

REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

Taking the law out of the books: The annual Jean-Pictet IHL Competition, 19–26 March 2016, Évian-les-Bains and Geneva



The Committee for the Jean-Pictet Competition is pleased to announce that the 28th Jean-Pictet Competition will take place in Évian-les-Bains (France) and Geneva (Switzerland) from 19 to 26 March 2016.

The Jean-Pictet Competition is the leading international humanitarian law moot court competition, and one of the most innovative training programmes in public international law for law students. Every year, approximately 150 students representing forty-eight universities from around the world take part in this unique and world-renowned event. Since its inception in 1989, almost 3,000 students from approximately 220 universities and seventy-five countries have participated in the Competition.

The Competition is a week-long training event in international humanitarian law (IHL) intended for students (undergraduate or above) of law, political science, international relations, or other disciplines, as well as students from military academies. Its approach aims to “take the law out of the books” through simulations and role-plays, thus allowing the jury of the Competition to evaluate each team’s theoretical knowledge and practical understanding of IHL.

The simulations and role-plays are based on a fictional but realistic case study of an armed conflict. During the Competition, the simulations are set up so that the teams (each comprised of three students) engage with each other and the jury in different formats: some simulations take place between the jury and only



Participants and volunteers of the 27th edition of the Competition pose for the traditional group photo, in Charlottesville, VA, United States, April 2015. © CCJP

one team, some between the jury and several teams, some between two teams with a silent jury, and so on. Participants are also required to take on roles that constantly evolve. For example, they may be asked to play the role of representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the morning and, later that same day, to play the role of armed carriers. This stimulates participants to consider the same conflict from different perspectives.

For more information on the 28th Jean-Pictet Competition, or on the Competition in general, please consult our website at www.concourspictet.org, or follow us on Facebook (Concours Jean-Pictet Competition) and Twitter (@ConcoursPictet).