



Universiteit Leiden
CampusDenHaag.nl

TELDERS INTERNATIONAL LAW
MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Review Report

34th Edition of the Telders International Law Moot Court Competition



Peace Palace, The Hague 28-30 April 2011

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>page</i>
FOREWORD	
Foreword by the Chairman of the Telders Supervisory Board	4
Members of the Supervisory Board	5
Telders Organizing Office 2011	5
Legacy of Professor Dr. B.M. Telders	6
National Rounds Teams	7
Participating Teams of the Semi-Finals	11
Sponsors Teams	16
International Board of Review	19
Judges of the Semi-Finals	22
Judges of the Final Round	24
Jury Members	24
Judge Assistants	24
REVIEWS	
University College London	25
Leiden University	30
Vienna University	31
Ms. Emma Synnott	33
Mr. Mark Harten	33
Ms. Leonie Timmers	34
Lomonosov Moscow State University	35
Ghent University	35
Mr. Nobuo Hayashi	38
RESULTS	
Awards	40
Awards and Winners of the Telders Competition 2011	41
Final Results 2011	42
Acknowledgements / Sponsors	44

FOREWORD

by the Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Telders International Law Moot Court Competition

This year the Telders International Law Moot Court Competition celebrated its 34th Anniversary with 22 participating universities. Preliminary rounds were staged in four countries and for the first time the participants included the team from the University of Ghent, the Université Catholique de Lille and The Hague University of Applied Sciences.

The Case Concerning the Umarghela River was brought by Marosland to the International Court of Justice in September 2010 and the Court was asked to adjudge and declare that Larmastan had breached its international obligations by Constructing the Lulabeki-Dam without Marosland's approval and by Polluting the Umarghela River.

In its reply Larmastan asks the International Court of Justice to dismiss these claims. Furthermore, Larmastan submits its counterclaim asking the Court to adjudge and declare that Marosland has breached international law by failing to act according to Resolution 2998 (2009).

The participating teams were faced with difficult procedural and legal issues which they argued first in their written memorials and then during the International Semi-Finals culminating in the Final before the Court in the Great Hall of Justice.

The Supervisory Board and the Telders Organizing Office wish to express their gratitude to the sponsors which have pledged their support to the Competition in many different ways.

The Supervisory Board congratulates the winning teams, and thanks all the talented teams which have taken part in the Competition. The Board would also like to thank all the panellists, members of the International Board of Review as well as the members of the jury who donated their valuable time. They made the Telders Competition 2011 a most enjoyable event!

Judge Bengt Broms
Chairman of the Supervisory Board

**SUPERVISORY BOARD OF THE
TELDERS INTERNATIONAL LAW MOOT COURT FOUNDATION**

H.E. Judge Bengt Broms, Iran-US Claims Tribunal, Chairman of the Supervisory Board

H.E. Judge Kenneth Keith, International Court of Justice

H.E. Judge Abdul Koroma, International Court of Justice

H.E. Judge Peter Tomka, International Court of Justice

H.E. Judge Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf, International Court of Justice

Prof. Dr. John Dugard, Leiden University (*emeritus*), International Law Commission

Prof. Dr. Nico Schrijver, Leiden University

Mrs. Hanna Thuránszky, Clifford Chance

Mr. Rolf Oosterloo LL.M, MA, MPA, Campus The Hague, Leiden University

Ms. Mette Léons, Telders Organizing Office

TELDERS ORGANIZING OFFICE 2011

Ms. Mette Léons, Co-ordinator

Ms. Lingkan Sarah Ngantung

LEGACY OF PROFESSOR DR. B.M. TELDERS (1903-1945)



Prof. Dr. B. M. TELDERS

The Telders International Law Moot Court Competition is named after Professor Benjamin Marius Telders, who first became a professor of international law at Leiden University in 1931. Telders was extremely interested in why and how law operated. He considered international law to be a unique study and challenge, since it was— and in many respects still is— undefined and interwoven with history and politics. Professor Telders was respected for his sharp mind and frequently had the honour to represent his country, The Netherlands, before the Permanent Court of International Justice, predecessor of the International Court of Justice.

His interests and activities were not, however, limited to international law. Professor Telders was a man who enjoyed life to the full. He spent his time doing various other activities as playing the piano, editing a literary magazine and leading a political party. These other activities complemented his duties as a professor and a lawyer.

His approach to law was a practical one. Problems were meant to be solved, but not in contravention with important legal principles such as the rule of law and civil society. Professor Telders stood and fought for those principles even in the most difficult of times during the Second World War. Even being imprisoned for four and a half years did not break him morally or mentally, but made him more determined. He continued to write about international law, using a small pencil and match sticks. His fellow prisoners had great respect for his ability to put moral guidance and leadership into practice. Professor Telders died in the concentration camp of Bergen-Belsen in April 1945.

Two years later, in 1947, former students of Professor Telders founded the Telders Students Society of International Law (Telders Dispuut) in commemoration of their Professor. The first Telders International Law Moot Court Competition was organised in 1977 on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Telders Students Society for International Law.

Now, 34 years later after the first competition, the Telders Moot Court continues to maintain and live up to the legacy of the learned professor of international law.

NATIONAL ROUNDS TEAMS

England

BPP Law School

Team coach: Mr. Rob Applegarth
Team members: Mr. Philip Robson
Mr. Alexander Knight
Ms. Sri Carmichael
Ms. Eirwen-Jane Pierrot

University of Nottingham

Team coach: Mr. Dino Kritsiotis
Team members: Ms. Tiziana Raffaella Amato
Mr. Christopher William Sargeant
Mr. Robert Edward Clarke
Mr. Choong Sheen Mao

University of Reading

Team Coach: Dr. James Green
Team members: Ms. Natasha Shotunde
Ms. Alexandra Dorling
Mr. Nicholas Lai
Ms. Sara Lau

Ireland

The Law Society of Ireland

Team coach: Mr. T.P. Kennedy
Team members: Ms. Rhoda Jennings
Mr. Shane O'Connor
Mr. Donal J. Keane
Ms. Stephanie Tao

Russian Federation

Peoples' Friendship University of Russia

Team coach: Mr. Alexander Solntsev
Team members: Mr. Ivan Korshunov
Mr. Dmitry Vorobyev
Ms. Alexandra Koneva
Ms. Ekaterina Govert

St. Petersburg State University

Team coach: Ms. Anastasia Ogurtsova
Team members: Ms. Anzhelika Kravtsova
Ms. Olga Rodinko
Ms. Evgeniya Volkova
Ms. Anna Basanova

Ukraine

Academy of Advocacy of Ukraine

Team coach: Ms. Kalinina Olga Mykolayivna
Team members: Mr. Vladislav Viniychuk
Mr. Vladislav Lavrenchuk
Mr. Alexander Karapetyan
Mr. Roman Teslenko

International Humanitarian University

Team coach: Mr. Korotkiy Timur
Team members: Mr. Smotrytskyy Vladyslav
Ms. Kateryna Fedorenko
Ms. Maryna Gnidina
Ms. Gulyako Yuliya

Kyiv International University

Team coach: Ms. Alina Bezkorovayna
Team members: Ms. Iryna Sudalenko
Mr. Mark Prykhodko
Ms. Mariya Koziy
Ms. Valeriia Overchenko

National University of "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy"

Team coach: Ms. Kateryna Krakhmalova
Team members: Mr. Serhiy Mykhaylyk
Mr. Taras Shabliy
Ms. Antonovych Mariana
Ms. Tetiana Isterevych

Ostroh Academy National University

Team coach: Ms. Tetiana Khomych
Team members: Ms. Julia Petniak
Ms. Tetiana Rodoman
Ms. Inna Parkhomets
Ms. Iryna Kukuruzha

Leiden City Hall, Friday 29 April 2011, Announcement of the Finalists by the Mayor of Leiden, Mr. Henri Lenferink and Prof. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, Leiden University



PARTICIPATING TEAMS OF THE SEMI-FINALS 2011

Austria

Vienna University

Team coaches: Ms. Jane A. Hofbauer
Mr. Florian Dunkel
Team members: Mr. Michael J. Moffatt
Ms. Andrea Leiter
Mr. Ralph Janik
Mr. Markus Beham

