

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON COLLEGE of LAW
STEPHEN S. WEINSTEIN
COURTROOM

30th

ANNIVERSARY

Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition

CONCURSO INTERAMERICANO DE DERECHOS HUMANOS
COMPETIÇÃO DE JULGAMENTO SIMULADO DO SISTEMA INTERAMERICANO DE DIREITOS
HUMANOS

30th Annual Competition

2025



ACADEMY ON HUMAN RIGHTS
& HUMANITARIAN LAW



CIDH
Comisión Interamericana
de Derechos Humanos

Message from the Dean

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to invite you to participate in the 30th Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition on May 18-24, 2025. Since its inception in 1995, the Competition has brought thousands of students, legal practitioners, and human rights advocates from the Americas and beyond to debate the most pressing human rights issues of our time. We are excited to recognize the thirtieth Anniversary of this impactful competition!

Through the integration of technology-enhanced courtrooms and the work of the Academy for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law's dedicated faculty and staff, the Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition offers a high-quality educational experience in furtherance of justice in multiple national and international settings.



I sincerely hope you will take part in this year's Competition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heather Hughes', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Heather Hughes
Interim Dean
American University
Washington College of Law

Message from the Co-Chairs and Co-Directors



We are excited to celebrate the 30th Annual Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition (IAMOOT), which this year focuses on **“Human Trafficking and Human Rights”**. This edition marks **the 30th anniversary of the Competition**. For three decades, we have engaged students and human rights professionals in crucial discussions about the legal system of the Inter-American human rights system. This anniversary honors the legacy of thousands of students trained in the promotion and defense of human rights while emphasizing our commitment to expanding this initiative to a broader audience, including those beyond the Americas, and with that, promoting human rights education over the Inter-American System globally.

For this year’s topic, we are honored to have partnered with the Assistant Executive Secretary for the Petition and Case System of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), Jorge Meza. He will be joined by two esteemed IACHR specialist attorneys, Marina de Almeida Rosa and Nydia María Juárez González. Jorge, a Mexican lawyer who graduated from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and holds a Master’s of Legal Studies from Georgetown University, brings over 13 years of experience to the IACHR. Marina, a Brazilian lawyer who graduated from the Superior School of the Public Prosecutor’s Office Foundation in Brazil, is currently an LL.M. candidate in International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law at American University Washington College of Law. She works as a consultant at the IACHR Section of Cases III of the Executive Secretariat of Petitions, Cases, and Friendly Settlements. Nydia, a Guatemalan attorney who graduated from Universidad Rafael Landívar and holds multiple specialized degrees in Human Rights, has been a consultant and human rights specialist in the IACHR Rapporteurship on Human Mobility since 2020. Both Marina and Nydia are former participants of IAMOOT.

In celebration of the 30th anniversary this year, the competition committee has updated the rules to enhance the experience for all teams and participants. These changes are designed to foster dynamic interactions, encourage innovative legal arguments, and provide a more enriching academic journey for everyone involved.

Through your participation in the Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition, you will have the opportunity to develop skills that will help you in your legal career and connect with human rights experts from around the globe.

We hope to welcome you as a participant in our 30th Celebration of the Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition.

Sincerely,



Claudio Grossman
Co-Chair
Advisory Council



Robert K. Goldman
Co-Chair
Advisory Council



Claudia Martin
Co-Director



Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón
Co-Director

Competition Topic: HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Hypothetical Case Authors:



**Jorge Meza Flores, Marina de Almeida Rosa,
and Nydia María Juárez González**

As the world's only trilingual (English, Portuguese, and Spanish) moot court competition on the Inter-American System, the Competition offers an exceptional opportunity for law students from across the globe to enhance their knowledge of International Law and Human Rights. As part of the Competition, participants engage in research, draft legal memoranda based on a hypothetical case, and present oral arguments before attorneys and leading figures in the human rights field acting as Judges of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The event aims to promote constant interaction between students, lawyers, professors, and professionals specializing in human rights worldwide. Over the years, the Competition has greatly contributed to strengthening human rights legal education, as well as establishing a network of engaged human rights professionals throughout the Americas and beyond.

