

**2020 LOUIS M. BROWN/FORREST S. MOSTEN  
INTERNATIONAL CLIENT CONSULTATION COMPETITION**

**Annual General Meeting  
Held via Zoom – April 16, 2020, 2:00pm Pacific US Time**

**Minutes reported by Brett Stohs**

**ATTENDING:** Forrest Mosten (Chair), Steven Austermiller (Co-Chair), Selene Mize (Co-Chair), Brigeeta Richdale, Canada; Graham Robson and Matthew Parry, England/Wales; Philipp Gnatzy, Germany; Rachael Hession, Ireland; Aisyah Mohd Soberi, Malaysia; Pawel Klimek and Delaine Swenson, Poland; Michael Graham, Scotland; Jean-Luc Delli, Switzerland; Maria Tsypiashchuk, Ukraine; Larry Teply, Nancy Schultz, Jody Mosten, Brett Stohs, USA; Rama Krishna Prasad Mandava, India; Arnoldo Elias, Puerto Rico; Griselda Audrey, Indonesia; Soili Nysten-Haarala, Finland; Okechukwu Okpara; Nigeria.

*Note: The 2020 competition was postponed on account of the COVID-19 pandemic*

**WELCOME:**

Ms. Mize opened the meeting by welcoming all and expressing appreciation to those who joined the meeting during unusual hours. She set forth some ground rules for an effective Zoom meeting and shared an agenda with the group.

Mr. Mosten expressed excitement to see everyone tempered by the sadness that this meeting was not being held in person. This is the first time the ICCC was not held since the program began in 1985. Mr. Mosten expressed elation that Wales will host next year's competition with Matthew Parry and Swansea University leading the charge. Next year's topic will be Human Rights. One of the world's preeminent human rights lawyers, Sir Geoffrey Bindman, will hopefully be in attendance.

Mr. Mosten turned the meeting over to Mr. Austermiller and Ms. Mize, as Co-Chairs, to lead the remainder of the meeting. Ms. Austermiller welcomed the group and expressed appreciation that so many have joined this first ever virtual AGM.

After a motion and second, the Minutes from 2019 AGM were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**TOPIC FOR 2021: Human Rights**

Mr. Austermiller asked the group for options to define and further refine this topic and discussion followed. Ms. Schultz expressed the possibility of selecting certain rights guaranteed by the International Declaration on Human Rights. She also noted a secondary question as to who the appropriate client is for these issues. For example, child clients would be problematic in this competition. Mr. Parry noted that particular emphasis on children's rights is very much at the center of the University of Swansea research and international involvement. Obtaining sponsorship may be made easier if the focus involves this area, at least in part. Ms. Schultz noted that, since the competition includes multiple problems, at least one problem could definitely focus on children's rights.

Discussion moved to issues that may be sensitive or challenging. For example, Ms. Soberi noted that certain issues remain very sensitive in Southeast Asia. Mr. Parry suggested that privacy could be very difficult given the different ways that various countries treat these issues. Mr. Austermilller expressed interest in the slavery and human trafficking issues, and expressed concern that gender could be a sensitive issue. Other issues raised by attendees included education, torture, and freedom of the press.

Mr. Robson noted that it will be helpful to have an anticipated date for confirming the topic details in order to promote this information on the ICCC website.

#### FORMAT FOR 2021:

Following up on an earlier question from Mr. Graham regarding the use of last year's topic (Civil Remedies for Damage to Property), Ms. Mize initiated a discussion about how to address the unfortunate reality that the 2020 competition could not be held. Ms. Mize shared three (3) primary options for consideration:

- (1) allow each country to send a team for the 2021 competition, whether it be this year's local winner or next year's local winner;
- (2) host a larger competition in 2021 comprised of teams from both 2020 and 2021 (in essence, each country being permitted to have up to two (2) teams); or
- (3) host parallel competitions in 2021, with the 2020 local winners competing on the topic of Civil Remedies for Damage to Property, and the 2021 local winners competing on the topic of Human Rights.

