

ANNEX 3. TESTIMONIALS

Faculty/University	Students	Professors	Coaches
Faculty of Law, University of Rijeka	Leonardo Žagrić Martina Kocjan Adriana Budan		Assis. Prof. Matija Miloš Assoc. Prof. Mihaela Braut Filipović
Faculty of Law, University of Sarajevo	Abela Rastoder Amila Mrkonja Amila Čeho Selma Lončarić Tarik Čančar Toni Kolak Umma Kosovac	Hajrija Sijerčić - Čolić, professor emeritus	Adna Škamo Ena Gotoviša Miloš Davidović Kanita Pruščanović Nasir Muftić Tahir Herenda
Faculty of Law "Iustinian Primus" Skopje	Hristijan Zafirovski Darko Stojanovski		Mia Georgiveska
Faculty of Law, University of Nis	Lazar Petrović	Dejan Vučetić, vice- dean and full professor	Bojana Arsenijević
Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade	Ana Kadović Stefan Dobraš Fani Spalević Marko Došlić		Ljubiša Vulić Marija Ralević Mila Đorđević

List of potential/example questions:

Student:



- What are the benefits of participation in the moot court; how did moot court contribute to their advancement?
- What did they learn from participation in the moot court, what are the skills and competences that were developed or advanced?
- What is the most interesting/important thing about participation in the moot court?
- What is the advice you would give your colleagues about participation in the moot court?

Coach:

- How would you describe your role in the moot court?
- What is the key advice you give to students during preparation/competition?
- What advice would you give to students/professors/coaches?

Professor:

- What changes do you see in your students who have participated in the moot courts?
- How has participation in the moot court affected your approach to teaching?
- What advice would you give to your colleagues just starting a moot court?



Students have pointed out the benefits and most interesting things of participation in the moot court:

As advantages of participating in the moot court competition, I would highlight the development of possibility of public speaking, familiarisation with various tools and methods of searching court case-law and scientific articles and literature, insight and experience of participating in a simulated trial, meeting new colleagues from other cities and countries and, in this regard, the possibility of mutual comparison and arguing different legal positions in relation to a specific subject and general legal norms.

By participating in the moot court competition, my knowledge of the English language in the profession developed through analysing court practice, scientific articles and literature, as I got the opportunity to see and participate for the first time in the so-called simulated trial and thus try to apply theoretical knowledge in a practical way in a unique way. Also, I learned to think in a creative way in terms of finding the best legal solutions in solving the case in question.

Martina Kocjan, student at Faculty of Law, University of Rijeka

By participating in this simulated trial, I was faced with improvisation and resourcefulness at the moment of answering questions from the judges and arguments from opponents from different countries who awarded us points and evaluated our work and performance in general. I would definitely recommend my colleagues to participate in this type of competition because it will get to know themselves, their boundaries and decide whether they like this way of working in terms of their further professional career, and I also noticed from various employers that while reading my cv they paid special attention to the fact that I participated in the Moot Court competition, which leads to the conclusion that participating in the same is a really desirable characteristic of young lawyers who are yet to achieve their professional career.

Adriana Budan, student at Faculty of Law, University of Rijeka

The most interesting thing for me was doing legal research with my colleagues and reading through a variety of case law, including some disturbing cases from different parts of Europe. The most important thing, however, was having the opportunity to present a case in front of judges, as it was my first trial.

Be confident in your writing and speaking abilities, and remember that there is no single right or wrong answer in the field of law.

Leonardo Žagrić, student at Faculty of Law, University of Rijeka

Moot Court Competitions helped me to improve public speaking, to present and advocate for legal arguments before the court and to develop critical thinking and approaching certain topics from multiple aspects. They also played a significant role in a more detailed understanding of legal issues, legal writing, searching for relevant legal sources and developing teamwork skills.

Moot court is an excellent opportunity to exchange opinions with experts on issues that are the subject of a hypothetical case, but also on other topics through various social gatherings, which are part of such programs. A very important segment of the competition is also the opportunity to meet other students from opposing teams, who become your friends and colleagues with whom you can create various collaborations in your further career.

Abela Rastoder, student at Faculty of Law, University of Sarajevo

Through the Moot Court, we deeply develop knowledge in the field to which the Moot Court is related and thus understand our strengths and weaknesses, so this helps us to slowly orient ourselves professionally during our studies.

What is most interesting to me from any Moot Court in human rights I have participated in is that not everything is always black or white, but situations are usually grey in real life and in the world of law too. In some cases, at first glance, the situation is clear and someone is guilty/is not guilty of something 100%, but when we get into discussion and when we look at all the facts we understand that most cases are much more complex than it seems at first and that in the end it is just a question of 'a few hands' that will be or will not be raised. The skills I have gained are numerous: better speech, navigating in tense situations, better argumentation in discussions... My legal knowledge is drastically expanded because I have always learned more easily through practice and Moot Court is actually an example of how we can become almost expert in certain areas, and at the same time have fun.