Important Dates

NOVEMBER 15 2024: Online registration opens.

DECEMBER 10, 2024: Hypothetical case available, in the celebration of Human Rights Day.

JANUARY 10, 2025: Publication of the Official Version of Hypothetical Case.

JANUARY 19, 2025: Deadline to request clarifications on the hypothetical case.

MARCH 12, 2025: Deadline for team registrations.

MARCH 25, 2025: Deadline for Team Memorials without penalties.

APRIL 11, 2025: Deadline for Observer registration.

APRIL 11, 2025: Deadline for Judges registration.

APRIL 11, 2025: Deadline for Bailiffs registration.

MAY 18, 2025: Opening Ceremony and competition check-in.

MAY 19- 23, 2025: Oral rounds.

How to take part



Competitor

Current law students from around the world studying for a Juris Doctor (J.D) or its international equivalent are eligible to participate in 2-person teams representing their schools through written and oral arguments. Competitors participate in person.



Coach

Each team may have 1 or 2 coaches, who are 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. Coaches participate in person during the Competition.



Judges

Lawyers from various countries who have ample experience in international law and/or human rights contribute to the Competition as volunteer judges. They participate remotely by grading written memorials or by judging the Competition's oral rounds. Judges participate in person during the Competition.



Bailiff

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



Observer

Deans, professors, and others affiliated with legal education or human rights law may attend in person 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.

More than
50
participating
countries

1996 - 2024

Germany • Angola • Antigua and Barbuda • Argentina
Australia • Bahamas • Barbados • Belgium • Belize
Bolivia • Brazil • Cameroon • Canada • Chile
Colombia • Costa Rica • Dominica • Ecuador
El Salvador • Spain • United States • France • Gambia
Georgia • Ghana • Grenada • Greece • Guatemala
Honduras • India • Jamaica • Mexico • Nicaragua
Nigeria • Panama • Paraguay • Peru • Puerto Rico
Dominican Republic • Romania • Russia • Saint
Vincent and the Grenadines • Saint Lucy • Singapore
Sri Lanka • St. Kitts and Nevis • Switzerland • Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago • Uruguay • Venezuela



More than
50
participating
countries



More than
365
participating
universities



More than
5000
competitors



More than
1650
teams



More than
2060
coaches

Other Programs of the Academy

LL.M. In International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

The LL.M. in Human Rights and Humanitarian Law addresses the need for specialized training in the field of international human rights law in the United States and around the world. The program is designed to provide both theoretical studies and practical skills. Students will benefit from a curriculum with over 50 Human Rights courses offered each year and taught by expert professors. The LL.M. Program offers an individualized curriculum in English or Spanish through three different tracks: residential, hybrid, or online. Admissions are open for the fall and spring every year.