Belgium

Ghent University

Team coach: Mr. Nils Goeteyn
Team members: Ms. Kim Gillade
Ms. Lynn Verrydt
Mr. Patrick Ngirimana
Mr. Diederik Wintershoven

Bulgaria

Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

Team coach: Mr. Blagoy Vidin
Team members: Ms. Elisar Bashir
Mr. Dimitar Lilkov
Mr. Vilian Betsov
Mr. Vladislav Datsov

England

University College London

Team coaches: Mr. Arman Sarvarian
Ms. Irina Sergeeva
Team members: Ms. Kathryn Heslop
Mr. Sam Bright
Mr. Joseph Markus
Mr. Kirill Albrecht

Estonia

University of Tartu

Team coaches: Mr. Miiko Vainer
Ms. Katre Luhamaa
Team members: Ms. Anni Prants
Ms. Kärt Pormeister
Ms. Marina Ninaste
Ms. Kerstin Linnart

Finland*University of Helsinki*

Team coach: Mr. Ville Peltokorpi
Team members: Ms. Terhi Jyrkkiö
Mr. Ukri Soirila
Mr. Lauri Kalkku
Mr. Tuomas Salminen

France*Université Catholique de Lille*

Team coach: Mr. Giuseppe-Matteo Vaccaro-Incisa
Ms. Claire Dekeuwer
Team members: Ms. Céline Thorel
Ms. Mary-Aurélia Bessala-Jones
Ms. Victoria Simon
Ms. Mélanie Thellier

Georgia*Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University*

Team coach: Mr. George Sarajishvili
Team members: Mr. Petre Dzindzibadze
Ms. Ekaterine Kokichaishvili
Mr. Giorgi Margiani
Ms. Ketevan Sarajishvili

Germany*Universität zu Köln*

Team coach: Mr. Thomas Liefländer
Team members: Mr. Philipp Gnatzy
Ms. Anna Heinen
Ms. Kristina Hoerrmann
Mr. Michael Krah

Greece*Democritus University of Thrace*

Team coaches: Dr. Constantine Antonopoulos
Mr. Dimitris Batsalas
Team members: Ms. Fenia Mylonaki
Mr. Spiridon Papadas
Mr. Ioannis Papadakis
Mr. Loukas Panetsos

Ireland

The Honourable Society of King's Inns

Team coach: Ms. Paula McCarthy
Team members: Mr. Jordan Fletcher
Ms. Nikki Saarsteiner
Mr. Mark Harten
Ms. Emma Synnott

The Netherlands I

The Hague University of Applied Sciences

Team coaches: Mr. M. Vagias
Ms. N. Banteka
Team members: Mr. Maximilian Garré
Ms. Vessela Miladinova
Mr. Miroslav Ivanov
Ms. Sükriye Özcan

The Netherlands II

Leiden University

Team coaches: Dr. Erik V. Koppe
Ms. Marjolijn Molenaar
Team members: Ms. Jane H. Flynn
Ms. Susanne A. Roodhuijzen
Ms. Leonie H. Timmers
Ms. Nina Zupan

Norway

University of Oslo

Team coaches: Mr. Jo Martin Stigen
Ms. Birgit Schlütter
Team members: Ms. Siri Haugsøen Horn
Ms. Nura Dahir
Mr. Elisha Bafirawala
Mr. Shorish Azari

Poland

University of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński

Team coach: Mr. Konrad Marciniak
Team members: Ms. Magdalena Papiernik
Ms. Natalia Łabęda
Ms. Małgorzata Chrostowska

Portugal

Universidade Nova de Lisboa

Team coach: Mr. Francisco Freitas e Costa
Team members: Ms. Inês Paulino
Mr. José Godinho
Ms. Maria Francisca Couto
Mr. Pedro Espírito Santo

Romania

West University of Timisoara

Team coach: Ms. Sorina Mislea
Team members: Ms. Iulia Caizer
Ms. Ilinca Campeanu
Mr. Silviu Carlan
Ms. Alexandra Bioc

Russian Federation

Lomonosov Moscow State University

Team coaches: Dr. Glotova Svetlana
Ms. Yana Kolesnikova
Team members: Ms. Baskova Daria
Ms. Manasyan Elena
Ms. Sekretareva Nataliya
Ms. Zubareva Yana

Serbia

University of Novi Sad

Team coach: Ms. Dragana Mitric
Team members: Ms. Duska Danilov
Mr. Dusan Kovacevic
Mr. Aleksandar Arandjelovic
Mr. Emil Lulic

Sweden

Uppsala University

Team coach: Ms. Maria Agius
Team members: Mr. Thomas Hingley
Mr. Niklas Dahlgren
Mr. Dominic Bright
Ms. Lisa Staxäng

Switzerland

University of St. Gallen

Team coach: Ms. Fabienne Streit
Team members: Ms. Hanna Bodenmann
Ms. Anika Sonderegger
Mr. Armin Stähli
Ms. Christa Stünzi

Ukraine

National University "Odessa Law Academy"

Team coach: Mr. Dmytro Koval
Team members: Ms. Nazarian Maryna
Ms. Pysmenna Viktoriia
Ms. Gaidei Kateryna
Ms. Zaichenko Iuliia

**THE TELDERS ORGANIZING OFFICE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS ITS
GRATITUDE TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS FOR SPONSORING THE
TEAMS OF**

Austria

Federal Ministry of Science and Research
Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs
Austrian National Bank

Bulgaria

Law Faculty of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

Estonia

Law Office Luiga Mody Hääl Borenius

Finland

Faculty of Law, University of Helsinki
Finnish Lawyer Association
Roschier Attorneys Ltd.
Ministry of Justice
Ministry of the Environment

Germany

Kölner Gymnasial- und Stiftungsfonds
Gleiss Lutz
CMS Hasche
Mütze Korsch
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Gurland Rechtsanwälte
Kümmerlein, Simon & Partner
Heuking Kühn Lüer Wojtek

Greece

Democritus University of Thrace

Norway

Wiersholm, Mellbye & Bech, advokatfirma AS

Portugal

Faculdade de Direito, Universidade Nova de Lisboa
Vieira de Almeida e Associados – Sociedade de Advogados, R.L

Russian Federation

Baker & McKenzie

Serbia

Government of Autonomous Province of Vojvodina

Academy Hall, Peace Palace, 27 –30 April 2011



INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW

The International Board of Review (IBOR) is composed of a panel of international experts trained in (international) law. The task of the IBOR is to assess the written memorials of the participant teams.

Austria	Prof. Dr. Ursula Kriebaum, Department of European, International & Comparative Law, University of Vienna Dr. Stephan Wittich, Assistant Professor in the Department of European, International & Comparative Law, University of Vienna
Belarus	Ms. Elena Konnova, Chair of International Law, Faculty of International Relations, Belarusian State University Ms. Larissa Lukina, Chair of Economics and Law, Faculty of Management Technologies and Humanitarization, Belarusian National Technical University
Bulgaria	Mr. Nikolai Ilchev, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”
England	Prof. Malgosia Fitzmaurice, Professor of Public International Law, Queen Mary University of London Ms. Joy Reddy, School of Law, University of Reading Ms. Rumiana Yotova, Research Associate, Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, University of Cambridge
Estonia	Ms. Irina Nossova, nominated by the University of Tartu Mr. Rene Värk, Lecturer of International Law, University of Tartu
Finland	Mr. Kristian Wohlström LL.M., University of Helsinki, Faculty of Law Mr. Paavo Kotiaho (LL.M.), Research Fellow The Erik Castrén Institute of International Law and Human Rights Faculty of Law, University of Helsinki
France	Mr. Thomas Margueritte, Teaching and Research Assistant, Centre d’Etudes et de Recherches Internationales et Communautaires Université Paul Cézanne Ms. Hana K. Missaoui, Doctorante en droit international public, Institut d’Etudes Humanitaires Internationales (IEHI), Université Paul Cézanne Aix-Marseille III
Georgia	Ms. Nino Abramishvili, Legal Advisor, Department of the State Representation to the International Courts of Human Rights, Ministry of Justice of Georgia

