

## **8<sup>th</sup> Historical Jewish Law Moot Court**

### **What are the Historical Jewish Law Moot Courts?**

The Historical Moot Court is a Moot Court that revolves around a case which took place at a specific historical point in time –the Jewish Law legal system the early modern period of Europe. The participants proceed as if they were jurists at that particular time and operating in that specific legal system. They can use only the relevant sources of that time and need, as best as they can, to consider the appropriate historical, social, and cultural circumstances. In the Moot courts, the students will engage with the legal sources and the ways of legal reasoning that distinguish the Jewish Law legal system and will have the experience of practicing as a lawyer of this systems. The case in the Jewish Law Moot Court are drawn from the jurisdiction of Rabbinical courts in the same period.

### **Why Historical Moot Court?**

In many ways participants in the Historical Jewish Law Moot Court will have the same practical experience as any other Moot Court. They will analyze legal sources, apply them to the practical facts of a legal case, construct an argument, and then put down their thoughts in writing and present their arguments in front of a tribunal consisting of experienced lawyers and judges.

In addition, the Historical Jewish Law Moot Court provide other, unique advantages. In the Historical Moot Courts, the participants learn about the specific historical and social context of the respective case, which impacts on the way the sources can be used. Most importantly, the participants gain experience as "legal pluralist lawyers" – navigating their way through the legal pluriverse of premodern Europe, a world where state law existed in different levels and was not necessarily predominant, and where, different legal systems were at play, working simultaneously, sometimes reinforcing, sometimes contradicting one another. Lastly, the participants, in particular those trained within the Civil Law Tradition, will experience the challenge of engaging in a new, unaccustomed and unexpected way of legal thinking and reasoning that other contemporary lawyers are rarely exposed to. These skills and experiences are crucial also for contemporary lawyers and jurists, who work less and less in the relative comfort zone of a homogenous legal system dominated by a national legislator, but rather in a constantly changing legal reality shaped by multiple actors, demanding social and cultural understanding, innovative thinking, and legal creativity.

Also the social experience of the programs is not to be underestimated. In the Historical Moot Courts, the different universities do not compete against each other as universities. Instead, the competing teams are mixed teams, drawn from all participating universities. It is for this reason that both programs place considerable emphasis on the joint coaching week or sometimes two joint coaching weeks preceding the actual moot court. For the last seven years, the Historical Moot Courts have exposed the participants to different cultures and ideas, encouraged and promoted deep discussions, and created meaningful connections. We believe that the Historical Moot Courts in their eighth year will not be different.

### **How Does It Work?**

To start with, all participants receive booklets containing all the relevant legal sources they need for the case. The participants may, but do not have to look for sources beyond the sources provided. They are taught how to use the sources and are exposed to the legal system's unique way of thinking by experienced instructors – faculty and teaching assistants.

The main task for the participants consists in the application of the sources to the case. The participants are expected to submit their written arguments to the Moot Court and prepare themselves to answer the judges' questions and to respond their competing team counter arguments

The Moot Court itself consists at least of two rounds, depending on the number of participants, in which the teams compete against each other. The two best-rated teams participate in the finals. At the end of the final round the judges will give their ruling and announce the winning team.

### **Where, When, Technical Information and Application**

Dates: 19-23 February, 2024

***Application open until: February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024***

Mantua, Italy

Ca' Uberti Palace Hotel

Accommodation and meals are covered

For more Information and for application please email

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