

FUNDRAISING FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE MOOT COURT COMPETITION

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In parallel with preparing students for the moot court competition, it is necessary to work intensively on collecting and securing sufficient financial resources to support the teams' participation. Taking part in some competitions, such as the Regional Moot Court Competition in Human Rights as well as the Trans-European Moot Court Competition in Human Rights under the auspices of the Civil Rights Defenders, do not require the provision of financial resources by the participants, as the organisers cover all costs. However, there are several moot court competitions where it is necessary to secure funds, starting with the payment of registration fees, transportation, accommodation, and per diem for the students and coaches. Therefore, it is opportune to consider all the ways available to secure promptly and in full necessary funds for the participation in the moot court.

Note on the registration fee. Very often, moot court organisers have different fees for teams coming from different world regions, including Global North and Global South. Anyway, we would always recommend to address the organisers explaining your financial situation and asking for discounts in the amount of the registration fee, if necessary.

The simplest way to finance participation in the moot court competition is for the faculty or university management to do it from their funds, planning it in their annual budget. However, although some colleges/universities have enough funds to cover the costs, they do so reluctantly, and very often require academic coaches to look for alternative ways of financing together or independently.

One of the ways to secure funds is to get it from bar or notary chambers or individual law firms. Namely, the bar associations are ready to finance students going to the moot court competitions for two reasons – promoting the bar association and raising the quality of potential legal trainees. To secure financial resources promptly, it would be best to sign a long-term donation agreement. Thus, the academic coach would not have to spend time and energy every year doing fundraising. If something like that is impossible, another option is to ask bar associations for *ad hoc* donations to cover the partial or full costs of participation in the moot court competitions. Law firms will very often support the participation of students in the moot court competitions in those areas in which they are specialised. Such law firms would usually offer the student competitors to undertake an internship in their office. On the other hand, ex-competitors who have become

lawyers or notaries or are already employed could support the moot court team through their donations.

Another way of securing financial resources is donations/grants by municipal and city administrations. Municipalities and cities often have public calls based on which it is possible to obtain financial resources, such as through mobility grants. Since going to moot court competitions is not an *ad hoc* thing, but a subject of long-term planning in advance, it is possible to apply for public calls timely. If going to the moot court competition turned out to be unplanned or for certain reasons you did not apply for public funds in time, you should always try to write to the municipal and city administrations and ask for financial donations. In that case, one should always list specific costs related to the moot court competition. Sometimes it could mean that students individually would have to address a city or municipality in which they have a residency.

The ministry responsible for education, to encourage students to further their education, is usually ready to help the moot court team to go to the competition. To obtain financial support from the ministry, it is necessary to meet specific requirements if applying for a specific grant, as well as in the case of *ad hoc* addressing the ministry. Very often the decision-making process in the ministry is slow, and it is necessary to be persistent in reaching out ministry officials as far as the decision on the request for the allocation of financial resources is concerned. Only in this way is it possible to secure funding on time.

Another way to do fundraising is to establish a non-governmental organisation that would bring together coaches, competitors, and former competitors. Unlike the University or Faculty, such NGOs have great potential to apply for various calls for grants and thus make it easier to collect necessary funds.

One more way to secure financial resources is to approach private or public companies (including insurance companies and banks) and ask them for a donation and in return promise a sort of advertisement for them. It would be in the interest of companies to financially support the participation in the moot court competitions because they might be exempt from paying taxes for donated money. In addition, it can contribute to profiling the company as a socially responsible one.

Another source of funding could be from international governmental or non-governmental organisations. As the moot court is organised in a specific field, it is opportune to contact international organisations that actively deal with the given field – either at your national level or at the regional/international level. For example, the OSCE or the OSCE Special Representative for Freedom of the Media or INTERNEWS may be an adequate address to contact in case of participation in the Monroe E. Price Media Law Moot Court Competition. Very frequent

participation in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot is supported by the Commercial Law Development Program, sponsored by the US Government. Local non-governmental organisations could be the bridge between the moot court team and a potential donor, whether they are intergovernmental or non-governmental organisations.



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If each of the previously mentioned ways of securing financial resources does not produce results, it is possible to ask one of the local media (television, newspapers, and internet portals) to make a story about the fundraising and importance of the participation in the moot court competition for the local community. This would make the entire public aware of the issues. Through this media pressure, representatives of the public authorities or private companies might recognise the necessity to donate financial resources. At the same time, successful individuals might become aware of the issue and be ready to support the moot court team.

Finally, we would like to underline that sometimes it is necessary to combine all the mentioned tools of fundraising to collect the money as soon as possible, as well as in the case of a larger sum of money, which would be provided from several sources. The strategy of collecting money should be planned well in advance, so there would be no waste of academic coaches' energy and other resources.