

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW**  
*PART 1 OF VIS INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION MOOT (LAW 127)*

**INSTRUCTORS:**

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Note: Law 391 (Intro to Commercial Arbitration) is a prerequisite to Law 127.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

The Willem C. Vis Moot Arbitration Competition offers students the opportunity to research and analyze procedural arbitration issues and substantive law questions subject to the Convention on the International Sale of Goods. Students will prepare written memorials/briefs arguing on behalf of the Claimant and Respondent in a mock arbitration based on a cross border sale (or more typically a failed sale) of goods. The Vis competition is held in Vienna, Austria every year and the GMU travel team (if the competition proceeds in person) will travel first to a Pre-moot in Budapest, Hungary and then to Vienna to argue in four general rounds before a tribunal of three arbitrators. The Vis provides a learning, networking and socializing opportunity that has opened doors for students and been universally described as the best experience in their law school history.

George Mason University has participated in the Vis Moot since 2012 and has reached the finals three times and competed through the round of 16 twice and the round of 32 once. In 2019, the last in-person Vis, 354 teams from 81 jurisdictions around the world competed in Vienna. The competition is fierce and the experience cannot be matched.

**SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS**

**1. October 13, 2022:**

*Recent Developments*

**Readings:**

- To be provided

**Written Assignment**

- Discuss Vis Problem

**2. October 20, 2022:**

- Discuss Vis problem

**3. October 27, 2022:**

- **Vis Memorial**
- Vis students prepare preliminary outline of issues raised by the Vis Problem and Requests for Clarification due October 29, 2021

**4. November 3, 2022:**

- **Research Vis Memorial**

**5. November 10, 2022**

- **Research and draft Vis Memorial**

**6. November 17, 2022**

- **Prepare Vis Memorial**

**October 28, 2022: Deadline for Requests for Clarification of Problem**

**Closing Date for Submission of Registration Form November 24, 2022**

**Claimant's Memorial due for submission December 8, 2022**

**Payment of Registration Fee due January 13, 2023**

**Memorandum for Respondent due January 26, 2023**

**Official Vis Moot Opening Ceremony March 31, 2023**

**General Rounds of Argument April 1-4, 2023**

**Elimination Rounds of Argument April 4-6, 2023**

**Awards Ceremony April 6, 2023**

**GRADING**

Fall Semester: Informed class participation will constitute 25% of the grade; and Effective participation in preparation of Claimant's Memorial will constitute 75% of the grade.

Spring Semester: Informed class participation will constitute 20% of the grade; Effective participation of the Respondent's Memorial will constitute 40% of the grade; Preparation and quality of oral arguments in intramural competitions and selection competition will constitute 40% of the grade.

Law 127 is a highly competitive course. It should be assumed that class attendance and participation in the preparation of the Memorial alone will not justify a high grade. The instructors will evaluate the quality of the participation.

## **BOOKS**

**Kluwer Law International, “Comparative International Commercial Arbitration.” Readings will be made available to students electronically prior to the first day of class.**