Germany	Dr. iur. Dieter Fleck, Former Director for International Agreements & Policy, Federal Ministry of Defence, Germany
	Mr. Jan Wetzel, Senior Lecturer, University of Lincoln, UK
Greece	Dr. Nikolaos Tsagourias, Professor in International Law and Security, University of Glasgow, Scotland
	Dr. Nikolaos Zaikos, Assistant Professor of International Law, Dept. of Balkan Studies, University of Western Macedonia
Ireland	Ms. Zeldine O'Brien, Law Library, Four Courts, Dublin
	Ms. Sarah Jane Hillery, Law Library, Four Courts, Dublin
The Netherlands	Dr. Jean D'Aspremont, Associate Professor of International Law and Senior Research Fellow of the Amsterdam Center for International Law at the University of Amsterdam
	Dr. Cedric Ryngaert, Lecturer in International Law at Utrecht University
	Ms. Harikleia Aroni, Ph.D Cand. Democritus University of Thrace, Greece
	Ms. Daniëlle Dam, Ph.D Candidate Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies
	Mr. Joseph Powderly, Assistant Professor Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies
Norway	Mr. Tadesse Kassa Woldetsadik, Research Fellow, Faculty of Law / Center for Development and Environment, University of Oslo
Poland	Dr. Marek Jeżewski, Lecturer in the Institute of International Law, European Law and International Relations, University of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, Warsaw
Portugal	Mr. Nuno Miguel Santos Félix, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Legal Affairs Department
	Mr. Miguel Calado Moura, Lawyer at AAA Advogados
Russia	Mr. Degtjarev Konstantin, Lawyer
	Ms. Sonia Sarenkova, Assistant of Legal Adviser, Embassy of Russian Federation in the Netherlands
Serbia	Mr. Andrej Kalmar, Lawyer

Sweden Ms. Linda Aspehult, Desk Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ms. Ulrica Reuterwall, Desk Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Switzerland Dr. iur. Marie-Louise Gächter-Alge, Chaire de droit International
Public et de Droit Européen, Université de Fribourg
Dr. iur. Constanze Semmelmann, Visiting Scholar at Michigan Law
School, Center for International and Comparative Law and Lecturer
at University of St. Gallen

JUDGES SEMI-FINALS

Mr. Jan Bangert	Böckli Bodmer & Partner
Dr. Jason Beckett	School of Law, University of Leicester
Mr. E.E. van Bemmelen van Gent	Bynkershoek Institute / The Hague University of Applied Sciences
Ms. Anja Blank	Legal Adviser, Iran-United States Claims Tribunal
Ms. Axelle Cartier, LL.M. (adv.)	Leiden Law School / Excalibur Almaz Ltd.
Professor Countess Ingrid Detter de Lupis Frankopan	Académie De Verrey
Mr. M.K. Eshragh	Member of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
Prof. Steven Freeland	University of Western Sydney
Mr. Matthew Gillett	The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)
Dr. Suzanne Guèvremont	Institute of Immigration Law, Leiden University
Ms. Esther Hauser	LL.M. Advanced Programme in Public International Law, Leiden University
Mr. Nobuo Hayashi	Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)
Ms. Niamh Hayes	Irish Centre for Human Rights, National University of Ireland Galway
Mr. Peter Henley	LL.M. Advanced Programme Public International Law, Leiden University
Dr. Bernhard Hofstötter, LL.M. (adv.)	Office of the European Ombudsman
Mr. Kanbar Hossein Bor	British Embassy, The Hague
Prof. Dra. Maria del Angel Iglesias	University Camilo José Cela
Mr. Stefan A. Kaiser	NATO
Dr. Sara Kendall	PhD Researcher, Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies
Prof. Dr. Vladimír Kopal	Faculty of Law, West Bohemian University, Pilsen

Ms. Annie Lespérance	Assistant Legal Counsel Permanent Court of Arbitration
Dr. Martha Mejia-Kaiser	Co-Chair Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Committee, International Institute of Space Law
Mr. Eggert Ólafsson	LL.M. Advanced Programme in Public International Law, Leiden University
Dr. Christophe Paulussen	Senior Researcher, T.M.C. Asser Institute
Dr. Hossein Piran	Senior Legal Advisor, Iran-United States Claims Tribunal
Dr. Sohrab Rabiee	Iran-United States Claims Tribunal
Dr. Olivier Ribbelink	T.M.C. Asser Institute / Utrecht University
Prof. Dr. Cornelis Roelofsen	Utrecht University (<i>retired</i>)
Mr. Pubudu Sachithanandan	Trial Lawyer, Office of the Prosecutor, International Criminal Court
Ms. Alexia Solomou	Legal Officer, International Court of Justice
Dr. Attila Sipos	Honorary Professor, Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, ELTE University
Mr. Otto Spijkers	Head reading room & principal service librarian Peace Palace Library; PhD Candidate, Leiden University
Mr. Marc Steiner	Federal Administrative Court, Switzerland
Dr. Mia Swart	Assistant Professor, Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies
Mr. Alejandro Tosi	Iran-United States Claims Tribunal
Mr. Taco van der Valk	AKD Advocaten en Notarissen
Ms. Andrea Varga	Meijers PhD Fellow, Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies
Dr. Annemarieke Vermeer-Künzli	Amsterdam Center for International Law, University of Amsterdam
Mr. Piet Willems	Assistant Professor, Ghent University
Mr. William Worster	The Hague University of Applied Sciences
Ms. Mia Wouters	LVP LAW & Ghent University

JUDGES OF THE FINAL ROUND

H.E. Judge Bengt Broms	Iran-US Claims Tribunal
H.E. Judge Abdul Koroma (President)	International Court of Justice
H.E. Judge Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf	International Court of Justice

JURY MEMBERS

Christine de Back, LL.M. Public International Law student, Leiden University
Harpreet Dhillon, intern at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)
Arianit Dobroschi, LL.M (adv) Air and Space Law student – Leiden University
Anton Fischer, LL.M (adv) Public International Law student – Leiden University
Francesco Fiorilli, LL.M (adv) Air and Space Law student – Leiden University
Kelsey Guthrie-Jones, intern at the ICTY
Joachim Jansen, intern at the ICTY
Milica Kostic, intern at the ICTY
Laurens Mol, LL.M, Leiden University
Christine Nam, LL.M (adv) Public International Law student – Leiden University
Antonia Nedelkopoulou, LL.M (adv) Air and Space Law student – Leiden University
Elena Papadopoulou, LL.M (adv) Air and Space Law student – Leiden University
Zachos Paliouras, LL.M (adv) Air and Space Law student – Leiden University
Sofia Salejeva, LL.M. Public International Law student, Leiden University
Lisa Scott, LL.M Public International Law student – Leiden University
Eirini Maria Sfantzikaki, LL.M (adv) Air and Space Law student – Leiden University

JUDGE ASSISTANTS

The following law students from The Hague University of Applied Sciences acted as Time Keepers and Judge Assistants during the court sessions of the international Semi-Finals:

Elianey Kegel	Shirleen Murriss-Chin
Robin Meylemans	Jamilla Abdulle
Katarína Kubovicová	Donika Tzaneva
Ksenia Nuzhdova	Maria Pavlova
Alexandra Baciú	

REVIEWS

University College London

Winning Team & Winner of the Max Huber Award for the Best Overall Score

Sam Bright: The Beginning (a hard slog/broken limbs avoided)

The process by which the UCL Telders team was selected set the tone for much of what was to follow. As I waited outside the courtroom where I was to present my mock-argument, I bumped into two of my rivals who had already presented their cases. One emerged saying that the judges selecting the team were friendly but fierce, smiling whilst firmly dismantling what she had considered to be an excellent argument. The other had a broken arm.

Fortunately, in the months of hard work that followed, neither myself nor my teammates suffered physical injury at the hands of our coaches. Indeed, both Arman and Irina were patient and helpful, showing few signs of aggression and certainly never raising a fist (or their voices) in anger. But it was apparent from the start that whilst they sought on the one hand to befriend us, on the other they were intensely competitive, driving us onward towards the twin goals of winning the national rounds and competing in the international finals.

