



International Bar Association

Welcome address to the International Criminal Court (ICC) Moot Court Competition

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Dear participants, dear colleagues,

On behalf of the International Bar association (IBA), I would like to welcome you to the 2017 edition of the ICC Moot Court Competition.

The IBA is a leading organisation of international legal practitioners, gathering 190 bar associations and over 80 000 individual members over 170 countries. Established in 1947, the IBA aims at promoting the exchange of information and expertise worldwide, supporting the rule of law and the independence of the legal profession.

As the Director of the IBA Office here in The Hague, I am particularly pleased to be here today. Our Office manages the International Criminal Court and International Criminal Law programme ('ICC/ICL programme') of the IBA. This programme monitors issues related to fairness and equality of arms at the ICC and other Hague-based international criminal tribunals. Our work includes thematic legal analysis on proceedings, advice on legal and institutional developments of ICL, publication of reports, and organisation of conferences, and experts' workshops.

As a partner to this event and as a welcome, I want to applaud your commitment: your commitment to the law, to this Moot Court and to international justice. The craft of lawyering is a challenging and rewarding journey, one where learning, exchanging ideas and doing things you think you cannot do are there, at every step of the way.

To a certain extent one learns by doing, and, you, by participating in this Moot Court, have already gained a valuable learning experience in the past weeks preparing to be here today.

It is an amazing opportunity for law students to get a sense of the reality of international criminal proceedings and to live this experience here in The Hague, the city of peace and justice. International justice needs young, talented and committed scholars and practitioners to uphold the rule of law principles and the ideas behind the existence of a system of international criminal justice with the ICC at its core.

The IBA is thus extremely proud to support and partner with The Grotius Centre of International Legal Studies for the organisation of this edition of the ICC Moot Court Competition. We are delighted to be involved in an event that, we hope, will offer you the experience of a lifetime and that you will enjoy it as much as we will.

I am sure you realize how great of an opportunity this Moot Court is, and that comes with a lot of pressure. Moot Court Competitions may be stressful and everyone wants to succeed. But if I had one piece of advice to give you, it would be to take the time to enjoy your experience. Make the best of this incredible opportunity. Take in as much as you can.

Hopefully, you will leave even more inspired and passionate about international justice than when you arrived. However it all unfolds, you should leave The Hague with a sense of accomplishment and pride.

Good luck to everyone and most of all, enjoy!

*** This is an unedited speech authored and presented by Aurelie Roche-Mair, IBA ICC/ICL Programme Director.**

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