In the discussion that followed, various comments were made, including:

- For options 2 and 3, one issue will be that some of the teams will have already graduated. Mr. Austermilller noted that we would certainly have to waive qualification requirements for the 2020 teams.
- For option 2, Mr. Parry expressed concerns that having both sets of teams compete in the same competition would be very difficult to administer and may create inequities among the competing teams.
- For option 3, the parallel competitions could be held back-to-back rather than simultaneously. For example, the 2020 competition could be held on Tuesday through Thursday and the 2021 competition could be held Thursday through Saturday.
  - Mr. Austermilller noted that this would certainly impact the hosts and create increased costs and logistic details. Ms. Mize noted that there may be extra cash in the budget since 2020 did not occur, and perhaps some of the international coaches could help fill the void in judges.

- Mr. Parry noted that any changes to the 2021 competition would require internal approval at Swansea; however, he does not believe there will be any objection so long as the budget issues are addressed. He also noted that the proposed dates would be the week immediately following Easter, which could present challenges and increased costs for international teams to travel. Mr. Parry urged parties to make their requests for visas as early as possible!
- Mr. Mosten highlighted that there may be prices to pay to accommodate students from both years, notably host burdens, financial costs, etc. He also expressed concern that efforts to also hold a 2020 competition may impact our focus on 2021.

Mr. Mosten described his hope that we find a way to address some of the disappointment of the 2020 local winners who could not travel to Tampa and will not be able to attend in 2021. Every country should get their certificates and be recognized for their efforts, and perhaps there are other suitable accolades that can be given to the 2020 teams. Ms. Mize noted that we could recognize the 2020 teams on the ICCC website in addition to other actions.

Mr. Swenson recommended that additional information be obtained. Among the 2020 winners, how many of them are actually willing and able to travel in April 2021? If it is a significant number, we could first hold a regional competition to feed into the international competition. Mr. Robson expressed caution about having too large a competition at Swansea.

Mr. Austermler suggested the use of videoconferencing (like Zoom) in the event there are too many teams. Mr. Teply coached a team in the US competition finals, which was done using Zoom this year. He expressed concern about the logistics of videoconferencing in an international context, notably the vast differences in time zones, among other issues.

The co-chairs agreed to circulate a survey to the various countries and follow-up with the results once available. Mr. Parry also agreed to follow-up with his colleagues at Swansea to confirm their willingness to support additional attendees in connection with option 3 above.

#### FUTURE COMPETITIONS:

The 2021 host will be Swansea. Mr. Parry noted that he is a lecturer at the Hillary Rodham Clinton School of Law and that he is excited to facilitate the competition next year. The 2021 competition website is currently under development and he requested that positive testimonials from past teams be shared.

Ms. Mize requested volunteers to host in 2022. Ms. Tsypiashchuk expressed interest to host in Ukraine, either in Kyiv (Kiev) or Lviv. She has facilitated various competitions in Ukraine for several years, and they have operated their competitions in English. Mr. Swenson expressed interest to host in Poland, though he is happy to defer to Ukraine. Ms. Mize requested other countries who are interested in hosting should contact her.

UPDATE FROM THE VICE CHAIRS: Ms. Mize noted recent communications with the 2020 host school (Stetson), and recent inquiries from, and updates to, the website. Mr. Austermler noted efforts

by Brett Stohs of the United States to manage a corporate reorganization of the ICCC nonprofit organization in order to better reflect the nature of the organization and its operations.

COUNTRY NEWS: Mr. Klimek gave updates from Poland, noting that it recently renamed its internal competition and received inquiries about hosting the ICCC in Poland in the very near future.

SOCIAL MEDIA: Mr. Robson reported that Rachel Gimson of the UK (Exeter) helped to setup an ICCC Twitter account last year. For success, this account needs content to be shared, and he recommended that it be (along with the Facebook account) shared with Mr. Parry for promotion of the 2021 competition.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

**MEETING ADJOURNED @ 3:40pm Pacific US Time**