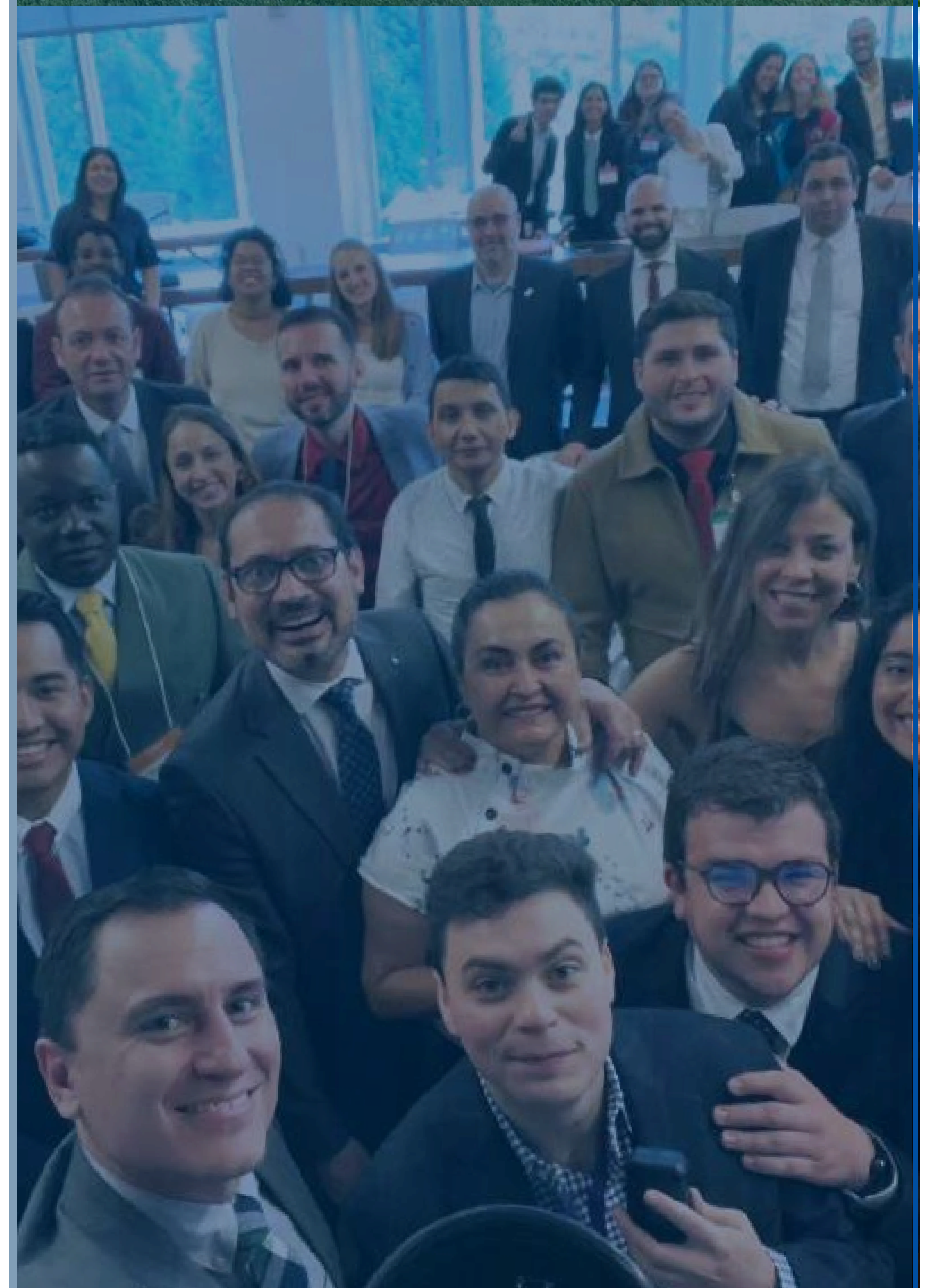
humanrightsllm@wcl.american.edu (English)

derechoshumanos@wcl.american.edu (Spanish)

Program of Advanced Studies on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

The Program has gathered many participants from more than 20 countries with different levels of professional experience for an intensive 3 weeks of full immersion into the world of Human Rights. Participants can choose from 20+ courses in English and Spanish (All courses can be taken for ABA credit). The program provides the unique opportunity to learn and interact with judges of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Special Rapporteurs and Committee members of the United Nations, members of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, experts from prominent NGOs and professors from all over the world. The Program takes place the week following the Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition.

hracademy@wcl.american.edu





IAMOOT 30TH EDITION

The Human Rights Essay Award

An annual writing competition that encourages lawyers to produce scholarly work in International Human Rights Law. The Academy selects the three best articles in English and Spanish. Winners will be eligible to be published their articles in the American University International Law Review. The award is open to lawyers around the world. However, only participants with a law degree are eligible to enter the competition.