One of the most important things when participating in the moot court is to be open to criticism. We all sometimes stick to some of our ideas firmly, but the person involved in the moot court should be open to the ideas of colleagues and coaches, accept another perspective and realise that sometimes someone else's perspective is better than ours. In the moot court there is no room for stubbornness because it leads to weaker cooperation and weaker unity between participants, and at the end of the day moot court is a teamwork competition.

Amila Mrkonja, student at Faculty of Law, University of Sarajevo



The advantages of participating in the MC are numerous, nevertheless I would definitely single out the most important the knowledge that you cannot acquire during the regular schooling process, during the internship, or even the employment relationship, because the coaches selflessly shared their knowledge intending to make the team the best, and also making the individual as well outstanding.

I would single out a specific way of acquiring knowledge, searching for evidence, studying literature, and shaping the mental awareness of an individual to act and think like a lawyer or a prosecutor. I was also greatly influenced by my coach, who helped me get rid of my fear of public speaking and overcome the lack of self-confidence I was struggling with at the time as many students in that period.

As the most interesting moment, I would point out the conflict of opinion with colleagues when writing submissions, where you have no other option than to prove your anger and disagreement through solid evidence of what you represent and to point out to your colleagues the correctness of your position or vice versa.

And the most important thing is that through the above you learn to control your every movement, which would give the opposing team at least a small sign that you are not right and that your mind is not following your views, to act as a team, to think as a team, to learn to behave following the rules of the legal profession until the end to remain fair and correct as they did and did the first of this benevolent profession.

Amila Čeho, student at Faculty of Law, University of Sarajevo

Skills and competences that were advanced for me were research, analysis, writing, teamwork, working under deadlines, attention to detail because of the strict requirements for written applications.

Selma Lončarić, student at Faculty of Law, University of Sarajevo

By participation in the moot court, I learned how to better analyse the law, how to adjust it to specific situations, but the most important skills are public speech, good explanation of what I am talking about, maintaining the listener's attention, etc. What I would also single out as an interesting part of participating in moot court is that the participants learn not to take the other side's words personally, and not to get angry with each other. Through the 'game' they learn to accept that someone has a different opinion and that they have to offer a better argument in front of the court if they want to win.

The most interesting, and I think the most important thing about moot court is that we are getting a chance to face the other party in court, while we are still students. A lot of students

finish law school and only after getting a job do they get the chance to go to court. Moot court participants get that opportunity very early, and with good coaches they learn a lot about trials, and how to present arguments in the best possible way.

I would recommend to my colleagues to get involved in Moot Court, because it brings a lot of professional benefits, and what is also important is that in the Moot Court competitions you make a lot of connections and meet people that are, or will be, really important in judicial system, and they can learn from each other, exchange experiences and make progress together, as well as make memories and friends for life.

Tarik Čančar, student at Faculty of Law, University of Sarajevo

Participation in the moot court has greatly contributed to my professional advancement. I've learnt some great new things and had the pleasure of working with very professional individuals. Through the competition and the preparation period I've had the chance to take a closer look at what it looks like to work on serious cases in front of the real judges.

I've learnt a few special things, but there is one especially worth mentioning – work ethics. Thanks to my coaches and their inexhaustible will to achieve top results, I realised how important the right work ethic is in achieving excellence.

I would advise every student who has an opportunity to participate in Moot Court to do so. You can learn a lot of new interesting stuff and meet some brilliant people. It's truly an incredible opportunity to see how things work at a high level and to see what it feels like to be a lawyer on the big stage through the practical part of the class.

Toni Kolak, student at Faculty of Law, University of Sarajevo

The most interesting/important thing about participation in the moot court is recognizing the personal growth – realising how far you've come from the first time reading the hypothetical case until the final match of the moot court competition. At a certain point during the preparations or after the competition you notice that you speak with much more confidence, you approach each problem with various points of view and easily find arguments to support your claims – and that is exactly the point of moot court.

Umma Kosovac, student at Faculty of Law, University of Sarajevo

Participating in a moot court competition can have numerous benefits for students. The simulated cases and environments allow students to develop legal research, writing and advocacy skills while analysing complex and sophisticated legal issues. In addition, students

have the opportunity to receive valuable feedback from experienced members of academia and practitioners, essential for their future development. Since moot court competitions require continuous preparation, they are also a demonstration of dedication and the ability to perform under pressure in a competitive setting.