We knuckled down to some serious work. The first task, having got to grips with the general framework of the case, was to research and write our two 8,500 word memorials. As none of us were experts in the law of international watercourses, nor the niceties of the relationship between the UN Security Council and the ICJ, this meant many hours spent in London's forbidding Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, sometimes examining the footnotes in a standard text, at other times desperately scouring the shelves for books that looked like they might have a relevant title. We constructed some fantastical theories, which were duly torn apart and shown to be excessively creative or insufficiently researched by our incisive coaches. Yet steadily we put together arguments that appeared to stand on their own two feet, and by the New Year, after weeks of alternating between excitement and exasperation, we were finally ready to submit our theses.

The next step: to arm ourselves for the task of defending our arguments orally before a panel of critical judges. It was in these practice sessions that our coaches really came into their own. Arman would pepper us with increasingly detailed doctrinal questions, expecting us to know what a hitherto obscure academic had stated in his *magnus opus* on a seemingly irrelevant topic. Irina's apparently softer approach was nonetheless equally incisive, noting our every slight inconsistency and inaccuracy. Our arguments were refined and tempered, fashioning pleadings that we hoped would leave our opponents dumbfounded (however misplaced those hopes may have been).

Kirill Albrecht: The National Rounds (heavy books, lucky tie, motivational banana)

After endless long nights, weeks and months, our knowledge and training were finally going to be put to the test at the UK national rounds, where it would be decided who would represent the UK in The Hague. The last days before were taken up with last-minute changes and intense training session. Finally, the big day came. Waking up after an uneasy sleep haunted by the ghosts of international law's past, I put on my suit while frantically looking for my lucky tie. Then the checklist. Bag filled with international law books too heavy to carry. Check. Lucky tie. Check. Nervous and tired. Check. As I approached the building where my team mates and our coaches were waiting, I tried to go over my main arguments but my mind was blank. Inside we got together and like a football team before the big match, listened to a motivational speech from our coaches. I managed to slurp a cup of coffee and peel my banana, and then the moment had come. When I approached the lectern and faced the stern looks of the judges, I thought I should have practised more (that one night when you were watching football, you should have spent it with Brownlie and Crawford). Suddenly, I heard a

strange voice and after a while realised that I had actually started speaking. While trying to bombard the judges with obscure cases, I learned two fundamental things. First, there are questions you simply cannot prepare for (if 100 000 piranhas were dumped into the river, would that constitute substantial harm?). Second, don't drink too much coffee; you might be pressed for time otherwise. Luckily, I managed to finish my submission just in time and then our first real round was over. We shook our opponents hands and then went outside to face the verdict of our coaches. While learning that we had forgotten to mention that very important case, we felt a sense of relief. We had survived. The rest of the day was filled with more obscure questions, coffees and bananas. By the time, we had finished our rounds, it was already dark outside and we were anxiously waiting for our results. When it was announced that we had won, we fell into each other's arms with the feeling that the weight of literally 20 books had been lifted from our shoulders (at least for the time being). The rest of the evening was filled with wine and banter. The next two weeks were declared a Telders-free time. No Brownlie. No Crawford. Not even law jokes. But like all good things, this time came to an end and we were faced with the harsh reality of the impending international rounds. And despite our victory, the judges' comments indicated that our submissions were not as good as we had hoped. This meant more time in the library and more long nights.

Kathryn Heslop: The Hague (free beer/herring, the perils of pool)

It was a relief to finally reach The Hague. The Hague is one of the centres of the international law world, so the opportunity to go there was one of the incentives pushing us to work long hours into the night. Nothing motivates quite like a free holiday (see any game show if you don't believe me). The opportunity to be near the location of all the things we had been reading about for so long was amazing.

Unfortunately, it turns out that The Hague is not as happening as some people would have you believe. It's quaint, quiet and full of diplomats and lawyers, which should tell you more about the town than I ever could. Fortunately, Telders is a competition made up of students, infamous the world over for bringing the party with us wherever we go. The social side of Telders was great, even if conversation did veer uncomfortably often towards international law. Alcohol is key in preventing this from happening. The Telders organisers were diligent to ensure social events all the time, so it was a great way of getting to know other students from all over the world, as well as the judges. The downside to being in the final rounds was having to leave the final party early and do more of the detested study. The up side of course was going to sleep while the others did all the work (I recommend this course of action for any future participants, though if you all start doing it you probably won't be very successful).

After the final things looked up a little, as we finally began using the money UCL had given us for "essentials". Having quit eating throughout the competition, I immediately began inhaling herring, Romanian wine and the like. Our coaches made the mature decision to leave, allowing us to find the clubs in the Hague. Hint: there are none. Another hint: Unless you know you are good at pool, do not bet the Telders trophy in a pool match against the Serbian team. You may lose and have to flee for your life.

Overall, the social side and being in The Hague were highlights of the competition. It provided an amazing release for all the stress and anxiety of the completion and allows you to be as much of a law nerd as possible without someone telling you to stop. By the time you reach The Hague, most of your research should be done, so it's great to get to relax a bit (unless you are in the final round, in which case your wine will be ripped from your hand and your evening ruined).

Joe Markus: The Final (stammering, stomach talking, judicial flirtation)

Towards the end of the international semi-finals, after a truly disheartening (but effective) pep-talk by our coaches, the (majority) of the team had resigned itself to coming in a respectable, but not top, position in the rankings. Kathryn and I especially were pretty tired of

all the whispering in corridors so that the other side wouldn't hear us, the strange sense of rivalry that lay behind everyone's smiles, and the late-night learning sessions that rapidly became characteristic of our time in The Hague.

After a first day of stammering in the face of intimidating judges and failing to answer with any modicum of intelligibility or intelligence their myriad questions, we were content to wile away our time in the bars of the Hague on the UCL expenses account. Our coaches impressively got us to continue. The next day, very much perturbed, we did a bit better. Practice makes perfect they say and, in fact, while Kathryn and Sam were either naturally confident speakers or Australian, Kirill and I improved no end overnight. What they say about relaxing and being yourself is half right. Definitely relax! And enjoy the mooting—even if you have been working towards this competition for the past seven months, you have to at least try to enjoy it. Maybe don't try and be yourself; attempting to flirt with French judges (probably) will not win you many friends. You can also try and subtly disrupt hearings by precariously balancing a heavy book on its side in such a way that it falls over with a thud at the crucial point in the opposite side's speeches (definitely unintentional). But aside from that, we found that there's no secret to being a successful mooter other than a basic knowledge of the law (good knowledge helps!) and a degree of self-assuredness.

That evening, one of free wine courtesy of the mayor of Leiden, the results were announced. We were pleased to hear our team had come third and first. By way of celebration, we had to stay indoors and anxiously pore over the opponent's memorial, within which, luckily for us, were some extremely novel and difficult arguments. Surprisingly, I found this part fun, especially considering that Kathryn and I were told to get a good night's sleep while the rest of the team stayed up cradling Brownlie and Crawford.

The next morning Sam taught me how to speak (as if he thought that I'd forgotten. Apparently you speak with your stomach.)

Being faced with three judges of such eminence is nerve-wracking before it happens. But I found that once I stood up in the final round I almost forgot where I was. The nerves dropped away and I, rather falteringly, rounded off the argument for the Respondent. The whole thing, now I think back, was just a blur. They filed back into the massive (with hundreds of people) room and delivered their verdict.

Then the party. (With more wine, courtesy of the Romanian embassy.)

*Academy Hall, Peace Palace, Saturday 30 April 2011, Final Round
Leiden University (Applicant) v University College London (Respondent)*



Leiden University

Finalist Team & Winner Best Oral Argumentation for the Applicant & Best Memorial on behalf of the Respondent (ex aequo)

Leiden University has a good reputation for competing in the Telders International Law Moot Court Competition, which is both encouraging and daunting if you are a newly selected Telders team-member, knowing that it is going to take a lot of hard work to live up to the success of the previous teams. The 2011 team was selected in September and comprised four students from the Leiden University masters programme in Public International Law: Susanne Roodhuyzen, Leonie Timmers, Jane Flynn and Nina Zupan. We were preparing under the mentorship of Dr. Erik Koppe and with the help of the co-coaches Marjolijn Molenaar and Isaac Ip.

