



Brown Mosten International Client Consultation Competition Annual General Meeting 2022

Agenda

27 April 2022, 2:00 pm British Summer Time

1. Intro and welcome remarks
2. Approval of Minutes from 2021
3. Report on BM-ICCC 2022
4. Certificates, Prizes and Shield
5. Topic for 2023
6. Update on Reorganization
7. News from National Reps
8. Future Host for 2023
9. Social Media
10. Need new problem drafters
11. NICA.TEAM
12. New Business



Brown Mosten International Client Consultation Competition Annual General Meeting 2021

Minutes

Held via Zoom – April 13, 2021, 7:00pm BST
Minutes reported by Brett C. Stohs

ATTENDEES:

Forrest (Woody) Mosten (Chair)
Steven Auster Miller (Co-Chair)
Selene Mize (Co-Chair)
Brazil: Camile Souza Costa
England & Wales: Matthew Parry and
Graham Robson
Finland: Soili Nysten-Haarala
Georgia: Elene Tskrialashvelli
Germany: Philipp Gnatzy
India: Sadin Karki

Ireland: Rachael Hession, James Leahy, Sarah
Linehan, and Aisling Ward
Netherlands: Fokke Fernhout
Northern Ireland: Ruth Craig
Poland: Delaine Swenson
Switzerland: Jean-Luc Delli and Miriam Keller
Ukraine: Maria Tsypiashchuk
United States: Jody Mosten, Nancy Schultz,
Brett Stohs, and Larry Teply

Welcome

Woody opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. He expressed his gratitude to Matthew Parry of Swansea for administering both the 2020 and 2021 competitions. And he congratulated Ireland for two victories this year! Coached by Rachael Hession, both the 2020 and 2021 teams were victorious (James Leahy and Aisling Ward of 2020 and Naoise Anderson and Sarah Linehan of 2021). Woody noted that back-to-back victories have been rare but include past teams from New Zealand and Canada.

Steven also welcomed the group and echoed Woody's remarks. He gave thanks to various members of the ICCC team for their various roles in ensuring these competitions have continued unabated amidst the global pandemic. And Selene welcomed the group noting her hope to see each other in person in future years.

After a motion and second, the Minutes from 2020 AGM were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Report on ICCC 2020 and ICCC 2021

Matthew provided an update regarding the two side-by-side competitions that had just been held remotely by the Hillary Rodham Clinton School of Law at Swansea University. Several countries competed for the first time, notably Uzbekistan and Nepal. And aside from one interview that was derailed due to a local power outage, there were no technical difficulties impacting the remote competition – a testament to the dedication of all the teams, coaches, judges and administrators!

Matthew solicited feedback about the process for making improvements in the future. Notably, he asked for feedback regarding the online scoring sheet and requested assistance in identifying more judges from civil code countries.

Certificates, Prizes, & Shield

Steven reported that certificates would be prepared and sent out by email to be printed local by the host institution (Swansea). Prizes will be addressed individually. And the traveling shield will be engraved and passed along from the previous winners in North Carolina, USA.

Topic for 2022

Selene opened a discussion regarding the competition topic for 2022, noting the complexities of identifying a topic that is relevant to most countries and avoids touching culturally sensitive issues. For example, in New Zealand there is a comprehensive accident insurance scheme eliminating certain negligence claims. In addition, some countries may not allow divorce, and others may not have legal discrimination protections. She noted that Larry conducted a topic

survey about 10 years ago, and Larry agreed that there may be some previously identified options for the executive committee to consider.

Philipp suggested Environmental Law as a topic that is of significant interest to young people around the world. The breadth of this topic example was explored, including aspects relating to civil law, criminal law, tort law, land use policy, environmental protection, and public policy. Selene suggested that, if possible, the group would settle on topics 2-3 years in advance to permit some countries to start identifying and preparing their teams well in advance of the competition.

Graham presented a list of topics utilized since 1997, which is presented as Exhibit A. Selene suggested that the group could consider reutilizing topics from the past, which would be new to today's students in any case.

Update from Vice Chairs

Steven discussed current efforts to restructure the nonprofit organization. Though the nonprofit initially planned to relocate to another US state jurisdiction, tax-related issues made that undesirable. Notwithstanding these issues, he noted that legal counsel had been engaged to update the nonprofit's corporate documents to be more reflective of current operations. Brett noted that these efforts sometimes take longer than expected, but expressed confidence that the outcomes will be satisfactory. Steven noted that, as an all-volunteer organization, we need active support! He encouraged attendees to contact him if they would like to get more involved.

News from National Reps

Steven invited national representatives to share updates, anecdotes, and success stories in organizing their own teams and competitions. The following items were reported:

- Delaine expressed excitement about Poland's 2nd place finish. He described the working relationships he has developed with colleagues in Ukraine, notably two legal clinic organizations that serve as the basis for their competitions. In 2020 (pre-COVID), Poland and Ukraine held competitions jointly in Krakau, and in 2021 they coordinated some online activities among the countries. This collaboration has helped the programs in each country expand student involvement. Maria expanded on Delaine's comments noting that they held a competition of 11 teams this year and exchanged judges with Poland for mutual benefit.
- Larry talked about the US competitions (run by the American Bar Association), which were all conducted online in 2020 and 2021. He reported that competitions continued to draw substantial student interest but did demonstrate the difficulty of conducting competitions in an online format. Brett added his experiences as a regional competition host utilizing the online format.
- Philipp reported how, in the past few years, he observed that judges from the UK, Wales, and Ireland did not understand how certain aspects were handled in civil law jurisdictions

like Germany. He expressed that having a judge from a civil law country in each room would be productive. Matthew seconded these comments, noting that the competition participation has tended to focus on US and UK countries.

