Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure to once again invite you to participate in the law school’s Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition, which will take place on May 19-24, 2013 at American University Washington College of Law in Washington, DC. As the world’s only trilingual moot court competition on the Inter-American system, this Competition creates extraordinary opportunities for law students from across the globe to gain expertise in the Inter-American human rights legal system. Participants engage in research, write legal briefs based on a hypothetical case, and present oral arguments before attorneys and leading figures in the human rights field. Coaches assist teams with registration, fundraising, and obtaining official approval for their team’s participation, as well as developing research strategies.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

COMPETITOR
Current law students studying for a Juris Doctor (J.D.) or its international equivalent are eligible to participate in two-person teams representing their schools through written and oral arguments.

COACH
Each team may have one or two coaches, usually international law professors or attorneys with expertise in the field. Coaches assist teams with registration, fundraising, and obtaining official approval for their team’s participation, as well as developing research strategies.

OBSERVER
Deans, professors, and others affiliated with legal education or human rights law may attend as observers to learn about the Competition model, the Inter-American legal system, and issues surrounding the theme of that year. Observers may attend all Competition events, but do not present arguments.

JUDGE
Lawyers from various countries who have ample experience in international law and/or human rights contribute to the competition as volunteer judges. They participate by grading written memorials from their home city, or by traveling to Washington, DC to evaluate the Competition’s oral rounds.

BAILIFF
Anyone interested in receiving a front-row seat to the Competition’s oral rounds is invited to volunteer as a bailiff. Bailiffs are responsible for keeping time and order during the 90 minute oral rounds.

COMPETITION PARTICIPANT ASSOCIATION
All former participants are invited to join the Participant Association. By doing so, they can connect with the distinct network of Competition alumni from around the world, learn how to coordinate relevant events at their respective universities, and share ideas on how to improve the Competition with moot court coordinators. For more information, please visit the Competition Web site.

For more information and to register: www.wcl.american.edu/mcourt

IMPORTANT DATES

NOVEMBER 1, 2012
- Online Registration Opens
- Official Registration Opens

JANUARY 25, 2013
- Clarification Questions About Hypothetical Case Due
- Competition Model Due

FEBRUARY 22, 2013
- Answers to Clarification Questions Available Online

MARCH 18, 2013
- Team Registration Deadline

MARCH 25, 2013
- Team Memorial Deadline

APRIL 15, 2013
- Bailiff Registration Deadline

APRIL 19, 2013
- Observer Registration Deadline

MAY 6, 2013
- Judge Registration Deadline

MAY 19, 2013
- Competition Check-in and Opening Ceremony (Mandatory Attendance for Teams)

MAY 19-24, 2013
- Oral Rounds at Washington College of Law

GENERAL INFORMATION

LANGUAGES
The Competition is conducted in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. Participants need not be bilingual. Simultaneous interpretation is available during the oral rounds.

U.S. VISA
It is important to contact your local U.S. Consulate and apply for a tourist visa as soon as possible. It may take up to several months to schedule a visa interview. Each visa applicant must provide all personal information to the Consulate in accordance with U.S. regulations.

REGISTRATION
Teams, observers, bailiffs and judges should register online. Team registration fees are $450 (for two competitors and one coach), or $600 (for two competitors and two coaches). Observers pay $200 to attend all Competition events. Judges and bailiffs do not pay a registration fee.

HOUSING
All participants may stay at the American University dormitories during the Competition at a lower cost than local hotels. Exact costs will be determined in February 2013 and posted on the Competition’s Web site.

COSTS
The cost for each participant to attend the Competition for seven days and six nights is approximately $700. This estimate includes food, local transportation, and university accommodation, but does not account for registration fees or transportation to and from Washington, DC.

THEME
The theme for the 2013 Competition will be Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex (LGBTI) Rights. The hypothetical case addressing this theme will be available on the Competition Web site December 10, 2012.

The Academy was created to promote human rights, strengthen the links between human rights organizations, practitioners and educators worldwide, and address the need for a specialized, scholarly legal approach to human rights law. The advancement of human rights can be achieved by establishing human rights training programs and by offering human rights students, scholars, and practitioners the opportunity to study international human rights systems and laws together in an academic setting. The Academy accomplishes these tasks through its Program of Advanced Studies on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, the Competition, the Human Rights Essay Award, its partnership programs, and scholarship endeavors. Find out more at www.wcl.american.edu/hracademy.