

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPACE LAW



34th Manfred Lachs
Space Law Moot Court
Competition 2025

WORLD FINALS

2 October 2025
Sydney, Australia

<http://www.mootcourt.iislweb.space>



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The International Institute of Space Law

Founded in 1960, the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) is an independent non-governmental organization dedicated to fostering the development of space law. The membership of the Institute is composed of individuals and institutions from more than forty countries elected on the basis of their contributions to the field of space law or other social sciences related to space activities. In addition, prospective membership is open to students and young professionals with a demonstrated interest in space law.

The purposes and objectives of the IISL include the promotion of further development of space law and expansion of the rule of law in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, the holding of meetings, colloquia and competitions on juridical and social science aspects of space activities, the preparation or commissioning of studies and reports, the publication of books, proceedings, reports and position papers, and the cooperation with appropriate international organizations and national institutions in the field of space law.

The IISL holds an annual Colloquium at the International Astronautical Congress. During this Colloquium the Nandasiri Jasentuliyana Keynote lecture takes place, as well as a special session for Young Scholars. In addition the Institute organizes a variety of conferences on space law throughout the year in locations all over the world. It publishes an annual volume of IISL Proceedings with papers and reports of all activities during the year.

Since 1992, the IISL organizes the annual Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition. The competition is based on a hypothetical space law case, written by IISL members, in which around a hundred student teams from universities in North America, Europe, Asia Pacific and Africa participate. Members of the International Court of Justice judge the World Final of the competition, making it unique in the world.

The IISL is an officially recognized observer at sessions of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and its Scientific & Technical and Legal Subcommittees.

Further information regarding the IISL can be found at www.iislweb.space



Officers 2025



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Moot Court Committee 2024 - 2025:



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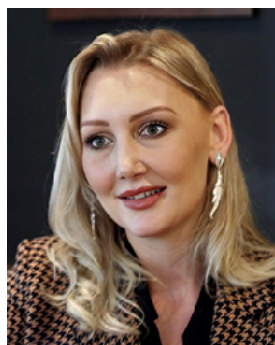
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Moot Court Regional Organizers



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Assistant Regional
Organizer for Latin America

Judge Manfred Lachs

Manfred Lachs was born in 1914 in Poland. He earned a Doctorate of Laws at the Cracow Jagiellonian University and held several academic positions in Austria and the United Kingdom, and later entered the world of diplomacy representing Poland.

After the shock of the Second World War, Manfred Lachs acted on behalf of his country at the Paris Peace Conference in 1946, took part in the Nuremberg tribunal and served as representative of Poland to the United Nations. Manfred Lachs is the only person in the UN history to have been elected three times as the Chairman of Committee VI (Legal) of the General Assembly.

Manfred Lachs chaired the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and was deeply involved in the debates and drafting of the first multilateral space treaty, the Outer Space Treaty of 1967.

In 1967, at the age of 53, Manfred Lachs became the youngest elected judge of the International Court of Justice in The Hague and was re-elected twice for an unprecedented three terms on the Court. He also presided on the Court from 1973 to 1976.

Judge Lachs was President of the IISL from 1990 until his death in 1993. He authored many articles and books, among them 'The Law of Outer Space: An Experience in Contemporary Law Making' (1972), which the IISL re-published in 2010 to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

He may never have imagined that after his death his name would be used, with the permission of his family, for the space law moot court competition of the IISL and thus be remembered by so many space law students and other persons involved in the competition.



Judges Manfred Lachs, Stephen M. Schwebel, and Gilbert Guillaume with Milton "Skip" Smith (left to right), in the first IISL Moot Court Competition, Washington, D.C. 1992

The Competition

The Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition is organized annually by the International Institute of Space Law (IISL).

The first competition was organized for law students from North America by the Association of US Members of the IISL (AUSMIISL) during the first World Space Congress held in Washington, D.C., USA in 1992. One year later, the Competition was expanded to include European students. In 2000, the Asia Pacific Round was added, and the African Region was inaugurated in 2011. Finally, the Latin America round was added in 2021, bringing the competition to five regions spanning the entire world.