After participating in the Frankfurt Investment Arbitration Moot, the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot and lastly, the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot, I noticed an improved ability for having a critical approach while analysing legal issues. On another note, the received feedback from arbitrators and judges helped me advance my oral advocacy skills. The part which I enjoyed the most was the networking events with legal professionals which led me to creating career connections. These connections opened the doors for attending conferences, finding out about fellowships and even for getting job offers.

Hristijan Zafirovski, student at Faculty of Law 'Iustinian Primus', University of "Sts. Cyril and Methodius" Skopje

Even long after I participated, I continue to hold Jessup in high regard as one of the most exceptional experiences during my studies. The opportunity to meet and exchange thoughts with some of the brightest minds in the field of international law is probably one of the best things that could happen to a student. It is enriching, motivating and truly inspiring.

Darko Stojanovski, student at Faculty of Law 'Iustinian Primus', University of "Sts. Cyril and Methodius" Skopje

The benefits of participating in moot court competitions are manifold. I had the opportunity to work with exceptional professionals while preparing for the competition, but also to meet the same professionals through participation. Also, trips, socialising and good memories are something that made my schooling really special!

Advice to other students: they need to be studious, analytical and maximally dedicated in their work and preparations. It is important that they understand that victory is achieved before and not at the competition itself, and that it is essential to prepare well. Let them be themselves and have fun. Let them meet new people and make friends for life!

Lazar Petrović, student at Faculty of Law, University of Niš

Participation in the Moot Court is a life-changing experience which is advantageous from every perspective. First, it gave me a great opportunity to push my limits to the fullest, make an effort and become a better version of yourself. Moot court helped me to broaden my horizon, gain extensive knowledge, acquire key skills and practical experience. With the help

of such amazing experience, I got more interested and qualified in European Private Law. What is more, I had a pleasure to meet with many inspiring individuals from different parts of the world, members of various fields of law, giving me a chance to hear their point of view on different law related issues. Last but not the least, Moot court introduces you with the skills, environment and people you are about to face.

Participation in the moot court can be divided in two parts: preparation and representation (realisation). During the preparation period I became more skilled in doing research, finding solutions and working in a team as well as on my own. Getting to know important case law and legal material, drafting legal documents, thinking out of the box, effective time management, learning to become persuasive, resistant and credible public speaker is what I have been working on and what I have learnt during moot court preparation.

Apart from public speaking skills and learning how to defend your client's interests, moot court competition turned out to be beneficial for my personal advancement. Revealing what you already have learnt and bringing everything to the table, being flexible is what moot court competition taught me. Representing ourselves and our team in the best possible way was one of the most challenging and responsible things to deal with.

The most interesting thing about participation in the moot court is the moment of realisation of how much progress you have made and how you have developed throughout the moot preparation and competition.

Ana Kiknadze, student at Faculty of Law, "Mykolas Romeris" University

Moot court is a unique opportunity to deepen your knowledge in a particular sphere of law (in my case with PAX Moot, - European private law), which would be a huge plus for CV or resume onward. This contest exposes participants to a close-to-real judicial case and the attorney profession. Experiencing legal research, drafting claims, and, eventually, defending your party's statements in front of the bench gives an advantage over other colleagues while employment seeking in the future.

Moot-court boosts the ability to work efficiently in a team and on your own, stress resistance, and smart time management, not to mention public speaking and legal writing competencies.

Participating in a moot once is so memorable that it stimulates a student to join this contest again. Therefore, the vast majority of mooters have participated in this contest twice. Mooting is a lifestyle or even a state of mind; it has a long history and unique traditions. Those who experienced moot court will always remember their first judicial pleading as well as a ceremonial mooting greeting, 'Your Excellencies'. Moreover, it is an excellent opportunity to travel, meet leading specialists in the field, and become good friends with your teammates.

Though a moot court takes much time to prepare, the eventual result will exceed your expectations. Employers always appreciate mooters, especially because



most of the current legal practitioners have also participated in such contests during their student life. Don't be afraid to dedicate your efforts to the moot since the latter will definitely make you an experienced lawyer even before graduation and working in a legal firm.

Anhelina Andrieieva, student at Faculty of Law, "Mykolas Romeris" University

What are the benefits of participation in Moot Court; how Moot Court contributed to their advancement?

The benefits of participating in a moot court such as Vis are numerous, and I would even say it expands the legal sphere. Aside from the obvious development of legal skills (such as legal research, writing and oral advocacy), it gives students a chance to practise in an environment as close to the real one as possible. Participating in the moot teaches you confidence when it comes to public speaking and thinking of your feet. The less apparent yet equally valuable benefits would be the improvement of team skills, which were personally both impactful and unexpected, as well as networking with other students from different universities. Lastly, having participated in a moot court is a valuable credential on one's resume.

