

Mina Karabit receives 2018 IBA Award for Best Oralist in ICC Moot Court Competition

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Mina Karabit of Canada's University of Ottawa is the winner of the 2018 [International Bar Association](#) (IBA) Award for Best Oralist of the Preliminary Rounds in the [ICC Moot Court Competition](#) held in The Hague from 27 May–1 June.

Opening the event on Sunday 27 May, **Aurélie Roche-Mair**, Director of the IBA's International Criminal Court and International Criminal Law (ICC & ICL) Programme, encouraged participants by saying: *'I want to applaud 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 by preparing to be here today.'*



Mina Karabit (left) with Kate Orlovsky, IBA Senior Researcher.

The ICC Moot Court Competition is designed with the aim of simulating ICC proceedings and introducing students to the procedure of, and some of the legal issues before, the Court. Law students from across the globe test and sharpen their skills in preparation for careers as international lawyers. This year's week-long event – an IBA, ICC and Leiden University's Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies partnership – attracted 65 teams from almost 50 countries that for the first time included Jamaica, Japan, The Gambia and Tanzania. The teams of the two latter countries were the first recipients of IBA scholarships awarded to enable outstanding law students from those nations to participate in the Moot.

IBA Executive Director **Dr Mark Ellis** commented: *'The ICC Moot Court is an amazing opportunity for law students to get a sense of the reality of international criminal proceedings. International justice needs*

young, talented and committed scholars and practitioners to uphold rule of law principles and the ideas behind the existence of a system of international criminal justice with the ICC at its core. I am extremely proud of the IBA support to the teams of The Gambia and Tanzania, giving them an opportunity to share and experience excellence with their peers from across the world. This year's winner, Mina Karabit, is in excellent company. I wholeheartedly congratulate her on a well-deserved victory, while also applauding all participants for their professionalism, seriousness and courage.'

The Hague premiere of the documentary, *Prosecuting Evil: The Extraordinary World of Ben Ferencz* – the sole surviving Nuremberg prosecutor – was shown at the opening ceremony of the Competition. The film, about the life of **Benjamin Ferencz**, the Chief Prosecutor for the United States in the Einsatzgruppen case during the Nuremberg Trials after World War II, was followed by an audience Q&A with Ben Ferencz, alongside Barry Avrich, the film's director, and Professor Donald M Ferencz, Founder of the Global Institute for the Prevention of Aggression and son of Ben Ferencz.

The ICC Moot Court Competition took place at the new Leiden University campus and the ICC in The Hague from 27 May – 1 June 2018, with the finals taking place in Courtroom I of the ICC.

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Notes to the Editor

1. 1. About the ICC & ICL Programme

The IBA commenced the **ICC & ICL Programme** in 2005. The Programme monitors issues related to fairness and equality of arms at the ICC and other Hague-based war crimes tribunals and encourages the legal community to engage with the work of these Courts. The Programme's work includes thematic legal analysis of proceedings, and ad hoc evaluations of legal, administrative and institutional issues that could potentially affect the rights of defendants, the impartiality of proceedings and the development of international justice.

The Programme also acts as the interface between the Courts and the global legal community. As such, special focus is placed on monitoring emerging issues of particular relevance to lawyers and collaborating with key partners on specific activities to increase engagement of the legal community on ICC and ICL issues.

Programme information is disseminated through regular reports, expert discussions, workshops and other events, and expert legal analysis on issues relevant to our mandate.

2. 2. Based at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the IBA's ICC & ICL Programme consults and interacts with Courts' officials, civil society organisations, academics and international lawyers.

The **International Bar Association** (IBA) – *the global voice of the legal profession* – established in 1947, is the world's leading organisation of international legal practitioners, bar associations and law societies. Through its global membership of individual lawyers, law firms, bar associations and law societies it influences the development of international law reform and shapes the future of the legal profession throughout the world.

The IBA's administrative office is in London, United Kingdom. Regional offices are located in: São Paulo, Brazil; Seoul, South Korea; and Washington DC, United States, while the International Bar Association's **International Criminal Court and International Criminal Law Programme** (ICC & ICL) is managed from an office in The Hague, the Netherlands.

The **International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute** (IBAHRI), an autonomous and financially independent entity, works to promote, protect and enforce human rights under a

just rule of law, and to preserve the independence of the judiciary and the legal profession worldwide.

For further information, please contact:

Romana St. Matthew - Daniel
Press Office

International Bar Association

4th Floor, 10 St Bride Street,
London EC4A 4AD

Mobile: +44 (0)7940 731 915

Direct Line: +44 (0)20 7842 0094

Main Office: +44 (0)20 7842 0090

Fax: +44 (0)20 7842 0091

Email: romana.daniel@int-bar.org

Website: www.ibanet.org