As soon as the Telders case was published we started with intense research in the fields of international environmental law, law of international watercourses, right to development, terrorism, the powers of the UN Security Council, etc. This year's case concerned a dispute between two riparians of the river Umarghela, their rights to use the waters of the river, the conflicts between environmental and development issues and a little bit of terrorism on top. Some of those topics raised quite specific questions, so we were very grateful for our well-stocked library, which provided all the materials we needed. Drafting the memorials was a challenging and time-consuming task, given that all of us also attended regular classes, engaged in assignments and had exams in our master programme. Needless to say, we became permanent residents of the library; meeting a couple of times per week over lunch or dinner to discuss the problems we encountered and brain-storming to find a solution. After our classmates had already finished with the first semester, we were still buried under the books as the memorial deadline approached. In the end, the efforts were rewarded by receiving a very high final memorial score, including the Carnegie Foundation Award for the Best Memorial on behalf of the Respondent.

Soon after the memorials had been submitted, we started preparing for the oral argumentation. Although the memorials provided a solid basis, much more research had to be done in the course of the search for the strongest and most persuasive arguments that could be presented in the short time given to each oralist. Moreover, we honed our presentation skills and style during several practices that were a simulation of a real competition in front of the judges. Our oral skills were awarded, too – we received awards for the Best Oral Argumentation on behalf of the Applicant and for the Runner-up Best Oralist.

After four demanding preliminary rounds in the beautiful and inspiring environment of the Peace Palace in The Hague, the excitement peaked at the reception where the two finalist teams were announced. The first wave of joy was the second overall place on the respondent side. It was then announced that we had won the first overall place on the applicant side, which meant that we would be competing in the grand final the next day. The following night was restless for the Dutch people, since it was Queen's Night; it was restless for us as well, preparing for the final round. Having had the great honour to plead in front of a panel of eminent judges, we finally conceded to University College London and finished second. Nonetheless, seven months of preparations for the competition and an in-depth study of specific fields of public international law provided us with a thorough knowledge of those fields, an excellent understanding of legal argumentation, a unique insight into international law in practice and a great experience of team work.

Vienna University

Winner Best Memorial on behalf of the Applicant and the Respondent (ex aequo), and Winner Runner-Up Best Oralist Award (ex aequo)

“Agent, considering your lack of English language skills, please continue your submissions in French.”

Not exactly the optimal bench response I was shooting for, while opening my first-ever public legal pleading in my native language. After spending one week intensively preparing for Telders’ tryouts, my mother tongue was intended to represent something of an ace up my sleeve, rather than material for a first-breath takedown. Fortunately, now that all is said and done, I can appreciate the virtue of instilling fear and terror in an agent. First of all, the induced trauma sparks a constant conversation in the agents’ mind between himself and an imaginary judge, substantially reducing the likelihood of mid-pleading petrification and second of all, it’s fun.

As we later found out, all four team members had experienced their try-out pleadings as a public-speaking Armageddon. All the greater surprised we were to learn of our admission and also the nicknames, which the judges had given us on their evaluation sheets, such as “awesome hairstyle guy” or “cocky young fellow”.

Equipped with such privileges as 24/7 access to University facilities, our own office including a computer and unlimited copying and printing resources, we set out to eradicate the rain forest single-handedly. Dozens and dozens of books, articles, judgments and reports were accumulated to towers of folders and paper, scanned for their legal merit, summarized into page-long arguments and then - deleted. However frustrating it was to spend entire weekends reading and writing, only to throw the fruits of our labor away, every time we did, we came closer to our goal: satisfactory memorials. The more we revised, the higher our expectations grew. The discrepancy between our first “final version” and the memorial actually submitted was astonishing. At first, we devised many “daring” arguments, squeezing in hundreds of sources, dozens of anticipative counter- or alternate claims, daring to get away with quotes torn from their context and disfigured beyond recognition. The closer we came to a final result, the more pride we took in what we were doing, though. Poetry was reduced to four-word sentences, cunning thought thrown away, our list of sources pillaged; entire claims fell victim to the red pen. What came out was a result that we were proud to present. If you follow the sources cited in our memorials, you are likely to find the relevant quote and, probably, we will not have stretched the content to its furthest literal sense, blurring the intention of the primary source and further contributing to the murk of public international law. The satisfaction of holding the crisp final copies of our memorials in hand was so exhilarating that some of us carried them around for days.

However, by the time we had arrived in the Hague and completed the less exacting but all the more enlightening oral preparation, we were almost ashamed of our written submissions, so great was the progress we had made meanwhile in our legal knowledge of the issue.

The competition itself might best be summarized in one word: overwhelming. After eight months of taking stabs in the dark and experiencing the agony of wishing for one argument, one page, one sentence of reference, here we stood in the Peace Palace, a pleading schedule and booklet filled with names and facts in hand, surrounded by our alter egos. The thrill of reading the memorials of others, the audacity of the Irish, the similarity of the British, the refreshing nature of the French but also hearing other teams plead was an unbelievably satisfying experience.

I remember lying in bed, literally too nervous to breathe, the evening before our first court session. Worrying about how the competition would play out, how we would perform and score, after exchanging worst-case scenarios for hours, we arrived at our final pre-competition conclusion. “The worst thing that can happen is, we don’t bring across what we know, don’t answer a question, or present an argument we’ve practiced a hundred times. Like in every competition, evaluation is subjective and not immune to error. If we go out there tomorrow, rock and still place last, we will still always be proud of what we achieved.” Ironically, that’s essentially what happened to our Respondents the next day. After performing our pleadings and listening to recordings thereof on constant loop, we had no regrets and all felt a true sense of achievement, satisfaction and, being at a competition, victory.

Applicants missing the final by one point, Respondents orally ranking second-to last, was disappointing. Even though we had vowed to be satisfied with a good performance, we couldn’t help feeling unrewarded for our labor, especially considering the confidence we had felt.

Compensation was abundant and quick. Receiving the award for best-written submissions on both sides, we experienced the uplifting sensation of recognition for our work. Feeling that this represented the more comprehensive and scientific aspect of the competition, we were honored, thankful and proud to receive such a distinction. Walking up to the podium under the auspices of the Peace Palace and the applause of our peers from across Europe, while receiving approving nods from the judges we had so wished to plead before and quoted in our submissions, noticing the smile of the drafter of the case at the same time, is a memory that will not quickly be forgotten. Equally, the Runner-Up best speaker award was a welcome recognition of the oral preparation of our entire team received by one in the name of all, considering that we had all largely been through the same preparation. Receiving advice and kudos, as well as discussing the case and our presentation with the competition judges on eye level was particularly exceptional.

It was not until we arrived at home, though, that we understood the perceived value of what we had achieved. Every public surface on every floor of our University building was decorated with a picture of our team, boasting our success. Several newspapers, including those read by nearly all working in the legal field, told of the awards we had won. We were congratulated by the most distinguished professors of our faculty, where several of our team now hold a position. The law office I am employed by has internally published our story, my work colleagues seem to have adopted a completely new attitude, since.

Books could be filled with lessons we took home from Telders. I’d like to mention two: Firstly, the field of public international law is not the domain of demi-gods in a distant glass palace, but composed of and run by people like you and me and most importantly, it’s reachable for everyone with a true interest. Secondly, the most relevant of benefits we took from Telders, did not stem from rankings or awards, but the intangible credentials acquired in the process. The experience, knowledge and applied skills, not the honors, will make the difference in our future careers. Meanwhile, I cherish the tangible prize, my now-well-thumbed personal copy of “Competition and Regulation in Shipping and Shipping Related Industries”.

