role in enabling our successful participation."

OSCAR MCGOWN-WITHERS

Rhodes University, South Africa

1st Edition 2014



Oscar is currently the head of market access strategy, International Strategy and Engagement Directorate, at the Department for Business and Trade, UK Government. He has also been the international development lead, in the International Strategy and Trade Relations Directorate, at the Department for Business and Trade, UK Government; the deputy head of Africa for the international networks team, Global Trade and Investment Directorate, Department for International Trade; and the private secretary to the director of communications and marketing at the Department for International Trade, UK Government. Early in his career he served as a junior economic affairs officer, Council and Trade Negotiations Committee Division, at the WTO.

Oscar holds a Master of Laws (LLM) in international economic law and policy from the University of Barcelona (IELPO) (full scholarship awarded for winning the Jackson Moot African Round). He also holds a Bachelor of Laws from Rhodes University, South Africa, and a Bachelor of Commerce from Rhodes University, South Africa.

Oscar participated in the first Africa round of the Jackson Moot in 2014. He represented Rhodes University. His team won the round and he won best orator in the final. As a result, he was awarded a full scholarship to study his LLM at the IELPO programme in Barcelona. His team also competed in the Final Oral Round in Geneva.

"I can absolutely say the Jackson Moot changed my life both professionally and personally. As a result of winning best orator of the first African round, I won a scholarship to study my LLM at the IELPO programme in Barcelona. It was here I met the love of my life (another Jackson Moot competitor from Finland) and we now have one child and are expecting another shortly. Following the LLM, I went on to intern at the WTO, helping to organize the WTO's 11th Ministerial Conference was a big highlight. Post Brexit, I decided it would be an interesting time to work on trade policy for the UK Government and have spent the past five-and-a-half years doing so. I have particularly enjoyed working on a programme to promote two-way trade and investment between the UK and African countries. Without the Jackson Moot there is no way any of this would ever have happened and I am so incredibly grateful for the opportunities it provided."

"After winning the African round, the WTO paid for us and the runner-up team (and one other team) to attend the finals in Geneva. We would not have been able to participate without this funding." The WTO provided the funding through a generous directed contribution from Norway via the Global Trust Fund.



FAITH BAMISE OYEWALE

Nigerian Law School, Nigeria
6th Edition, 2019

Faith completed his undergraduate studies at Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria, where he had the privilege of representing his institution in municipal and international competitions across Africa and Asia. In 2019, he was called to the Nigerian Bar and subsequently practiced law at AELEX, one of Nigeria's leading law firms.

He received the Jan Paulsson scholarship to pursue a master's degree in international dispute settlement (MIDS) in Geneva, Switzerland.

"In life, everything often begins with a first step — the first exposure, the first opportunity — and everything else takes off from there. My first exposure to WTO law and principles came through participating in the Moot Competition. This experience was a turning point for me. A few months after the competition, I joined AELEX, which had just established a trade practice group inspired by the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). My moot experience immediately proved relevant. During the group's first meeting, I made a contribution that caught the attention of one of the founding partners. Impressed by my insight, he decided to mentor me. His mentorship was transformative, and I believe its ripple effects have propelled me to where I am today.

Since then, I have had the privilege of being directly taught two WTO law modules by Professor Gabrielle Marceau. My prior experience with trade law not only helped me engage meaningfully with her lectures but also deepened my understanding of the subject. So, when I say, 'With every other thing in life, it is always the first step', I speak from experience. Participating in the Moot Competition was my first step into the world of trade law, and it has made all the difference."

"UNECA provided substantial financial support, without which our participation in the competition would not have been possible. All we had to do was pack our bags and fly to Kenya. Interestingly, years later, after becoming a lawyer, I had the privilege of being part of a team that worked with UNECA on a specific assignment."

KIAI GACHANJA

Strathmore University, Kenya
7th Edition, 2020



Kiai is a lawyer with an academic and professional background in international dispute resolution and trade law. He recently graduated from the Master's in International Dispute Settlement (MIDS) programme in Geneva, where he engaged in activities such as the TradeLab International Economic Law Clinic and contributed to research on the intersection of trade policy and environmental sustainability. He also interned at the WTO, where he conducted research on trade and environmental issues and moderated a session during the 5th WTO Trade and Environment Week. He was a member of the WTO Secretariat team facilitating high-level discussions on sustainable trade practices in the context of the Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions.

Kiai was previously with Dentons – Kenya Office, where he was involved in advisory and litigation matters.

He participated in the 2020 virtual Africa Regional Round, representing Strathmore University (Kenya). His team won the round. He also participated in the final global round.

