IBA ICC MOOT COURT
Organised by the Grotius Centre

Frequently Asked Questions
Evaluators

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A. ABOUT THE COMPETITION

1. What is the IBA ICCMCC?

The International Bar Association International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition (IBA ICCMCC) is focused on international criminal law (ICL), and worldwide the largest of its kind in the English language. The IBA ICCMCC is organized by the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies of Leiden University, in partnership with the International Bar Association (IBA). The competition also receives support from the International Criminal Court (ICC), which is the permanent international court established to prosecute international crimes of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and aggression.

Further information can be found on our website here: www.ibaiccmoot.com.

2. What is the objective of the Competition?

The Competition aims to simulate the proceedings of the ICC, providing participants with an opportunity to develop their skills in international criminal law and gain practical experience in courtroom advocacy. Participants in the IBA ICCMCC engage in both written and oral arguments, presenting their cases in the form of Memorials and Oral Arguments. The Evaluators of the Memorials and the Judges of the Oral Rounds assess their legal arguments, advocacy skills, and knowledge of international criminal law. The Competition thus offers a platform for law students from around the world to engage in rigorous legal analysis, develop critical thinking abilities, and network with legal professionals in the field of international criminal law.

3. What is the history of the Competition?

In 2004, professors at Pace University organized the world's first moot court competition based on the law and procedures of the International Criminal Court. The ICC has grown since then, and so has the competition. In 2014, Pace partnered with the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies, and the ICC, to form a new global competition: the ICC Moot Court Competition. The Competition is since then held annually in The Hague, Netherlands, with the final round judged at the ICC by its judges and legal officers. The annual competition at Pace now serves as a Regional Qualifying Round for that global competition.

In 2017, the ICCMCC started its collaboration with the IBA, and in 2020 the IBA became a name partner in the Competition, with its preliminary rounds now titled the IBA International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition (IBA ICCMCC). The Final Round still holds the original title of the ICC Moot Court Competition (ICCMCC).

4. What is the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies?

The Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies (Grotius Centre) is a leading academic research and teaching department housed within Leiden Law School, known for its expertise in public international law. Established at Leiden University, the Grotius Centre is named after the father of public international law and one of its most illustrious alumni, Hugo Grotius. The Grotius Centre currently hosts more than 30 scholars and almost 200 students of public international law from all over the world.

The Grotius Centre offers leading LL.M. programs (Masters of Law) in the field of international law, namely: Public International Law – Regular, Public International Law – Advanced (International Criminal Law, **or** Peace, Justice and Development), and International Dispute Settlement and Arbitration – Advanced. It furthermore organizes summer programs in Transnational Law, International Criminal Law, International Arbitration, International Humanitarian Law, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in International Law, and Dispute Resolution and Advocacy. More information about the Grotius Centre, its research and education programs, can be found here.

5. What is the IBA?

The International Bar Association (IBA) is the most prominent organization where international legal professionals, bar associations, and legal societies are brought together. The IBA seeks to aid global stability and peace through the administration of justice. More information on the IBA can be found here.

The IBA offers many resources for international legal practice. Additionally, opportunities are offered for education and internships as well as special memberships for students.

6. What is the ICC?

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is the permanent international institution tasked with the prosecution of the gravest crimes that are the concern of the international community as a whole. Information about its organization, methods, and State parties can be found here. The ICC provides for a plethora of sources on international criminal law available for free in its Resource Library.

7. What is the setup of the Competition?

The Teams will present their arguments in the form of Memorials and Oral Pleadings. The written Memorials are evaluated by professionals who are elected to the International Panel of Evaluation (IPE). The Oral Pleadings will be judged by a selection of Judges during the Team's presentations in The Hague. The focus of the assessment are the Team's legal arguments, advocacy skills, and their knowledge of international criminal law.

8. Where can I find out more about this year's case?

The Case of the IBA ICCMCC is drafted every year by a panel of international criminal law professionals, led by Case Author Prof. Michael P. Scharf, Chair of the IBA ICCMCC Board of Advisors. Each year, the Case is inspired by a topical issue of international criminal law that challenges the participants to be creative in their arguments and presentations.

The Case is usually released in September of the previous calendar year, before the opening of the Registration for Teams. For the 2026 edition, the Case is available on our website and Registrations will open September 2025. Information on the conditions for Registration can be found in the Rules of Procedure.

Please note that all factual information needed for the teams' written and oral pleadings is included in the case. Thus, teams must not invent their own facts or draw their own conclusions on the course of certain events.

Each Team may request clarifications and corrections to the Case by **9 December 2026 @ 5:00PM CET**. All requests must be submitted via the **online submission form.** Each Team may submit a maximum of five (5) questions and/or requests for clarification.

The Teams participating in National/Regional Rounds shall submit the questions and/or requests for clarification to the National/Regional Round Organizer.

9. Where does the Competition take place?

The Written Round of the Competition, when the Teams have to turn in Memorials, is held completely digitally. Submission of the Memorials will be done via the official e-mail address of the Competition: ICCMCC@law.leidenuniv.nl. The conditions for submission can be found in the Rules of Procedure.

The Oral Round of the Competition takes place on location in The Hague, The Netherlands, at Leiden University Campus The Hague, Spui & Wijnhaven. Specific locations might be subject to change. The Preliminary Rounds of the oral stage will be held at Spui, as well as the Quarter-Finals and the Semi-Finals. Social and academic events, as well as the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, will be held at Spui & Wijnhaven, depending on the nature of the event. When possible, the Final Round will be held at the International Criminal Court, at Oude Waalsdorperweg 10, 2597 AK The Hague, The Netherlands.

Both venues can be reached easily with public transport and are accessible for people with disabilities.

10. When does the Competition take place?

The upcoming edition of the IBA ICCMCC will take place in 2027, with the Oral Rounds taking place from **Friday 4 June to Friday 11 June.**

11. What is the IPE?

The IPE stands for the International Panel of Evaluators, and it is composed of the totality of individuals participating as Evaluators in the Competition.

B. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

12. How can I become an Evaluator?

The IBA ICCMCC Organizing Office will extend the invitation to all contacts in their database, as well as the database of the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies. In addition, the IBA will extend an invitation to their database. Invited individuals may share the invitation with their network.

The IBA ICCMCC Organizing Office also welcomes spontaneous applications from individuals interested in participating in the Competition. Teams are also requested to nominate two qualified persons to become part of the International Panel of Evaluators (IPE).

13. When will I receive an invitation for the 2026 Edition?

The invitation to become an Evaluator will be sent to the databases in **January 2027.**

14. I received an invitation. What should I do next?

The invitation to apply as an Evaluator includes a link to the digital application form. You need to fill out and submit the form by **10 March 2026**.

15. I did not receive an invitation, but I am interested in participating as an Evaluator. What should I do next?

If you have not received an invitation, you are still welcome to apply for the role of the Evaluator. You can do so via the digital application form found on our website.

16. Can I apply to become both an Evaluator in the Written Round and a Judge in the Oral Round?

Yes, you are welcome to apply as both an Evaluator and as a Judge.

17. I submitted my application. What should I do next?

Once we receive your application, we will assess it based on the eligibility criteria and will inform you of the outcome via email. This process may take up to 14 working days.

18. Who can be an evaluator?

A person may act as an Evaluator if they hold at least a Master's degree in international law. Experience in the practice of international law is accepted in lieu of a Master's degree. Duly qualified persons include, but are not limited to, lawyers, academics in the field of law, legal advisors, legal officers, and court personnel.

The Organization will determine the eligibility of persons to serve as Evaluators in the Competition. Teams are responsible for assessing the eligibility of their nominees themselves.

19. How does the IBA ICCMCC Organizing Office determine the eligibility of an Evaluator?

If you have participated as an Evaluator in previous editions, you are (almost) guaranteed a spot in the IPE for the upcoming edition.

You are requested to attach your current CV to the digital application. The Organizing Office will then determine your eligibility based on your CV, taking into consideration: academic qualifications and practical experience. The field of law you practice in, and your experience (both academic and professional) with (international) criminal law and human rights cases will be taken into account.

20. I am an alumnus of a university participating in the competition, can I be an Evaluator?

Yes, having graduated from a university participating in the competition does not constitute a conflict of interest as long as you are not involved in the preparation of this university's team.

21. I am an (assistant) coach, can I be an Evaluator?

No, (assistant) coaches may not act as evaluators.

22. I work at a university participating in the competition, can I be an Evaluator?

If you are an employee of one of the schools participating in the Moot where such employment is sufficiently remote from the activities of the Team as to dispel any reasonable suspicion of partiality, you may act as an evaluator.

23. I was accepted as an Evaluator. What should I do now?

All evaluators will receive the Evaluator's Package via email by **30 March 2027.** In the meantime, we encourage the Evaluators to become familiar with the IBA ICCMCC Case and the Rules of Procedure.

24. Can I cancel my participation as an Evaluator in the Competition?

Yes, should you no longer be able to participate as an Evaluator in the Competition, please inform the IBA ICCMCC Organizing Office via email at ICCMCC@law.leidenuniv.nl as soon as possible.

C. The Role of the Evaluator

25. What I am expected to do as an evaluator?

You will be sent three (anonymous) memorials for which you will have to provide a score for each based on a rubric (scoresheet) provided, and share any comments/feedback you may have. Please keep in mind that your score and comments will be sent to the teams following the completion of the competition.

26. Can I grade fewer memorials?

If you have been nominated by one of the participating teams, you may not grade less than three memorials.

If you register yourself to be an evaluator, please send us an email regarding your unavailability by **10 March 2027 @ 01:00 PM CEST.**

27. What does the evaluator package include?

The evaluator package includes the Case, the bench memorandum, the Evaluator's Guide, the Rules of Procedure, three Memorials, and the Scoresheet template.

28. What is the bench memorandum? Can I share the bench memorandum?

The bench memorandum is a document prepared for judges to provide them with a concise summary of the key issues, arguments, and relevant legal authorities related to the case at hand. The purpose of the bench memorandum is to assist judges in quickly understanding the case before them, facilitating more efficient evaluation of memorials.

The bench memorandum is **strictly confidential** and must not be shared with others.

29. What criteria shall I take into consideration when grading memorials?

A breakdown of the criteria to be taken into consideration when grading memorials is included in the scoresheet sent and in Annex 1 of the Rules of Procedure.

30. What should I do if I detect AI-generated text in a Memorial?

Please inform the Organizing Office immediately as this violates our Rules of Procedure.

31. Should I award penalty points for the formatting of the memorial?

No, penalty points are to be awarded by the Organizing Office.

32. How long does it take to grade three memorials?

The time needed to evaluate three memorials can vary depending on individual familiarity with the subject matter and legal terminology in English. However, drawing from our experience in previous years, we anticipate that evaluators will spend approximately **8 hours** on the evaluation process. This includes a comprehensive review of the bench memorandum, careful examination of the three memorials under consideration, and the completion of the scoresheets.

We strongly recommend that evaluators allocate extra time to accommodate short breaks and to conduct a thorough proofreading of the scoresheets before submitting them. This additional time ensures a meticulous and accurate assessment of the memorials, maintaining the high standards of the competition.

33. How extensive should my comments be?

We highly encourage our evaluators to offer teams comprehensive feedback that is both detailed and succinct, addressing not only the substance of their memorials but also their writing style.

Building on insights gained from past years, evaluators typically provide feedback consisting of approximately 500 words.

It's essential to keep in mind that many participating teams are not native English speakers, so it is possible that they may make minor errors in their use of the English language. Please keep in mind that your comments will be shared with the teams following the completion of the competition.

34. What is the deadline for evaluating memorials?

The deadline for submitting your scores is @**11:59 PM CEST on 30 April 2027**.

35. Can I request an extension?

An extension is possible under special circumstances and if requested with sufficient time. Please send your extension request via email to the Organizing Office at ICCMCC@law.leidenuniv.nl.

36. Can I print the scoresheet, fill it out, and scan it before sending it to the organizing office?

No, you should evaluate memorials by completing the provided Word document and then submit it directly to the Organizing Office via the digital form you received together with your package.

37. Am I the only Evaluator of a specific Memorial?

Each Memorial is graded by three (3) Evaluators. The sum of all three scores, after the deduction of penalty points for the Memorial format, represents the final score obtained by the team for that particular Memorial.

38. May I see the scores/comments provided by the other Evaluators for the same Memorials as mine?

No. Each Evaluator must score the Memorials received independently and impartially. Sharing of scoresheets between Evaluators is not allowed.

D. Post-Competition

39. Do I receive a certificate as an evaluator?

Yes, a digital certificate will be sent to you upon submitting the scores for the memorials you were assigned.

40. How will my contribution be recognized?

Your name and affiliation will be published our digital and paper Competition booklet. The paper format of the Competition booklet will be distributed to participating teams, judges, and bench clerks present during the Oral Round.

You will also receive a digital certificate of participation as an Evaluator which you are very welcome to share on LinkedIn.

41. How can I find out who won the Competition?

Once the Oral Round of the Competition is completed, the Organizing Office will send out an official email to all Evaluators with the results of the Competition, pictures from the Oral Round, as well as the official booklet.