Ana Kadović, student at Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade

There are two major things you have to consider: first, you gain a lot of knowledge. The second is you gain a lot of friends and meet a lot of new people. And the second one is far more important.

Srefan Dobraš, student at Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade

Knowledge and new friends are important parts of the moot, but I will highlight the importance of work ethic, because most of us didn't have a chance to write memorandums and practise for oral rounds until participating in this moot. Sometimes it took 12 hours straight, and work was done every day, including weekends and holidays. We were often working until late at night.

Fani Spalević, student at Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade

The benefits of participating in moot court include social benefits and the professional ones. On the social side you get the opportunity to meet a lot of new people from all over the world. They are all future professionals in your area, so it is a great networking opportunity. On the other hand, you also learn a lot about legal writing, legal research and how to present your arguments orally in front of the court or arbitration panel. The vis moot contributed to my advancement by allowing me to learn more about international arbitration, rather than to say



even what international arbitration is and it provided me with a lot of new contacts.

Marko Došlić, student at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade

What did you learn from participation in Moot Court, what are the skills and competences that were developed or advanced?

I have gained legal writing and legal researching skills, but it is also important to emphasise the confidence training that you get. In the oral phase, it is not only important what you are speaking, but it is also important how you are speaking. Confidence can often be the key.

Fani Spalević, student at Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade

I have learned how to work in a team and that experience is important for your future career.

Stefan Dobraš, student at Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade

I learned how to conduct research on specific legal topics and how to construct my arguments. All in all, I learned how to talk like a lawyer.

Marko Došlić, student at Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade

What is the most interesting/important thing about participation in Moot Court?

The most interesting aspect of participating in the vis moot is the international nature of the competition. Vis creates a unique environment by uniting students from different legal backgrounds to network globally, which would otherwise not be possible on such a scale.

Ana Kadović, student at Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade

The most important thing is having fun and the most interesting part is probably the parties.

Marko Došlić, student at Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade

What is the advice you would give your colleagues about participation in Moot Court?

I would highly recommend participating in the moot to every law student, it truly is an invaluable experience. However, being a team member does change your personal schedule significantly because it requires commitment to the problem, the team, and the work. Paying attention to detail in your work is crucial as it displays a level of professionalism. Don't be afraid to seek guidance from your professors and coaches, but also embrace the criticism you receive. Participating is not solely about winning, and with that being said don't miss out to enjoy the process including its ups and downs.



Ana Kadović, student at Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade

The most important advice is considering the organisational skills in the process of working for the moot. Also, it is important to enjoy the competition at each phase and in every moment, because when it's done you will have that special feeling and you will only regret that you haven't enjoyed it more.

Stefan Dobraš, student at Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade

My advice is to enjoy every aspect of the competition, even writing the memorandums. Because that part can be in some moments a little bit boring, but that is the time when you will be closest with your team members.

Fani Spalević, student at Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade

The advice that I would give them is to participate in the Vis Moot competition or any other moot they can, because it is a unique experience. It will pay out in the long run no matter how much time it occupies.

Marko Došlić, student at Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade

Perspective of the coaches on their role and advice to the students and coaches

My role is to complement the case hypothetical the students are working on. This is something I do by providing a framework within which the team generates, tests and perfects their arguments and the abilities they need to convey them persuasively. The framework is for the most part constructed 'behind the scenes', without necessarily involving the students in what they can or cannot do during their work. Indeed, I normally do not make all of my expectations or rules explicit to the team, as I do not want to set up an overly rigid working environment. Thus, I only make explicit the most basic rules immediately related to the organisation of the team's work. After providing preliminary guidance in the sources they need to use, I will normally move into the background and intervene only if I notice the students are slacking off or are starting to veer into patterns of thinking and behaving that are counterproductive or destructive. Furthermore, I have to make sure that they are to some extent functioning as a team and need to have in place appropriate measures when some of them are overworking. In brief, I am maintaining the trajectory of the team's work and motivating them when they are stuck. The students are nevertheless in full control of their own work and are free to think and argue openly and creatively in order to construct the best possible arguments.

During the preparation, I normally strongly advise patience, particularly when the students are stumped by an aspect of the case. The teams are commonly prone to jumping too fast to interpretations that are superficial or just plain wrong, as they attempt to resolve an issue without thinking it through. Furthermore, I ask my students to attempt placing themselves in the shoes of an opposing party or a judge in order to test the viability of their ideas. Sometimes they get lost in the complexity of a judicial precedent and I have to ask them to try explaining a legal matter in simple terms so that they correct mistakes they are making. Interestingly, many students are not used to issues that do not have one correct answer and they struggle attempting to find an absolute truth rather than a persuasive argument. Oftentimes, particularly with especially bright students, I have to make sure to enforce an early writing policy, so that they start producing draft arguments rather than getting lost in research that would be more fitting for a doctorate.