Ms. Emma Synnott, The Honourable Society of King's Inns
Winner of the Best Oralist Award (ex aequo)

Participating in Telders 2011 was an incredible experience, although the journey to the Hague was far from easy. We were only in our second year of legal education and had never studied international law; our college does not even offer an international law course. Naively, we assumed it would be broadly similar to national law, if perhaps on a larger scale. It was only after I had bullied Nikki, Mark, and Jordan into trying out for the team that we realised just how much work we had signed up for! However, after a tough national round, an emergency appendectomy, and a broken ankle, we finally made it to the Hague.

While Mark and I were delighted to be named joint Best Oralists, our submissions truly were a team effort. Throughout the preparation for the competition the team worked together closely. We had four very different speaking styles, and each of us learnt something from the others. Mark and I would never have won this award without Nikki and Jordan.

Most important to our success, however, was the work put in by our coach, Paula McCarthy. From the moment our memorials were written, she had us practising two or three times a week, always in front of barristers. She improved our advocacy skills immeasurably, and all four of us are stronger and more confident speakers because of her efforts. For students aspiring to practise at the bar, this was invaluable experience.

Being a part of the Telders team has been the most rewarding aspect of my legal education to date. There is no doubt but that the time we spent in the Hague made all of the hard work worthwhile. I would like to thank the other competitors, the judges, the Telders Organising Office, and Leiden University for an unforgettable experience.

Mr. Mark Harten, The Honourable Society of King's Inns
Winner of the Best Oralist Award (ex aequo)

Telders 2011 was, undoubtedly, one of the most enjoyable and memorable experiences I have had as a law student. Initially, the idea of competing in an international law moot court competition, without ever having studied international law, was an intimidating one – but with some encouragement from my fellow Best Oralist, Emma Synnott, any reservations I may have had were overcome, and I tried out for the team. Having been selected, our team of four got to work right away, along with our coach, Paula McCarthy. Little did we realise back then what a remarkable journey we had ahead of us!

To win the prestigious Best Oralist award was a great honour, but it would not have been possible without the help and support of my co-agent for Larmastan, Nikki Saarsteiner, as well as our teammates, Emma Synnott and Jordan Fletcher. It was at our first team meeting, back in November 2010, that we decided which countries we would represent, and what issues we would each address. As it turned out, Emma and I ended up going head to head over the FALD terrorist campaign, the Security Council Resolution, and Marosland's completely unfounded view that the FALD suspects would be tortured if extradited to Larmastan.

Emma, needless to say, was a formidable opponent and it was a learning experience mooting the issues against her every week. No two moots ever went the same way, and as time went on our oral submissions became ever more creative and, we hoped, watertight; however,

almost invariably, a new judge would come along and throw some inventive questions at us, which would require some further lateral thinking.

The weekly advocacy practice truly was invaluable, especially for someone aspiring to a career at the Bar. In this context, I must pay tribute to our excellent coach, Paula McCarthy, whose no-nonsense attitude and relentless constructive criticism, played a massive part in polishing off the team's advocacy skills. The fact that two members of our team received the Best Oralist award is testament to her success.

Our journey to Peace Palace was not all plain sailing, however. Five days before our national final, Emma fell ill with appendicitis. This was a huge blow to the team. Since I knew Emma's arguments almost as well as she did – I'd responded to them often enough – I had to take her place in the national final. That was a confusing day for me: in the morning, on behalf of Marosland, I found myself submitting that the FALD suspects would be tortured if extradited to Larmastan, and that the Security Council resolution was invalid; only to have to refute all of that, on behalf of Larmastan, in the afternoon! I was relieved to have done Emma's submissions justice, and we were all ecstatic to hear, when the results were announced, that we were going to The Hague!

Looking back, one of the most enduring aspects of the Telders experience for me is the friendship I formed with my teammates: Nikki, Jordan, and Emma – it was working alongside them that really made the experience so enjoyable and worthwhile. When we were together as a team there was always an abundance of witty banter, and I'm sure all of us will long remember the heated, and often hilarious, exchanges between Nikki and Jordan over the pollution of the River Umarghela!

Meeting other international law enthusiasts at the Peace Palace, and having the opportunity to compete against them, represented for us the culmination of this unforgettable competition. The excellent organisation of the event, the wonderful venue, and the many friendly judges and organisers who we met, all contributed to making Telders 2011 an outstanding success.

Ms. Leonie Timmers, Leiden University
Winner of the Runner-Up Best Oralist Award (ex aequo)

Recipe for 'runner-up best oralist'

Instead of writing a long and emotional story about how I came to win the runner-up best oralist prize, I will keep it short and write down the recipe so you can do it yourself:

Ingredients:

- 10 litres of sweat – this can be obtained from the hours of hard work till late at night and with few to no weekends off;
- 5 kilos of fun – this means seeing team-members and coaches as friends instead of colleagues or worse: enemies;
- 8 kilos of endorsement – this could be given by family members, coaches, co-coaches or, if you want, pets;
- 7 kilos of “umm”-counting – this was done by one of the co-coaches who would quarrel with the person that said the most “umm”s;
- 10 litres of patience – I still do not know how it can be obtained but it will help you in the process as you will have to change your pleading after every practice session;
- 5 kilos of video-material – inspiration for pleadings can be acquired from watching professionals/actors plead in tv-series and films;
- A slice of banana bread – if you are lucky enough to get a co-coach who likes baking it;

- 700 grams of facts and 300 grams of law – you might vary a bit in accordance with taste, some (our coach – with a legal practice background) would add more facts, others (our professors – with an academic background) would add more law;
- 1 bus ticket – this bus-ticket can be used to take you to the ICJ or, if you live too far away from that, to the nearest local court to listen to ‘real’ lawyers and copy some of their phrases (in the ICJ they have teams working on their pleadings for years so their choice of words is often original and captivating);
- A large portion of humbleness – it helps not to become arrogant and to believe that there will always be people that will plead better than you do, because this is not only the truth but it also helps you to keep improving.

This recipe, like any other, might be improved by adding other ingredients. Any suggestions are welcome!

Lomonosov Moscow State University
Winner of the Outstanding Team Award

The more I learn, the more I learn how little I know
Socrates

Being aware of the fact that the longer article is, the less chance to be read it has, I will try to be brief and to summarize the essence of what feels like My Telders Great Experience.

Now, when Telders Competition feels so far away that one can almost doubt whether every single thing happened to us in three warm April days was not just a strange but great dream, now, now I can feel anything but calm when I think about it.

We came with no expectations or high hopes, being happy just to have an opportunity to take part in Telders Competition and represent our university in Hague. Score you gain somewhere is totally mind-over matter: if you do not mind, it does not matter. I remember everything just if it happened a few days ago. When we got on plane, my co-agent and friend, Elena, said, smiling: “Can you believe it?! We are really going to Hague!” The truth is I could not believe it. Both of us could not. We still can’t. It felt as exiting as going to Disneyland. (However, Hague may be considered as Disneyland for international law students). Even the mere idea that we are going to bring up issues connected with international law within the walls of Peace Palace was completely astounding. But what we found there was above any hopes we could have had. First, we gained the great experience. Second, we found goals for ourselves worth working hard for. Third, we made a lot of mistakes, what is the only way possible to become something better than we were. Forth... oh, isn’t it already convincingly a lot?

The Competition is a life-changing experience. Not worse that a car accident in that sense, I dare say. It does not matter how well one is prepared to face it. There is no a single chance that anyone will get out of this being the same person. It is a life-changing experience for every law student from any country. I would even like to think that it is a great chance to grow up rather not as a lawyer but as an individual human being. For me, Telders was the locomotive of a personal growth at the first place. And everything that makes people think broader than before, anything that forces us to reconsider our values worth doing.

What is the best thing about Telders Moot? It does not really matter what exactly may affect you: the blue color of judge’s hair or powerfulness of opponent’s argument, you can be sure that no one will remain untouched!

Ghent University
Winner of the Students for Students Award

To the best of your abilities.

