

Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition

UC Irvine School of Law

2019-2020 Application

Important Dates

Application Deadline: Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 11:59 p.m.

Interviews: Saturday, April 13, 2019 and Sunday, April 14, 2019

The Competition

The Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition (“the Competition”) is the world’s largest moot court competition, with participants from over 500 law schools in more than 80 countries. The Competition is a simulation of a fictional dispute between countries before the International Court of Justice. Teams prepare oral and written pleadings for both the applicant and respondent’s cases. Teams must first compete in a regional competition to determine whether the team advances to the White & Case International Rounds held in Washington, D.C.¹

Despite being a young team, the UCI Jessup team has been very successful. In the past, the UCI Jessup team consistently advanced to quarterfinals, and the team advanced to the semifinal rounds in its second and third years. In 2016, the team placed sixth in the preliminary rounds, advanced to quarterfinals, and received recognition for the sixth best memorial. In 2017, the team advanced to the Pacific Regional final round, finishing second in the region and advancing to the international rounds. In 2018, the team placed fourth in the regional quarterfinals. This year, the UCI Jessup Team received recognition for a top 10 oralist.

The Commitment

Beginning in the latter half of summer recess and throughout fall semester, team members will spend a **minimum of 7-15 hours** per week conducting international legal research, drafting briefs (called “memorials” in the competition), and attending weekly team meetings. Meetings will include captain-led and faculty-guided sessions with reading and writing assignments designed to help team members improve their understanding of the international legal system, international legal research, and written and oral advocacy.

Team members should anticipate spending a significant part of the winter break drafting and revising their memorials. Every year, the team dedicates the week prior to the memorial submission date (“war week”) to perfecting the team’s memorial, and this tradition will likely be replicated next year.

During the spring semester, team members will spend **at least 12 hours per week** finalizing oral arguments and consistently mooted before UCI Law professors and volunteers from the community. The team will also spend 3-4 days over a weekend at the regional competition,² and, if the team advances, the team may spend up to a week in Washington, D.C. for the international rounds. Team members are eligible for at least one credit for diligent participation.

¹ For more information, visit: <http://www.ilsa.org/jessup/index.php>.

² In the past, UCI has been assigned to the Pacific Regional Competition, which takes place in Portland, Oregon. The Regional Competition is usually held just before mid-semester review week.

The Application Process

Returning team members and a selection committee, consisting of Professor Whytock and two other faculty or administrative members, will review applications. The selection process will proceed in two phases. In the first phase, returning team members will review applications, conduct interviews, and make recommendations to the selection committee. The process will then advance to the second phase, where the committee will review the recommended applications, consult with Lawyering Skills and International Legal Analysis faculty for feedback, and select next year's team members. The selection criteria will include research, writing, and oral advocacy skills; diligence, collaboration, and work ethic; and interest in the Jessup Competition, in particular. Approximately 3-4 individuals will be selected.³

To apply, please submit the following materials in two PDF batches (free PDF combining may be found at <https://combinepdf.com/>) no later than **11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10, 2019:**

Batch 1:

Label this PDF file as follows: "Last Name_First Name_Jessup2020"

Submit this PDF file online at <https://scout.eee.uci.edu/s/Jessup2019-Part1>

1. **Resume:** Please do NOT include your GPA.
2. **Writing Sample:** Please submit your most recent legal writing sample, which may include your Lawyering Skills closed or open memorandum. While there is no word limit, please use your best judgment in selecting an appropriate writing sample.
3. **Role Preference:** In your application, please indicate if you are willing to serve as "oralist," "of counsel," or either. The individual assuming the "of counsel" position will take on a leadership role and ensure the team stays on schedule, meets deadlines, and remains encouraged and motivated throughout the 10-month process leading up to the regional competition. The "of counsel" position is also responsible for administrative duties, including, but not limited to, maintaining a team calendar, organizing team meetings, handling logistics for practice moots, travel, and team registrations. More importantly, the team's "of counsel" member will become a general "expert" in the relevant law, sources relied on, and the facts of the case, who can then be relied on to answer quick written questions at counsel table during the competition at oral rounds.
4. **Interview Availability:** Interviews will last for approximately 30 minutes and be conducted primarily between Saturday, April 13 and Sunday, April 14, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For the interview, the applicant should prepare a 10-minute oral argument on a topic of their choice, including, but not limited to, arguments from the Lawyering Skills class or the UCI Law Moot Court competition. The time remaining will be dedicated to getting to know the applicant, as well as answering the applicant's questions. Please select your preferred interview time by accessing <https://doodle.com/poll/4ku6dz4crqc5sfyn>. If the proposed schedule presents a conflict, please let us know. We will do our best to accommodate your time preferences. Interviews will take place in EDU 1121.

³ The team will be composed of 4 oralists and 1 of-counsel position.

5. **Participation Pledge:** Please read the following and include the text in your application with your signature. This represents your commitment to the Jessup Team.

I am applying for a position on the UC Irvine School of Law's 2019-2020 Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition team. I have read the application instructions and the answers to frequently asked questions about the competition at <https://www.ilsa.org/jessup-competitors/>. I understand that participation will require me to make a major time commitment from mid-August 2019 through March 2020. I commit to: allocating at least 7-15 hours per week during the summer recess, fall semester, and winter break in 2019; making myself available during war week to continue drafting and editing the memorials; allocating at least 12 hours per week for practice moots in the 6 weeks preceding the regional rounds; and traveling to attend the regional competition in the spring semester and the international rounds in Washington, D.C., if the team advances. If I am extended an invitation to join the Jessup Team, I pledge to uphold these time commitments, meet team deadlines, and contribute diligently to the team's success, recognizing that the effort of every team member is integral to the team's success.

Batch 2:

Attach this PDF file as follows: "Last Name_First Name_Jessup2020_Transcript&Ref"
Submit this PDF file online at <https://scout.eee.uci.edu/s/Jessup2019-Part2>

1. **Law School Transcript:** Please provide your transcript. Only the faculty selection committee (and no students) will review your transcripts.
2. **References:** Please provide the names of your International Legal Analysis professor and your Lawyering Skills professors. By applying for Jessup team membership, applicants consent to consultation between the faculty selection committee and the applicant's Lawyering Skills and International Legal Analysis professors as part of the selection process, unless clearly stated otherwise in the application email. Only the faculty selection committee will consult with your International Legal Analysis and Lawyering Skills professors in connection with your application.

Please contact Jonhatan Aragon & Makaela O'Connell at lawjessupmootcourt@lawnet.uci.edu, or Professor Whytock at cwhytock@law.uci.edu, with any questions.

*The UC Irvine School of Law Jessup Team
Jonhatan Aragon & Makaela O'Connell*