During the competition itself, I need to make sure that students pace themselves. There are often several pleadings in a row and it can be difficult to keep the morale up. I will normally ask my team to focus on each step of the way and not to think about the pleadings they already had or that they are going to have. I often couch my criticism very carefully and spread it across the day of pleading so that my students do not feel overwhelmed by my perspective.

My main advice would be to exercise restraint at every step of the work. Those who coach their teams often possess superior expertise in crafting and presenting arguments and it can be easy to insert this into the team's work. Coaches should avoid influencing their students

like this at all costs, not only because the students might start working at a reduced pace, but because they may fail to see something they might have reached through their own effort were it not for the meddling coach. In my mind, the coach should have the most influence when the students are crafting the structures of their briefs and speeches, so as to make sure that no large issue is omitted. However, fleshing out these structures with arguments should be in control of the students. The second suggestion I would make is that coaches should always make sure that they stay focused on the big picture of the entire case. Unlike the students who may focus on specific issues within this large picture, the coach needs to maintain all the issues in their minds. When I notice that I know more about one part of the case, I need to make sure that I am not becoming overly involved with a part of the case and losing sight of the rest of the case. Thirdly, coaches need to make sure that they stay focused on crafting the educational experience for their students rather than guiding the substantive part of their work. Coaches need to maintain a critical distance from their students' arguments so that they can test them and stay useful to their teams. This is difficult if not impossible once the coach becomes too involved in an aspect of a case. One can easily get exhausted or frustrated and, again, coaches need to stay focused and on guard all the way to the end of the competition, making careful management of time and energy a priority.

Matija Miloš, coach, Faculty of Law, University of Rijeka

First of all, to make them aware of their unique opportunity, that is, to work closely with professors and other experts, and finally, to participate in the event with so many other young people who actively research the same topics in the same area of law. I would emphasise that good teamwork is crucial and that individual work is not enough to succeed in this competition. Also, it is a fantastic opportunity to work in the professional English language. Last but not least, they shall meet new friends and create memories for the rest of their lives.

I would advise professors and coaches that coaching a team for a Vis Moot is very serious. It takes a considerable amount of time. It requires a lot of learning, as the problem at hand is always a demanding one, which pushes the boundaries of what is known till then. Students also need a lot of encouragement, as they often find it very difficult to deal with the issue at hand. Sometimes, a coach must make an effort to maintain a good spirit and relations among team members. In the end, though, the experience is more than worth all the occasional pitfalls. It is a special kind of pride to see how the students are advancing and to see their pleasure in their accomplishments. Finally, working with young people eager to learn is always a precious experience which often leads to making lifelong friends.

Mihaela Braut Filipović, coach, Faculty of Law, University of Rijeka

My role in the moot court was reflected in the coordination of obligations to students, plan and program of work, meetings and all additional obligations, counselling regarding the competition itself, moral support, assistance in the analysis of a hypothetical case and assistance in the formation of legal arguments. The role was also reflected in all technical obligations - registration, payment of fees, etc.

I will list the most common pieces of advice I gave: that this is the best opportunity for them to apply the theoretical knowledge they have acquired practically, to try out the roles of lawyers before completing their studies, to acquire the skills of public speaking and legal argumentation, to get rid of the fear of speaking in front of judges in the future, to make new friends and acquaintances, but also the possibility to get a scholarship at a foreign university, an internship or even a job due to their successful legal presentation and knowledge.

I would tell the students that it is not all about grades and completing studies. Every competition is a unique opportunity that opens many doors, as well as an opportunity to mature and grow up.

I would say to the coaches, as a former competitor and student, that this is a very demanding job that, in addition to maintaining authority, also requires a closer relationship with the students, a great degree of patience and understanding, personal and moral support.

Adna Škamo, coach, Faculty of Law, University of Sarajevo

As a moot court coach, my role is to provide guidance and support to the students participating in the competition. This can involve working closely with the team to help them understand the legal issues and principles involved in the problem, as well as refining their oral advocacy skills, legal research and writing, and overall strategy for presenting their arguments. I would also provide feedback on their performance during practice rounds, and help them to address any weaknesses or areas that need improvement. Additionally, I would offer support and encouragement throughout the competition, and help the students to manage any stress or anxiety they may experience.

Some key advice that I would give to students during preparation and competition would be to focus on mastering the relevant legal principles and understanding the case law, to pay close attention to the details of the problem and the specific instructions, to be well-prepared for potential questions from the judges, and to remain calm and confident throughout the process. Additionally, I would advise them to engage in regular practice sessions and to receive constructive feedback on their performance, as well as to seek out resources such as sample briefs, outlines, and other materials that can help them to prepare effectively.

