

2004 Jessup Moot Court Competition Report

This year's team consisted of Erin Buell, Justin Hoffman, Elina Kreditor, and Sarah Plotkin.

The Philip C. Jessup Competition is organized by the International Law Student's Organization. This past year Shearman & Sterling sponsored the competition and hosted the regional rounds in their midtown office. The 2004 Jessup problem focused on the application of select provisions of the Rome Statute in a hypothetical dispute between two states. The briefs and oral arguments focused on the following issues: the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court over states not party to the Rome Statute; the effect of Security Council Resolutions on the jurisdiction of the ICC; the applicability of the complementarity provisions of the Rome Statute to truth and reconciliation commissions; the relevance of the territorial effects doctrine for the Rome Statute; the non retroactivity provisions of the Rome Statute; and the scope of crimes included in the Rome Statute.

The NYU team received the award for second best brief and advanced to the final round of the competition. Justin Hoffman and Elina Kreditor were named 4th and 10th respectively in the individual oral advocate ranking. Although in the final round the Columbia Law team prevailed, Justin Hoffman was once again distinguished for his oral advocacy skills and named best oralist in the final round.

In preparing for the competition the NYU team conducted numerous moot arguments where members of the moot court board, the faculty, and LLMS sat as judges and provided invaluable substantive and stylistic comments. Many of the LLMS had specific expertise in international law and had been Jessup competitors earlier in their careers. Their advice and insight into the competition was especially helpful.