Future Host 2022 and 2023

Selene led a discussion of options for future hosts. Swansea has indicated a willingness to host for 2022 in person (if possible). Selene noted that Uzbekistan has expressed interest, though may need a few more years of experience with the competition before hosting. Delaine and Maria expressed that Ukraine and Poland are interested in jointly hosting in either country. Brett inquired about whether Stetson University College of Law in Florida, USA, would consider hosting again (as their plan to host in 2020 was prevented by COVID-19). Nancy agreed to inquire to Stetson Law's new director of advocacy.

Steven reminded attendees that the ICCA can provide some financial support to host schools. Michael suggested that host schools consider connecting with host country firm sponsors who may wish to underwrite costs and provide judges. Brett added that certain topics might create opportunities that would be attractive to firms that have subject matter expertise.

Future Remote Competitions

Woody asked the group whether future competitions should consider online tools, notably based on Matthew's demonstrated successes this year. Two main benefits of online participation: immigration restrictions and pandemic restrictions limit travel, and costs of travel are very high. In addition, the skills used to succeed in an online format were novel and very instructive. Woody described two teams he observed beginning their interviews with reference to the online format and ably orienting the client to privacy considerations, technical operations, and addressing potential technology problems. Future teams might look to online dispute standards for resources applicable to online work (<https://www.mediate.com/OnlineTraining/index.cfm>).

Discussion followed regarding the potential for utilizing remote tools in the future. Michael emphasized the benefits of hosting an in-person gathering, notably the networking opportunity and building unique connections with students and judges from around the world. Graham noted past difficulties in expanding the competition to include more countries, particularly given travel costs. One possibility is to host regional competitions with a smaller in-person final competition. Delaine reported that online competitions have led to fewer student participants in Poland. He also reported that his team, which did well in the online competition this year, had a more limited experience by virtue of participating remotely.

After this year's hosting experiences, Matthew expressed some ideas for how to utilize remote tools in the future.

- Notably, one possibility is to hold preliminary rounds remotely in advance of the in person competition. These rounds would count toward the final scores, give students practice in conducting remote interviews, and then provide the in-person experience for the

remaining rounds. If this results in extra rounds, it could provide more robust scoring when determining the semifinalists.

- A variation on this could be to permit teams to participate remotely only if they wish to do so and compete against other online teams separate from the in-person competition. This could help a country “test the waters” if they are unsure whether to fully commit to in-person competitions. Steven added that these methods could also expand the number of participating judges from other countries.
- Matthew closed by affirming that the dynamic between teams competing in person is truly amazing. Unlike other competitions where teams go “head to head,” these competitors never compete directly in the same room against each other, which leads to more engagement and positive connections among competing teams.

Social Media

Selene asked attendees for comments from our winners regarding social media and how the organization could utilize these platforms more effectively. Rachael reported that engagement was strong on Twitter and encouraged expansion to LinkedIn and other platforms. Jean-Luc expressed interest in helping with these matters but noted one challenge is knowing what information is allowed to be published regarding the student teams. Graham identified that momentum is difficult since there is little information to post about between competitions. Selene identified positives about Facebook, including the ability to delegate posting rights to multiple people. She expressed a hope that the ICCC and Swansea websites will be updated with lists of winners and some quality photographs of the winning teams. Graham expressed his desire to loop in others to help! Steven expressed that accessible YouTube videos are very helpful for recruiting new countries, and watching past performances is critical to helping others understand the competition and its value. Recorded videos may be preferable to livestreams, however, as Matthew noted that universities may not be willing to publicly share video feeds of live events over which they have no control.

New Business

Graham asked for details about the financial health of the organization. Woody shared that, even with conservative investing, the value of the corporation’s assets has increased significantly in recent years. Mike noted his interest in introducing some limited risk for the funds to increase investment returns. Steven noted that, once the corporation’s restructuring is complete, it will be possible to approve changes to the corporation’s investment strategy going forward. Jody expressed that the relatively recent addition of a fee for teams has provided better opportunities to give back to teams in need and to save money. This inflow gives us more room to grow and take some risk in the portfolio.

The group discussed options for obtaining more judges. Currently, communications outside the host country are generally limited to national representatives. Maria suggested creating a pool of potential judges with an online registration form.

James expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the 2020 competition and thanked Matthew for doing such an excellent job. He recognized Rachael as their coach for her support and asked whether any country had won three straight competitions? To which Matthew responded by saying that if Ireland wins a third straight year, Ireland will be the next host!

MEETING ADJOURNED @ 8:45pm BST

**Exhibit A
Past Competition Topics**



2021: Human Rights as they affect women and children
2020: Damage to Property
2019: Theft and Related Crimes
2018: Contracts: Mistakes and Other Bases for Non-Performance
2017: Problems with Neighbors
2016: Matrimonial Issues
2015: Small Businesses
2014: Commercial Contracts
2013: Serious Crimes against the Person
2012: Employers and Employees
2011: Professional Responsibility & Ethics in the Law Office
2010: White Collar Crime
2009: Negligence & Related Tort Claims
2008: Human Rights & Civil Liberties
2007: Family Law
2006: Employers and Employees
2005: Contracts
2004: Nuisance Law and Disputes between Neighbors
2003: Criminal Law
2002: Environmental Law
2001: Law and Senior Citizens, Elder Law
2000: Counseling Consumers
1999: Criminal Law
1998: Landlord-Tenant Relations
1997: Contracts