

K O N R A D
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& P A R T N E R S

ARBITRATORS' QUEST
3rd edition

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Konrad & Partners' CEE & SEE mock trial

FACTS

After two successful editions, Konrad & Partners is pleased to announce the organization of the **3rd edition** of its *“Arbitrators’ Quest – Konrad & Partners’ CEE and SEE mock trial”*, which will take place in Vienna on 12 May 2017.

The previous Arbitrators’ Quests were convened in 2015 and 2016, during which the top ten applicants from the CEE and SEE regions competed against each other in a mock trial and the arbitral tribunal – assessing the participants – consisted of lawyers from Konrad & Partners’ International Arbitration Practice Group. The *hearing* of the mock trial was followed by the announcement of the winner and concluded with a panel discussion at the premises of Konrad & Partners.

AIM

International arbitration is a specialized field of work that requires not only expert knowledge, but also intense practical experience to master. As such, while a firm understanding of the legal concepts and theories constitutes an indispensable basis for a successful career in this field, insight into the everyday work of an arbitration practitioner can give prospective lawyers a considerable edge over their colleagues.

Our mock trial aims at providing students and young professionals in the field of international arbitration an opportunity to gain insight into and first-hand experience with situations and matters typically arising in international arbitration disputes, under the supervision of, and in close cooperation with, experienced practitioners as well as renowned scholars.

The Workshop is organized by Konrad & Partners with the non-financial support of universities and student organizations. The hearing of the mock trial will be held at the premises of Konrad & Partners' Vienna office on 12 May 2017. The mock trial is based on a case that revolves around issues that might potentially arise between two parties that have concluded a commercial agreement.

In order to facilitate a meaningful learning experience for all participants, they will be expected to be reasonably familiar with the process of arbitration in general. Therefore, advance study of academic standard works on international arbitration is encouraged. However, in order to enable the participants to experience the fast pace of a typical hearing situation, time for specific preparation will be limited.

In March, a mock case file will be distributed to all participants, enabling them to prepare for the immediate tasks of the mock trial, which will include the drafting of a written submission on behalf of one of the parties, as well as a short oral mock hearing in which each participant will be required to plead a party's case. After completion of the oral hearings, the mock arbitrators will elect the participant with the best overall performance in the workshop, taking into account the initial applications of the participants, the contents and formal appearance of their written submissions, and the oral presentation given during the mock pleadings.

The winner will be offered a paid two-month summer internship at Konrad & Partners' Vienna office, as well as paid accommodation. Certificates of participation will be provided to all participants.

While all participants are expected to make and pay for their own travelling arrangements, accommodation will be arranged and paid for by Konrad & Partners.

The Arbitrators' Quest is primarily aimed at students from the CEE and SEE regions.

Applications may be sent on or before **27 February 2017** via e-mail to j.gruber@konrad-partners.com and must entail the following information and documents:

- A personal statement setting out the applicant's motivations for applying for participation and for the internship;
- A detailed curriculum vitae;
- An academic paper prepared by the applicant on the topic of *"Contradicting dispute resolution clauses contained within the same contract"*.

The paper's length should be between 1000 to 1500 words. Applicants should refer to the dispute resolution clauses provided below and focus on the legal situation in their home countries, also taking into consideration international arbitration law, with regard to the question, whether the arbitration clause **or** the forum selection clause - if both clauses are contained in the contract - should prevail. Papers are expected to meet international academic standards. Findings should be supported by references and footnotes.

Extract from the contract:

Clause 14.

[...]

"The Regional Court of Inner City of Vienna shall have jurisdiction to settle potential disputes arising out of this Agreement, unless mandatory statutory provisions require otherwise."

[...]

Clause 17.

"All disputes or claims arising out of or in connection with this contract including disputes relating to its validity, breach, termination or nullity shall be finally settled under the Rules of Arbitration of the International Arbitral Centre of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber in Vienna (Vienna Rules) by one or three arbitrators appointed in accordance with the said Rules.

(1) The number of arbitrators shall be three.

(2) The language to be used in the arbitral proceedings shall be English."

[...]

APPLICATION

Applicants should be aware that the quality of their application documentation, in terms of both substance and form, will be taken into account not only for the selection of participants, but also for the overall evaluation of their performance during the mock trial. Applications should therefore be prepared diligently and should reflect the applicant's overall professional attitude.

Announcements for participation will be made beginning of March.