Preliminary competitions are held between April and June in each region. The winning regional teams meet in the World Finals, which are held in conjunction with the annual IISL Colloquium on the Law of Outer Space. The Final Round is traditionally judged by three judges of the International Court of Justice. This feature makes the Manfred Lachs Moot Court one of the most prestigious moot court competitions in the world.

The competition is based on a hypothetical space law dispute before the International Court of Justice. The Problem is written by a Member of the IISL upon invitation by the Moot Court Committee.

Regional Rounds must comply with the Official Rules for the Competition adopted by the IISL Board of Directors. Participating teams are required to submit a 'Memorial' as formal written arguments for both the Applicant State and the Respondent State on the legal issues of the hypothetical case. Oral Arguments are also held before panels of judges. Based on scores for the Memorials and Oral Arguments, each Region identifies its winning team. The winning team from each Region advances to the World Final rounds.

The winning Regional teams may revise their Memorials before they resubmit them for the World Finals. A panel of judges review and grade the Memorials, and the scores are used to determine the team pairings for the preliminary and semi-final oral arguments. The semi-final oral arguments are conducted in closed sessions before three judge panels, and the two winning teams qualify for the World Final. The expenses of the teams taking part in the World Finals are borne by NYU Law, The Space Court Foundation, The European Centre for Space Law, Ananth Technologies Private Limited, National Department of Trade, Industry and Competition of South Africa, Dragonfly Aerospace, NewSpace Systems, Universidad Católica de Colombia, Universidad Sergio Arboleda, and Relaca-Espacio.

The 34th Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition will be held in Sydney, Australia. The preliminary round was held in closed session on September 28, 2025. The Semi-finals were conducted in closed sessions on Tuesday, September 30. The Final will take place on Thursday, October 2, before a panel of Judges of the International Court of Justice in The Hague.



Summary of the Problem

‘Case Concerning the Legality of Space Activities in Conflicts’ (Admetus v Cronus)

Authored by Guoyu Wang

Summary of Agreed Statement of Facts

Cronus, a space-faring State, issued a license to a private company, Geryon, to launch the Atlas Constellation in 2035. Geryon was awarded a 10-year contract by the Cronus Ministry of Defense to provide military telecommunications services based on the Atlas Constellation in 2042. The Republic of Baton has a security relationship with Cronus and signed a bilateral agreement in which Cronus agreed to provide unspecified telecommunications services to Baton. Admetus, a highly developed spacefaring nation, launched the Helios-1 satellite, which is owned and operated by a commercial company, Metis. Admetus has a long history of territorial disputes with Baton. An armed conflict broke out between the two countries in April 2050.

Two months later, Baton’s company, Erato, signed a transponder lease with Geryon for the exclusive use of and access to several specified transponders on a number of satellites of the Atlas Constellation. Baton’s telecommunications services on the battlefield were supported by Erato through this transponder access, which gave Baton a strategic advantage in the armed conflicts. Admetus demanded Cronus to take an immediate cessation of all Geryon’s services to the armed forces of Baton. Cronus responded that such provision of telecommunications services is legitimate with a peaceful purpose.

On 31 May 2051, Admetus conducted a jamming operation against an Atlas satellite by Helios-1, when it was in close proximity to this Atlas satellite, which significantly degraded its telecommunications services provided to the Baton’s military. On 15 June 2051, Helios-1 conducted a test which involved releasing an approach-and-capture payload to rendezvous with a defunct Admetus military satellite and deorbit it from LEO. However, the capture payload collided with the satellite, causing an explosion that created a debris field that partially intersected the orbit of the Atlas Constellation. Over the subsequent weeks, three Atlas satellites were destroyed when they passed through the debris field. On 24 June 2051, Cronus conducted a rendezvous and capture manoeuvre of Helios-1 by a mechanical arm of one of its on-orbit servicing satellites. During the capture process, the solar panel of Helios-1 detached resulting in a total loss of function of Helios-1.

