

INTERNATIONAL LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION



EXECUTIVE OFFICE

October 22, 2008

Dear Jessup Team Advisors,

Greetings and warm regards from the International Law Students Association. My name is Ashley Walker. I recently joined the ILSA Executive Office as the Jessup Competition Coordinator. As a former competitor, I am extremely privileged to continue my involvement with this extraordinary Program as an ILSA staff member. As my first order of business, I am contacting all U.S. Team Advisors to explain the new U.S. Super Regional competition format that was implemented last year, and to make myself available to answer any questions you may have.

In May 2007, the ILSA Board of Directors approved a plan to restructure the U.S. qualifying rounds of the Jessup Competition by consolidating from twelve regions (12-14 schools per region) to six regions (24-28 schools per region). Because the new regions are double the size of the old regions, we have designated the new qualifying competitions as "Super Regionals." Both the winning team and the second-place team at each Super Regional will advance to the International Rounds of the Competition in Washington, D.C.

The reasons for this transition are very straight-forward. Under the old format, regional competitions were held at different host institutions in different cities each year. This model proved incredibly inefficient since it relied upon participating schools to host on a rotating basis, and required ILSA to secure twelve new hosts and train twelve new administrators every year. With venues changing from year to year, there was little administrative continuity and no opportunity to create a strong base of judges and volunteer staff. By consolidating the regions and establishing fixed venues in key cities, the hope is that the new model will cure these inefficiencies and help make each regional competition a premier local event for the international legal community.

The ILSA Executive Office understands that the quality of the U.S. Super Regionals is extremely important. This is especially true given that only a handful of teams advance past the qualifying competitions to the International Rounds each year. We believe this new format will improve the competition experience at the qualifying level by drawing top-notch international legal experts to judge at larger competitions in major U.S. cities. With more teams and more judges at each competition, students will have greater exposure to their counterparts at other institutions and more opportunities to network with legal professionals. The Super Regionals will also offer a sense of ceremony – no longer reserved just for the International Rounds – with welcome receptions, evening events, and awards celebrations supplementing the rigorous oral rounds.

We recognize that two of the qualifying competitions experienced difficulties last year, and appreciate your patience during this transition as we work to ensure that all Super Regionals run smoothly. I have had the personal privilege of competing under both the old format and the new Super Regional structure, and can attest that the level of competition and judges I encountered at the Midwest Super Regional are great tributes to the revised competition format. Now that our transitional year is behind us, and many changes have been implemented to perfect this new model, I am committed to making sure that each U.S. Super Regional is just as successful. I welcome your comments and questions, and will do my best to incorporate your ideas as we move forward with the 2009 U.S. Super Regionals and the 50th Anniversary of the Jessup Competition.

All the very best,

Ashley Walker

Jessup Competition Coordinator

Amity R. Boye

Executive Director