Mister President, Honorable members of the Court, may it please the Court... I suppose those words will randomly cross my mind many, many more times. They certainly were the words we all woke up to, that particular Wednesday morning. A good morning to Ghent, a good morning to my Telders-colleagues at St. Pieter's central station and a particularly good morning to Patrick's suitcase, which was large enough to fit a typing dwarf of some sorts... Riding that cramped train for close to three hours, I couldn't help but wonder about our competitors, coming in from every corner of Europe. Were they still traveling, as we were, or had The Hague already embraced them, warmly, as it would us? Had they already sought refuge in one of its many hotels, café's or parks?

We had come without the burden of expectations. A first time competitor, we moved in a vacuum of prospect, in awe of the spectacular Peace Palace as well as of some of the most curious looking birds, which controlled the perimeters, unaware that they would soon be renamed "birds of Justice". Walking across the stretched lawns, the word "otherworldly" would randomly come to mind.

The days would pass in a haze of excitement and adrenaline. Clear moments of absolute gut-wrenching nerves before each plea, as one fully realized that this was the epitome of seven months of hard labor. That one moment before the President calls your name when the nerves hit you like a ton of bricks, was simultaneously exhilarating and paralyzing. One has little other choice than to get up, I suppose, and plea to the very best of one's abilities. We had passed the point of no return many weeks ago. Blood, sweat and tears had been poured into the surprisingly neat folder that would lay so very still as you stood before the judges, blown away by the absolute validity of your own arguments. Never had any one of us been so convincing, or so very convinced of our own argumentation. In those twenty somewhat minutes, in our own mind, our argumentation seemed bulletproof (even as it was being punctured repeatedly by a blue-haired Kalashnikov). We had never stood so tall or been so panic-stricken fearless. And then, before one had the time to even fully grasp that which was so intangible, a bored-looking timekeeper would lazily lift that little red plaque and call us back to reality.

Our moment of truth would come in Leiden city hall on Friday night, as Leiden's mayor would announce the top ten ranking. Allow me to remind you that the Belgian team was a first time competitor and was hoping, intensely, to simply make the top ten. As the man on the platform – a million miles away - called tenth and ninth place, my co-agents grip on my hand became slightly firmer. "Eight place, applicant, B... ulgaria!" Looks of quiet disappointment and some shrugging of shoulders were exchanged between us as we silently accepted that we simply had not made the top ten. As the numbers went down, the reality that Belgium would not be called grew more and more dense. We all knew that one particular end result had never been our main focus, that the journey had taught us, prepared us and changed us for the better. Nevertheless, I couldn't help but feel the cold grip of disappointment, until... "Fourth place, applicant, Belgium!" A primal scream escaped me. "Fourth place, respondent, Belgium!" Tears were welling up. Never had joy been so tangible. A victorious team embrace was instant. It must have been quite a site to see, as this small group of fully grown men and women stood in the middle of the majestic Leiden city hall, jumping, screaming, and high fiving one and other and nearly crying, completely unaware of the some one hundred and fifty spectators surrounding them. I'm afraid I cannot convey to you in words, the sense of absolute fulfillment and joy that installed itself in us at that moment.

In the final team ranking, which was announced after the finals the next day, we were fortunate enough to in fact climb to a shared third place with Estonia and even receive the “Students for students-award”, which I suppose is a prerogative for those who arrive without expectations and thus without an overly competitive spirit. We were keen to prove our reputation that very night, as we ventured out, ready to celebrate. Many hours later, as the sun steadily rose over The Hague, that particular Sunday the first of May, 2011, in a haze of alcohol and ecstasy (not XTC, mind you), I quietly said my farewells to the city that had treated us with such kindness. Even though it was not so much a ‘farewell’ as it was a ‘tot weerziens’.

It may be a cliché, but it is therefore not less true: describing our Moot Court experience is almost impossible. It is probably the most intense experience we have had during studies at our university. Challenging, exhausting, ultimately rewarding... all of these apply to our experience. The first time we read the case on the Umarghela River, we thought, somewhat naive perhaps: “We can handle this”. Well... that just gets us laughing now.

Early in October, we started immersing ourselves in the treaties, the endless literature, and the jurisprudence concerning international watercourses - and we discovered (some of?) the double layers, traps, massive amount of possible interpretations of words, etc. To say that we were astonished is not doing the experience any justice. But it is also the moment we had discovered the real challenge: the little spark of interest we had experienced in the beginning became a blazing Moot Court fire. It wasn't long before we spent every free moment in the University's library, unravelling how that specific treaty clause could be interpreted in the way most favourable for your case/cause. There was internal competition between the applicant and respondent, naturally, but at the same time close and intense cooperation: we would become so proud when we had found the ultimate argument that would crush any opposition that we usually just could not wait telling each other about it. Only to find, a couple of days later, that the ultimate argument had been overturned again.

The closer the deadline for the submission of the memorials came, the more intense our cooperation became. Hours of discussions, re-reading and re-writing took place, right up to the final marathon before the deadline, which basically ended with printing the memorials, drinking a glass of beer together and going straight to bed for the next 48 hours. What we didn't know at that point was that the toughest part had yet to come...

The preparation towards the oral rounds of the Moot Court competition was twofold. On the one hand we had to practice our pleading skills, on the other hand we had to keep deepening our knowledge and our argumentation. Week-in, week-out we tried to verify our earlier statements and also created new arguments. At the same time, we got together to practice and perfect our pleadings, and also to learn to answer to questions of the judges. We were surprised at how fast our performances improved, but at the same time the deadline for The Hague kept on creeping closer...

Another very exciting moment occurred when we received the memorials of the teams we would meet in The Hague. We'd read and re-read them, honestly hoping that they had not found that ultimate argument or that one author we had overlooked, a twist we had never heard of or considered... and we examined the memorials into very detail. Luckily there were no big surprises, which gave us a real boost: we were on the right track, or at least: if we were wrong at least we wouldn't be alone!

From that moment on (begin of April) our lives were completely Moot Court orientated. We met on the most incredible hours for long -very long- pleading sessions, in which we were cross-examined about the case and our argumentation. Stepping on the train to The Hague we knew that we had done what we could, that we were as much prepared as possible and that we would just “go for it”. The oral rounds were enlightening: we were rewarded for our work

(and pains). Addressing the judges' questions went quiet well, and our competitors were challenging without blowing us away. Outside of the actual competition the atmosphere was really gentle and pleasant, which was great after the stress of the two pleading rounds every day. A final surprise came with the results: we had conquered the 4th place both at the applicant and the respondent side, which meant an overall 3rd place! And to top it all, we received an award at the final ceremony.

We are all extremely happy to have taken part in the Telders Moot Court Competition 2011. We have learned a lot, not only about Public International Law, but about ourselves, our capabilities and our future dreams.

Mr. Nobuo Hayashi
Winner of the Best Judge Award

On 30 April 2011, the 34th season of the Telders International Law Moot Court Competition came to a successful close. The event concluded with a gripping final round where oralists for University College London and Leiden University pled before Judges Koroma, Yusuf and Broms. It followed two intensive days of semi-final rounds involving 26 European teams. It was my privilege to have taken part as a semi-final judge.

The 2010-2011 Telders case featured a complex web of timeless and contemporary international law issues. They included, inter alia, intertemporality, state succession, ICJ jurisdiction, hierarchy and conflict of norms, international watercourses management and transboundary pollution. Participants spent anywhere from seven to nine ceaseless months reading, writing, arguing and having dreams about these issues. Some immersed themselves into the case so utterly they would profess genuine sympathy for their admittedly fictitious clients. Through such immersion the positions defended would grow more urgent for them and the legal issues involved closer to their heart than through lectures, textbooks and exams. Indeed, for most students Telders marks the highlight of their legal studies. Names such as Umarghela, Lulabeki and Filumarga will evoke fond memories for years to come.

Telders, like other moots, is first and foremost an educational tool. Rather than faithfully simulating real-life ICJ proceedings, the competition offers students an opportunity to acquire and refine skills in advocacy as well as in analysing the law, applying relevant rules to stipulated facts and reasoning logically. Many Telders judges are steeped in adversarial litigation and inclined to "turn up the heat" on the bench by testing the oralists somewhat vigorously. English is the sole official language in which all written and oral arguments take place. Understandably, some participants were left feeling several degrees removed from the continental style to which they were accustomed. Yet they all rose to the challenge. They interacted astutely with the sometimes prying judges by setting their scripts aside, arguing creatively and adjusting the structure of their pleadings according to the flow.