humanrightsessay@wcl.american.edu

Human Rights Month

This annual event features conferences, workshops, and a film festival. During Human Rights Month (June), the Academy provides a forum for education and discussion of Human Rights theory. Participants have the opportunity to share first-hand experiences as well as network with fellow practitioners, scholars, and activists in the field. All panels are open to the public.

hraevents@wcl.american.edu

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An equal opportunity, affirmative action employer

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Claudia Martin
Professional Lecturer in Residence

Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón
Professional Lecturer in Residence

Program Coordinator:
Gabriel J. Ortiz Crespo

For more information, visit:
www.wcl.american.edu/impact/initiatives-programs/hracademy/moot/

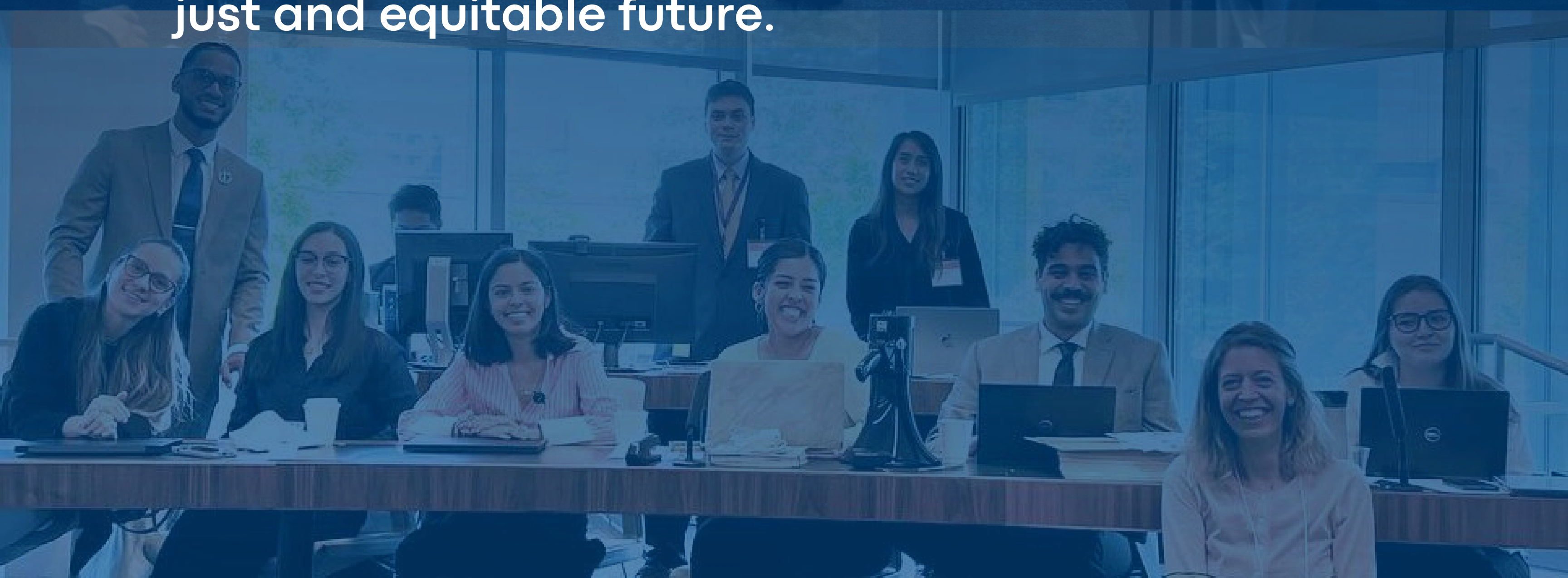


30th Annual Competition

2025

Celebrating our 30th Anniversary

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition, a powerful testament to three decades of championing human rights education. As we celebrate this milestone, we are inspired to renew our commitment to empowering the next generation of leaders and driving impactful advocacy within the Inter-American human rights system. Together, we will continue to shape a more just and equitable future.



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