Participants in the Regional Rounds

Africa:

The African Regional Finals were held 22-23 May 2025 among 10 teams:

Strathmore University, Kenya
Midlands State University, Zimbabwe
Cavendish University, Uganda
Kampala International University, Uganda
Fort Hare University, South Africa
North West University, South Africa
Africa Nazarene University School of Law, Kenya
University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe
Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria
Ambrose Alli University, Nigeria

Europe:

The European Regional Finals were held at ESA HQ in Paris on 1-3 April 2025 among 15 teams:

University of Vienna, Austria
University of Cologne, Germany
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece
Széchenyi István University
Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań
Jagiellonian University, Poland
Université Paris-Saclay, France
Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany
Masaryk University, Czechia
University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg
Tilburg University, Netherlands
King's College London, United Kingdom
Leiden University, Netherlands
Lazarski University, Poland
Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Bulgaria



Participants in the Regional Rounds

Asia Pacific

The Asia-Pacific Finals were held 10-12 April 2025 at Gujarat National Law University among 37 teams:

National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, India
West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, India
Symbiosis Law School, Pune, India
Jindal Global Law School, India
Symbiosis Law School, Hyderabad, India
National Law University Delhi, India
National University of Advanced Legal Studies, India
Waseda University, Japan
China University of Political Science and Law, China
Gujarat National Law University, India
Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, China
Institute of Law, Nirma University, India
CMRU School of Legal Studies, India
Singapore Management University, Singapore
Peking University School of Transnational Law, China
National Law University Odisha, India
Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur, India
CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Central Campus, Bangalore, India
National Law Institute University, Bhopal, India
National University of Singapore, Singapore
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow, India
Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, China
East China University of Political Science and Law
Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, India
Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan
Beijing Institute of Technology, China
ILS Law College Pune, India
National Law University, Jodhpur, India
Wuhan University, China
Civil Aviation University of China, China
India International University for Legal Education and Research, India
Government New Law College, Indore, India



Participants in the Regional Rounds

Asia-Pacific Region (continued)

Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur, India

Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai, India

Government Law College, Ernakulam, India

Tamil Nadu National Law University, India

NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, India

North America:

The North American Regional Finals were held March 27-28, 2025, in Washington DC among 19 teams:

Appalachian School of Law

Florida State University College of Law

George Washington University

Georgetown Law

Harvard Law School

Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center

McGill University

Nebraska Law

New York University School of Law

Regent University School of Law

South Texas College of Law Houston

The University of Texas School of Law (Austin)

University of Chicago

University of Colorado Law School

University of Mississippi

University of Ottawa

University of Virginia School of Law

Washburn University School of Law

William & Mary Law School

Latin America:

The Latin American Regional Finals were held at Universidad Católica de Colombia in Bogotá on 14- 15 May 2025 among 4 teams:

Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Universidad Federal de Pernambuco, Brasil

Universidad Católica de Santos, Brasil

Universidad Católica de Colombia, Colombia



2025 Winners of the Regional Rounds

Africa:

Strathmore University (Kenya)

Abdi Salahudin Bashir
Peter Njoroge Muturi
Gachunga Charity Muthoni

Allan Mukuki, (Coach)
Paul Martin Konyango (Assistant Coach)



2025 Africa Winning Team

2025 Winners of the Regional Rounds

Asia Pacific:

Singapore Management University (Singapore)

Natasha Lim Shu E
Daniel Sum Rui Kang
Lachlan Neo Kai Ze

Mr./Prof. Neo Yu Fan (Faculty Advisor)
Janae Kwan Rae Yann (Assistant Faculty Advisor)



2025 Asia-Pacific Winning Team

2025 Winners of the Regional Rounds

Europe:

University of Luxembourg (Luxembourg)

Lucia Maori
Noan Lucas Renault

Gabrielle Celine Giliane Leterre (Faculty advisor)



2025 European Winning Team

2025 Winners of the Regional Rounds

Latin America:

Universidad de Buenos Aires (Argentina)

Daiana Magalí Varela
Ramiro Soulès

Prof. Álvaro Andrés Erices Bravo (Coach)



2025 Latin America Winning Team

2025 Winners of the Regional Rounds

North America :

New York University School of Law (USA)

Denis McGrath
Jacqueline Stark
Elyse Cox

Benedict Kingsbury (Faculty)
Yirong Sun (Faculty)