To students, I would advise them to approach the moot court competition as a valuable learning experience that will help them to develop important legal skills and



gain confidence in their abilities. I would encourage them to be open to feedback, to take advantage of any resources available to them, and to stay focused on their goals throughout the competition.

To professors, I would suggest encouraging students to participate in moot court and providing them with the resources and support they need to succeed. This can include organizing practice rounds, offering feedback on briefs and oral arguments, and providing access to materials such as sample briefs and outlines.

To coaches, I would recommend staying up-to-date on developments in the law and the format of the competition, and providing constructive feedback and support to students throughout the process. This can involve creating a supportive and positive learning environment, offering regular practice sessions, and providing guidance on legal research and writing, oral advocacy, and other relevant skills.

Ena Gotovuša, Miloš Davidović, coaches, Faculty of Law, University of Sarajevo

My main advice would include the following:

Continuous opinion exchange between team members is one of crucial factors, in order to make sure all members are taking part properly and performing tasks not as an individual but as a team member. The division of tasks between team members should be as equal as possible. Team members should always feel free to reach out to coaches and professors during the preparations in case of any questions and doubts.

I would advise students to do detailed research for every particular task and consult as many sources as possible, together with ensuring that particular tasks will contribute to final task completion.

Kanita Pruščanović, coach, Faculty of Law, University of Sarajevo

The most important part of every moot court is good preparation. You need to know your case profoundly as well as the law. Good work requires time and those willing to invest more usually have better results. A precondition is to plan one's duties well and to be persistent.

Planning everyone's duties well is the key to success. A team should make a plan at the outset of the process if possible and stick to it as much as it can. Also, everyone should be aware that moot court offers valuable lessons for long-term growth. Even if a team does not win the competition, the students receive invaluable lessons and make connections and friends.

To students, I recommend approaching moot court as an opportunity to develop new skills, as the experience can be beneficial in the real world. I also emphasise that mooting is a trial and error exercise, and making mistakes is an integral part of the learning process.

For professors and coaches, my advice is to lead by example. Students look up to us throughout the process, and our dedication and energy can significantly impact their performance. To foster success, we must provide the necessary support and resources, and tailor our coaching strategies to each student's strengths and weaknesses.

Nasir Muftić, coach, Faculty of Law, University of Sarajevo

In my capacity as a moot court coach, my primary responsibility is to coordinate and guide the preparation process of the students. While the students possess a considerable amount of subject knowledge, my expertise lies in the process of moot court preparation and the presentation of arguments. Thus, I aim to offer direction and advice to students at each stage of the competition, with the intention of minimising their effort and maximising their outcomes.

In preparation for moot court, I provide a range of advice tailored to specific aspects of the competition. However, my most important general advice to students is that moot court is a relative competition, i.e. a competition against other similar teams, meaning that perfection is not required, and every other team will inevitably make mistakes. To succeed, thorough preparation is crucial, and students should aim to be more dedicated than their competitors, which will inevitably minimise their mistakes.

Tahir Herenda, coach, Faculty of Law, University of Sarajevo

I always encourage my students that the best way to be successful in a moot court is to be prepared as best as you can. Research is crucial in order to write good submissions and to be able to present your arguments and answer questions from the judges. Additionally, getting out of their comfort zone will allow them to grow, to accept what are the skills they already have and to identify what are the skills that need improvement and further work.

Patience is essential for the coaches during the preparations for the moot. Students have their differences, and the same mode of work won't be suitable for everyone. Therefore, the coach needs to be open to adapt to different needs of the team members. Besides having the knowledge about the topic of the moot, a coach needs to have many psychological skills to get the best out of each student. This is why being a coach usually requires more work than the team.

Amina Hasanica, coach, Faculty of Law, University of Zenica

It takes several crucial roles in being an advisor or coach of the moot court team for me. Firstly, I am always eager to show support by encouraging them during the final stages of the preparations and the competition. I understand that competitions are often stressful for students, so it is best to reassure the students of the hard work and dedication that the team has put during the preparations and to strengthen and boost their confidence before every round of competition. During the competition, I find it useful to take notes on the student's behaviour, how the judges react to their arguments, the questions that they are asked, and any areas that need adjustments between the rounds. Moreover, I organise and arrange the logistics of the competition journey, their travel arrangements, and possible places for food and refreshments. Often the competition takes place in a foreign country, so I try to limit their stress by organising the whole journey.

During the preparation period, I tend to point to the strengths and weaknesses of the potential arguments that the team prepares, research and point to relevant sources that the team may find useful.