Perhaps not all of this year's competitors will pursue careers in public international law. Nevertheless, Telders has equipped them intellectually with the now-hardened habit of independent and critical thinking. This methodological foundation should accompany them and keep them in good stead whatever their chosen fields of specialisation might be.

Telders is much more than just a competition, however. Nor is it merely a vehicle for academic and professional development. It is rather a milieu where personalities, generations and cultures from across Europe and beyond meet and enrich one another every year. It is synonymous with personal growth, broadened horizons and lasting friendships. Everyone involved shares in the enthusiasm and momentousness of the occasion held at the historic Peace Palace.

My heartfelt congratulations go to all the competitors on their brilliant performance. They have also experienced an enduring sense of camaraderie. Coaches should be proud of what their students have accomplished. As before, this year's semi-final and final judges brought tremendous credibility and prestige to the event. The same is true of members of the Best Oralist Jury and the International Board of Review. It was an honour to be associated with such illustrious and dedicated groups of individuals. Last but not least, staff and volunteers of the Telders Organizing Office are gratefully acknowledged for their wondrous efforts.

AWARDS

The teams and individual students competing in the Competition may win several awards. The teams advancing to the Finals are those with the highest total score - the score for the memorials and for the pleadings - for the Applicant State, on the one hand, and for the Respondent State, on the other hand. The winning team takes the Telders Trophy back home. *The President of the Final Bench, H.E. Judge Koroma, presented the Telders Trophy to the winning team of the Final Round of the Telders Competition 2011.*

The Embassy of Switzerland in The Hague sponsors the Max Huber Award for the Highest Overall Score. The highest overall score is awarded to the team who has the highest score of both the Applicant and Respondent sides.

The Max Huber Award 2011 was presented by Mr. Robert K. Steiner, representative of the Embassy of Switzerland in The Hague.

The Carnegie Foundation Awards are presented to the teams which have written the Best Memorial for the Applicant and the Best Memorial for the Respondent.

Mr. Otto Spijkers, Head reading room & principal service librarian of the Peace Palace Library, presented both the Carnegie Foundation Awards.

The Awards for the Best Oral Argumentation on behalf of the Applicant and on behalf of the Respondent are presented by the Case Author.

Dr. Annemarieke Vermeer-Künzli wrote the Telders Case 2011: The Case of the Umarghela River.

One student is named the Best Oralist, an award for the best presentation of the oral pleadings. The Jury of the Best Oralist also nominates a runner-up.

Both Best Oralist Awards were presented by the president of the Jury, Mr. Sean Fraser.

The Leiden Journal of International Law awards the Outstanding Team Award to the team which has made an exceptional effort in team work and sportsmanship.

The Outstanding Team Award 2011 was presented by the Managing Editor of LJIL, Ms. Christine Tremblay.

The Students for Students Award is presented by the President of the Telders Society of International Law. This Award was initiated by the cooperation between the Telders Organizing Office and the Telders Society and awarded the first time in 2006.

This year, the Student for Students Award was presented by Mr. Dolf Grasveld, former President of the Telders Society of International Law.

The Best Judge Award was spontaneously created by students in 2003 to the best Judge of the Semi-Finals.

The Best Judge Award 2011 was presented by a representative from Ghent University, which competed for the first time in the Telders Competition.

AWARDS AND WINNERS OF THE TELDERS COMPETITION 2011

WINNER OF THE FINAL ROUND
University College London

FINALIST TEAM
Leiden University

THE MAX HUBER AWARD FOR BEST OVERALL SCORE
University College London

THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION AWARD FOR BEST MEMORIAL FOR THE APPLICANT
Vienna University

THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION AWARD FOR BEST MEMORIAL FOR THE RESPONDENT
Vienna University & Leiden University (ex aequo)

THE AWARD FOR THE BEST ORAL ARGUMENTATION FOR THE APPLICANT
Leiden University

THE AWARD FOR THE BEST ORAL ARGUMENTATION FOR THE RESPONDENT
University College London

THE BEST ORALIST AWARD (*ex aequo*)
Ms. Emma Synnott and Mr. Mark Harten, The Honourable Society of King's Inns

THE RUNNER-UP BEST ORALIST AWARD (*ex aequo*)
Mr. Michael J. Moffatt, Vienna University and Ms. Leonie Timmers, Leiden University

BEST JUDGE AWARD
Mr. Nobuo Hayashi

LJIL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING TEAM EFFORT
Lomonosov Moscow State University

TELDERS SOCIETY STUDENTS FOR STUDENTS AWARD
Ghent University

FINAL RESULTS 2011

Final Scores A

Final Scores B

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>TOTAL SCORE A</u> <u>(Memorial +Oral)</u>	<u>RANKING A</u> <u>(M+O)</u>	<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>TOTAL SCORE B</u> <u>(Memorial +Ora</u>	<u>RANKING B</u> <u>(M+O)</u>
France	258	8	France	246.5	11
Georgia	233	21	Georgia	218	22
Germany	255.75	10	Germany	256	7
Greece	234.5	19	Greece	237	17
Ireland	253.5	11	Ireland	260.5	4
Norway	257.5	9	Norway	230	19
Poland	252	13	Poland	256	7
Romania	239.5	17	Romania	244	15
Serbia	253.5	11	Serbia	246	13
NL- Leiden	274	1	NL- Leiden	271	2
Switzerland	261	7	Switzerland	246.5	11
NL-HSS	243.5	16	NL-HSS	250.5	9
Ukraine	239	18	Ukraine	233.5	18
Sweden	247.5	15	Sweden	259.5	6
Finland	249.5	14	Finland	245.5	14
Estonia	263	5	Estonia	262	3
Belgium	264.5	4	Belgium	260.5	4
Bulgaria	261.5	6	Bulgaria	230	19
England	271.25	3	England	275.5	1
Portugal	231	22	Portugal	242.75	16
Austria	273	2	Austria	250	10
Russia	234	20	Russia	226.5	21

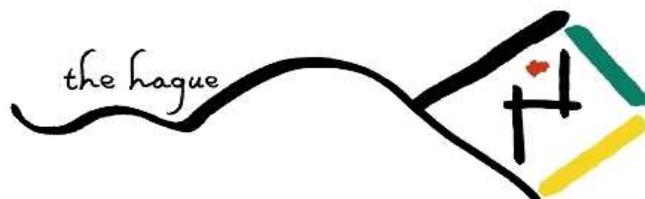
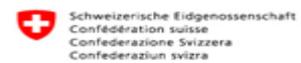
FINAL RESULTS 2011

Final Scores A+B

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>TOTAL SCORE A</u> <u>(Memorial +Oral)</u>	<u>TOTAL SCORE B</u> <u>(Memorial +Oral)</u>	<u>TOTAL OVERALL</u> <u>SCORE A+ B (M+O)</u>	<u>OVERALL RANKING</u>
England	271.25	275.5	546.75	1
NL - Leiden	274	271	545	2
Estonia	263	262	525	3
Belgium	264.5	260.5	525	3
Austria	273	250	523	4
Ireland	253.5	260.5	514	5
Germany	253.75	256	509.75	6
Poland	252	256	508	7
Switzerland	261	246.5	507.5	8
Sweden	247.5	259.5	507	9
France	258	246.5	504.5	10
Serbia	253.5	246	499.5	11
Finland	249.5	245.5	495	12
NL-HSS	243.5	250.5	494	13
Bulgaria	261.5	230	491.5	14
Norway	257.5	230	487.5	15
Romania	239.5	244	483.5	16
Ukraine	239	235.5	474.5	17
Portugal	231	242.75	473.75	18
Greece	234.5	237	471.5	19
Russia	234	226.5	460.5	20
Georgia	233	218	451	21

Acknowledgements

The 34th Edition of the Telders International Law Moot Court Competition would not have been possible without the kind support and assistance of the following sponsors:



Van Vollenhoven Foundation

Prof. Dra Maria del Angel Iglesias (Private Sponsor)