2025 North American Winning Team

Judges for the World Finals

Judges for the Final

H.E. Judge Dire Tladi, (South Africa), International Court of Justice

H.E. Judge Peter Tomka, (Slovakia), International Court of Justice

H.E. Judge Bogdan-Lucian Aurescu, (Romania), International Court of Justice



Judge Dire Tladi



Judge Peter Tomka



Judge Bogdan-Lucian
Aurescu



World Final 2003, Bremen, Germany

Judges for Preliminary Oral Pleadings

28 September, 2025

Donna Lawler

Catherine Doldirina

Gina Petrovici

Judges for Semifinals

For Oral Pleadings

30 September, 2025

Ruth Pritchard-Kelly

Andrea Harrington

Michael Mineiro

Guoyu Wang

Melissa de Zwart

Rosanna Hoffmann

Judges for Memorials:

Michael Dodge

Olavo Bittencourt

Catherine Doldirina

Ruvimbo Samanga

Georgios Kyriakopoulos

Annesophie Martin

Guoyu Wang

Melissa de Zwart



World Final Schedule

Thursday, October 2, 2025

- 14:55 All guests will be seated by 2:55 p.m.
- 15:00 Introductions and summary of the problem will be read
- 3:15 p.m. Oral arguments will commence
- Upon conclusion of the pleadings, the ICJ judges will retire to deliberate while refreshments shall be served to attendees.
- 5:15 p.m. Announcement of winners, award ceremony, and photos

IISL Annual Dinner

Thursday, October 2, 2025

Dockside Restaurant

Address: Cockle Bay Wharf, Darling Harbour in Sydney

- 7:00 p.m. Arrival and welcome drinks
- 7:30 p.m. Seating; IISL Annual Awards Welcome Address, followed by Dinner
- 8:30 p.m. Recognition of Award Winners will begin during dessert and drinks, and all teams will be honored by the IISL. Students on each team receive free tickets to the dinner.
- 8:45 p.m. Drinks, tea and coffee

Awards for World Finals

Winning Team

Presentation of Lachs Trophy
Lee Love Award for Best Team
Commemorative Plaque to school
Certificates to team members

Best Memorials

Eilene M. Galloway Award for Best Memorials
Commemorative Plaque to school
Certificates to team members

Best Oralist

Sterns and Tennen Award for Best Oralist
Commemorative Plaque to school
Certificate to Winner

Runner-up

Commemorative Plaque to school
Certificates to team members

Preliminary Round Participant

Commemorative plaque to school
Certificates to team members

Participants in Semifinals

Commemorative Plaque to school
Certificates to team members



AWARDS

MRS. LEE M. LOVE was a pioneer in reporting on United Nations' efforts to ensure the peaceful uses of outer space for over 40 years. She wrote about the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) from its early days. Her personal relations were so close with committee members that she became one of the very few people who was able to host receptions with delegates from both the United States and the former Soviet Union in informal settings to promote understanding during the Cold War years. By the time she left the U.N., Lee had covered man's flights into space and the moon and reported on arguments over who owned the rights to outer space, seas and satellite orbits. She attended the annual International Astronautical Congress all over the world and was member of the International Institute of Space Law. The Lee Love Award for members of the winning team in the Manfred Lachs space law moot court competition, which she supported and attended each year with immense pleasure and interest, was established in her honour by her family and is sponsored by the Matthew and Lee Love Foundation. She passed away in 2008.

DR. EILENE M. GALLOWAY (1906-2009) was a legend in the fields of space policy and space law, having been instrumental in the formation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). From 1941-1975, she worked for the U.S. Congress as a staff member of the Legislative Reference Service (later the Congressional Research Service) and was called upon by then-Senate Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson to advise him on how to respond to the Soviet Union's launch of Sputnik 1 on October 4, 1957. She assisted Senator Johnson as well as then-Speaker of the House John McCormack in crafting the National Aeronautics and Space Act, which created NASA. She accompanied Senator Johnson to the United Nations when he represented the United States in recommending creation of what is now known as the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). She was an official observer at COPUOS from 1970-1994. She was a founding member of the IISL, its Vice President (1967-1979), and an Honorary Director (1979-2009). She also helped establish Section 4 (Social Sciences) of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA). She received many awards, but was especially proud of the Andrew G. Haley Gold medal that she received from the IISL in 1968. The Galloway Award is sponsored by Ms. Marcia S. Smith.