I believe that structuring and presenting the argument is key in the progress and results during the moot court. Therefore, the advice that I give my students is to carefully structure every point in a certain argument and do a lot of research on the question. Afterwards, arrange and number the potential points that they might use in the argument and research whether those points might be applied to the facts of the current case. The strongest arguments shall always be used first, and every argument must be carefully and concretely structured to be precise and understandable. Also, I always advise my students to have a broader spectrum of sources and knowledge on the subject presented, especially when presenting arguments that are likely to be contradicted and questioned, so they will be prepared for every subject and issue that arises during the rounds.

I would advise the students to always be confident in themselves no matter how contradicted the argument they are presenting may be. To make them more confident, it is important that the coaches establish the expectations from the beginning and make sure that the students understand the time, efforts and work that needs to be put forth for a moot court. Time and work need to be devoted from the side of the coaches as well, because a good team must have great leaders that understand the issue that will be presented at the moot court and direct them in the right track of sources and research. Also, as competition time can be more stressful for some students, I would advise the coaches to always be prepared with snacks and refreshments.

Mia Georgeivska, coach, Faculty of Law 'Iustinian Primus', University of "Sts. Cyril and Methodius" Skopje

As the coach, I tried to explain to the students the fundamentals of the antidiscrimination law and encourage them to further validate the ideals of tolerance and equality. In order to accomplish these goals, it was necessary to outline the moot court's structure, its rules of procedure, and its technical specifications; to direct students through the hypothetical case; to assign tasks; and to ensure that they were taking their job seriously. At the same time, I've been attempting to give them enough room to come to an understanding and agreement with one another, to grow the team by addressing and aligning the disagreements, and to enjoy themselves while doing so. Despite the fact that we did become friends – for which I am sincerely grateful – I wasn't trying to be their 'friend'. I wanted to be the mentor – the one they looked to for guidance, the one who could put an end to discussion and demand appropriate presentation; I wanted to be the one they wanted to impress with their hard work and turn to for help.

Listen to what the opposing team is saying, don't miss chances for good counter-arguments. Don't interrupt the judges when they are asking questions, sometimes they want to elaborate on them (which is helpful for understanding what they are asking). Work together with your teammates to come up with arguments for one another. Being polite never goes out of style. Strong arguments can be made without belittling the opposing team, that is not the essence of moot court (contrary to the movies and tv shows).

There are a limited number of opportunities to challenge yourself by taking part in an activity such as moot court. Moot court experiences bear many benefits, and the only regret is that you didn't participate (enough).

Bojana Arsenijević, coach, Faculty of Law, University of Nis

Students who participate in competitions gain broader knowledge in certain legal fields, read various literature, study judicial practice, especially of the European Court of Human Rights and other international courts, better understand international documents, practise public speaking, and learn how to prepare arguments for their positions.

I paid attention to those skills that are acquired through competitions (argumentation, respect for other people's arguments).

I would advise them to insist on studying relevant sources depending on the type of competition. That continuity should be maintained in working with students, giving them the opportunity to express their abilities.

Hajrija Sijerčić – Čolić, professor, Faculty of Law, University of Sarajevo

My main tasks as a coach are to explain to the students the essence and peculiarities of the moot court, track preparation of written memorials and participate in the

practice of oral pleadings. Also, I have to explain to the students how to do legal research, find the relevant legal sources, analyse the moot court problem, prepare the oral presentations of the arguments in the pleadings. Since moot problems relate to complex legal and factual questions it is important to discuss how to analyse them, search for the most effective solutions for the analysis of facts and applicable law.

The key advice is to act in the moot court as it was a real litigation in the court and work as a team. Moot court is a simulation of court proceedings and students should act as councils of the real parties in the real court. They should understand that their skills and the level of preparation are the main factors which determine the outcome of the case. Also, participation in the moot court is a team sport. This preparation and participation require students to work together almost each day during the preparation period. Working close as a team is a vital element for successful participation in the moot court.

Participation in the moot court competition is one of the essential things law students should do during law studies. It is the possibility to hone the basic legal skills for the future legal career, such as legal writing, argumentation, research, public speaking and teamwork. Most importantly, it is a chance to apply the knowledge of law in practice. For professors and coaches moot courts may be used as the style of teaching. Since moot courts require not only knowledge of law, but also application of law and other legal skills, such teaching methods can increase students' confidence and motivate them to study and work further.

Remigijus Jokubauskas, coach, Faculty of Law, "Mykolas Romeris" University

The transformation that I have observed in my students participating in moot courts is multifaceted. They emerged as more confident, articulate, and agile individuals. Their research skills were honed, and their legal acumen sharpened to razor-like precision. By the end of the competition, they have metamorphosed from mere students into future legal professionals, prepared to make a lasting impact on the world.