"Participating in a moot court under the WTO framework, where I engaged with complex legal questions and advocated before an international panel of judges, ignited my passion for resolving cross-border disputes. It deepened my understanding of how legal mechanisms address intricate global challenges and sparked my interest in the policy aspects of international trade. This pivotal experience motivated me to refine my analytical and advocacy skills, laying the foundation for my subsequent achievements – pursuing my MIDS degree, where I had the privilege of learning from Professor Gabrielle Marceau, and interning at the WTO. The moot was instrumental in shaping my development as a legal professional with a focus on international trade law and policy."

There was no financial support from ELSA or UNECA as the moot was held in virtual format.



MARYANNE KAMAU

Kenya School of Law, Kenya
3rd Edition, 2016

Maryanne is a senior managing associate, at Sidley Austin LLP Brussels region, Belgium. She advises companies, trade associations, and governments on international and EU trade and investment law matters including market access, investment screening, trade controls (economic sanctions and export controls) and dispute settlement.

She holds a Master of Arts in European Union law from King's College London, a Postgraduate Diploma in European Union law also from King's College London, a Master of Laws in international economic law and policy (IELPO) from the University of Barcelona. She also holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Nairobi (Kenya).

"Participating in the ELSA Moot Court Competition on WTO law (now known as the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition) was a pivotal moment in my career development as an international trade lawyer. I was a member of the team of three students from the Kenya School of Law that competed in the African Regional Round in Grahamstown, South Africa and advanced to the Final Oral Round in Geneva, Switzerland. We received three awards – the best respondent's written submissions and the best overall written submissions in the Regional Round and the best respondent's written submission in the Final Oral Round. The competition challenged me to master the intricacies of international trade law and policy and to apply them to topical scenarios. It also sharpened my legal research and writing skills and taught me how to deliver clear and convincing arguments before a panel of experts. Furthermore, I had the opportunity to network with professionals who inspired me to pursue a legal career in international trade law and to interact with students from different countries and backgrounds who shared my passion for global trade issues and became my valued peers and friends. The moot court experience motivated me to further my studies in the field and I enrolled in the renowned IELPO master's programme at the University of Barcelona where I gained a deeper and broader understanding of international trade law. The combination of the moot court competition and IELPO opened many doors for me in my legal career and I am immensely thankful for the opportunities they offered."

"The financial aid received from the European Law Students' Association (ELSA) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) was instrumental in overcoming the financial barriers that often hinder participation in international competitions, thereby enabling us to achieve these significant milestones. Without that support, the opportunities we seized would have been exceedingly difficult, if not unattainable."

MISHAEL M. WAMBUA

Strathmore University, Kenya
6th Edition, 2019



Mishael is a trade policy advisor, at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) advising the Government of Kenya on the negotiation and implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement. He is also adjunct faculty member at Strathmore University Law School (Kenya).

He holds a Master of Laws (LLM) in international trade and investment law, TRAIL+ (World Trade Institute, University of Bern), a Diploma in Advanced Studies in international law and economics, DAS ILE (World Trade Institute, University of Bern), and a Bachelor of Laws (Strathmore University, Kenya).

Mishael participated in the 2019 Africa Regional Round, representing Strathmore University. His team qualified for the Final Oral Round in Geneva, where they emerged as the winners at the grand final – a first for a team from the African continent.

"Collectively, as a team, we qualified for a 50% Georgetown University Master's scholarship, and a full scholarship for a summer or winter programme at the World Trade Institute – University of Bern (WTI). Individually, I was awarded a scholarship to study for an LLM in international trade and investment law at the WTI and became a research assistant to the visionary Professor Peter Van den Bossche – an intellectual powerhouse in the field; followed by an internship at the World Trade Organization under the supervision of the brilliant and indefatigable Professor Gabrielle Marceau; then a brief stint at Google and, now, I am a trade policy advisor at Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH."

"Our team received financial support from ELSA and UNECA in the form of a full waiver of the registration and participation fees, and complete coverage of our travel and accommodation costs to Geneva, Switzerland. But for this financial support, we would not have been able to travel and participate in the Final Oral Round – which we won, thereby becoming the first African team to achieve this feat".

HOW TO SUPPORT

the African Regional Rounds

You can make a difference by supporting the African Regional Round in the following ways:

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Contribute as an institutional or corporate sponsor to help cover travel, accommodation, and participation costs for students who would otherwise be unable to compete.

MENTORSHIP & TRAINING

Legal professionals can support the competition by offering mentorship and training sessions to participating teams, helping them refine their advocacy skills.

JUDGING & ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Experienced trade law practitioners, academics, and professionals can volunteer as panellists to provide valuable feedback and ensure the highest academic quality in the competition.

DONATIONS

Individual contributions, big or small, go a long way in ensuring that talented students from underrepresented regions have the opportunity to take part in the competition.

If you or your organisation are interested in contributing, please reach out to ELSA at johnh.jackson@elsa.org for more details.

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