PATRICIA M. STERNS & LESLIE I. TENNEN. In 1997, five years after the competition started, Patricia Sterns and Les Tennen of the Law Offices of Sterns and Tennen, in Phoenix, Arizona, proposed that an award be presented to the best oralist of the World Final. The Board of Directors accepted this proposal, together with their offer to sponsor the award, which has since become eponymous. Patricia and Les have been active members of the Institute and have participated in IISL colloquia for four decades. Patricia served as a Judge Pro Tem of the Maricopa County Superior Court, and after serving as a member of the Board, was elected as an Honorary Director of the IISL. Les currently serves as Co-Chair of the Moot Court Committee and as Legal Counsel for the International Academy of Astronautics. He was appointed to two terms as a

THE MANFRED LACHS TROPHY

On permanent display, International Court of Justice
The Hague, The Netherlands



CONTACT DETAILS

REGIONAL ROUNDS

AFRICA :

LACHSMOOT-AFRICA@IISLWEB.SPACE

ASIA PACIFIC:

LACHSMOOT-ASIAPACIFIC@IISLWEB.SPACE

EUROPE :

LACHSMOOT-EUROPE@IISLWEB.SPACE

NORTH AMERICA :

LACHSMOOT-NORTHAMERICA@IISLWEB.SPACE

LATIN AMERICA :

LACHSMOOT-LATINAMERICA@IISLWEB.SPACE

ADDRESSES

75th INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL CONGRESS (IAC) Sydney 2025 :

29 September - 3 October 2025

Address: International Convention Centre (Sydney), 14 Darling Drive, Sydney, NSW 2000

IISL DINNER:

Venue: Dockside Restaurant

Address: Cockle Bay Wharf, Darling Harbour in Sydney



World Final 2007
Hyderabad, India

Sponsor of Final Competition



Sponsors of Regional Competition

North America -	NYU Law Office of Student Affairs, Student Bar Association, Prominence Fund and individual donors: Krystyna Colantoni, Steve Mirmina, Ruth Pritchard-Kelly, Robin Frank, Tanja Masson-Zwaan, Dr. Michael Mineiro
Europe -	The European Centre for Space Law
Asia-Pacific -	Ananth Technologies Private Limited.
Africa -	National Department of Trade, Industry and Competition of South Africa, Dragonfly Aerospace, NewSpace Systems
Latin America -	Universidad Católica de Colombia, Universidad Sergio Arboleda, Relaca - Espacio

Sponsors of Regional Winning Teams

North America Team:



European Team:



Asia Pacific Team:



Africa Team:



the dtic
Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Latin America Team:



UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA
de Colombia
Vigilada Mineducación



Further Reading

- DTI SOUTH AFRICA
WWW.DTI.GOV.ZA
- EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR SPACE LAW (ECSL):
WWW.ESA.INT/SPECIALS/ECL
- EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY (ESA):
[HTTP://WWW.ESA.INT/ESA](http://WWW.ESA.INT/ESA)
- INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL FEDERATION:
WWW.IAFASTRO.ORG
- INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE:
WWW.ICJ-CIJ.ORG
- INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPACE LAW (IISL):
WWW.IISLWEB.SPACE
- JAPAN AEROSPACE EXPLORATION AGENCY (JAXA):
WWW.JAXA.JP
- MANFRED LACHS SPACE LAW MOOT COURT:
WWW.MOOTCOURT.IISLWEB.SPACE
- NASA
WWW.NASA.GOV
- SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL SPACE AGENCY
WWW.SANSA.ORG.ZA
- KONRAD ADENAUER FOUNDATION
WWW.KAS.DE



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LACHS MOOT: TWITTER.COM/SPACELAWMOOT



IISL: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SPACELAW



IISL: [LINKEDIN](https://WWW.LINKEDIN.COM/company/iisl-space-law)



IISL: [HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/IISL_SPACE](https://TWITTER.COM/IISL_SPACE)