Participation in the moot court has undeniably shaped my approach to teaching. It has taught me the value of experiential learning and the importance of fostering a collaborative, empowering environment. I now place greater emphasis on problem-solving, critical thinking, and real-world application of legal theories. This dynamic method of teaching ensures that my students are equipped not only with theoretical knowledge, but also the practical skills needed to excel in their legal careers.

To my esteemed colleagues embarking on the incredible journey of coaching a moot court team, I offer this advice.

Believe in your students' potential. Recognize and nurture the unique strengths each team member brings. Encourage them to push their limits, and they will surprise you with their capabilities.

Create a supportive environment. Foster open communication and provide constructive feedback. This will cultivate a sense of camaraderie and create a strong, unified team.

Emphasise the value of teamwork. Encourage collaboration and the sharing of ideas. Each team member's success is a collective success.

Prioritise preparation. Allocate sufficient time for research, drafting, and rehearsals. Meticulous preparation is the key to unlocking your team's full potential.

Enjoy the journey. Remember that the process itself holds immense value. Cherish the time spent nurturing your students and witnessing their growth, regardless of the competition's outcome.

Dejan Vučetić, full professor and vice-dean, Faculty of Law, University of Niš

How would you describe your role in the moot court?

My role in the moot court was to help the main coach of our team in preparation for the written and oral rounds, but mostly written.

Ljubiša Vulić, coach, Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade

As a junior coach, my role is to provide both substantial assistance and logistical support to the professors - head coaches. This entails a variety of tasks such as helping the participating students understand the case problem, conducting legal research, refining their written memoranda, and ultimately honing their oral advocacy skills. Additionally, I facilitate team discussions and strategy sessions to ensure the continuity in the process of preparation.

Marija Ralević, coach, Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade

I was a coach for one year and I was mostly helping with writing part of the Vis Moot which includes writing memorandum for claimant and memorandum for respondent from the issuing the problem until end of the February. I was reading the draft versions, giving them comments and feedback and navigating them through the process of making the legal arguments.

Mila Đorđević, coach, Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade

What are the key pieces of advice you give to students during preparation/competition?

My key piece of advice was to discuss with their peers as much as possible since that is the easiest way to learn and notice mistakes.

Ljubiša Vulić, coach, Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade

Naturally, dealing with a moot court problem involves conducting in-depth legal research. However, when dealing with complex topics, it is essential not to get lost in the topic's intricacies and neglect the very core of the matter analysed – not seeing the wood for the trees so to speak. Therefore, while students engage in extensive research and analysis, I make it a priority to remind them not to overlook the significance of mastering the basics. Understanding the core principles will not only bolster their arguments but also provide a solid framework upon which they can confidently build their case.

I would also be remiss if I did not say that there is no need to feel overwhelmed, intimidated or discouraged at any point in the competition, especially initially. Although embarking on a complex case can be daunting, especially when faced with unfamiliar legal concepts or elaborate factual scenarios, everyone must start somewhere. With perseverance, effective teamwork and coaches' guidance all will eventually be demystified.

Marija Ralević, coach, Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade

The Vis moot experience is the closest experience to the real-life legal profession you can have while being a student, so you should use that opportunity not only to gain legal knowledge, but to see if you see yourself in that surrounding and do you see yourself as a corporate lawyer at all.

Mila Đorđević, coach, Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade

What advice would you give to students/professors/coaches?

Always accept new challenges and always accept chances to grow both personally and professionally, disregarding the costs of time.

Ljubiša Vulić, coach, Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade

For all the parties involved, it is oftentimes challenging to strike the balance between providing guidance and allowing students to develop their autonomy, as well as problem-solving abilities. However, it is crucial to take the training wheels off at some point. While providing structure and clear expectations, professors, and the assistant coaches, should encourage the

participating students to take ownership of their learning journey. In turn, the students should approach challenges with a sense of curiosity.

Finally, given that moot court competitions can be both mentally and emotionally draining, everyone should contribute to maintaining a healthy balance in all aspects of the preparation in order to make it as rewarding of an experience as possible.

Marija Ralević, coach, Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade

The advice I will give to the coaches and professors is to pay more attention to personal relations in the team. The students have very different personalities, and they can have more or less problems fitting into the team and its dynamics. I understand that coaches are not psychologists and that they usually don't have enough time to consider that aspect of the competition, but relations in the team are an important factor of the success. Once the team is formed, the coach's task is to find a place for each team member and to use its full potential. On the other hand, my advice to the students is to use the opportunity to see the legal profession almost from the inside, but not to forget that in the end... moots are just competitions, and they should have fun along the way!

Mila Đorđević, coach, Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade

