

## **University of los Andes (Colombia) Results at the Virtual Jessup Rounds of 2021**

In March and April of 2021, the International Law Students Association (ILSA) held the 62nd edition of the Philip Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition with the sponsorship of the firm White & Case, on Yaarly, an online platform with virtual courtrooms created especially for the Jessup. Over six weeks of virtual hearings, 574 teams from 90 countries competed in 2,036 rounds representing more than 3,000 hours of argument. More than 1,100 lawyers, judges and law professors judged the students in their oral and written arguments. In the longest and most difficult competition in Jessup history, students Esteban Bernal and María-José Monroy, under the academic direction of professor Liliana Obregón and the coaching of former Jessups and Andes lawyers Lilia-Rosa Mendoza and Nicolás Forero, advanced to the elimination rounds in seventh (7th) place from their advanced and preliminary rounds combined scores. The team also placed # 11 of the “Best Applicant Side,” which evaluates combined memorial and oralist scores from the international rounds. These achievements are significant considering that nearly 600 teams started the international rounds, 168 went on to the advanced rounds, 48 to the elimination rounds, among which Los Andes was among the top 16 teams with the highest scores in the first virtual version of the international rounds and the longest in its history.

The Los Andes team advanced undefeated for thirteen rounds: five Colombian national rounds against Sabana, Norte, and Rosario universities; four international preliminary rounds against Canada (Dalhousie University), Kenya (Kenyatta University School of Law), China (Southwestern University of Finance and Economics) and Australia (University of Tasmania); and four advanced rounds against Chile (Universidad de Chile), Malaysia (Universiti Teknologi MARA), Mexico (Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey) and the United States (Wayne State University). The team scored 7<sup>th</sup> place among the top 16 teams entering the elimination rounds after winning all their preliminary and advanced rounds by unanimity with judges from Germany, Argentina, Canada, Ecuador, United States, Italy, Israel, Malaysia, Panama, United Kingdom, Russia, Romania, Singapore, and Turkey. Los Andes and Iberoamericana de México were the only two Latin American universities in the group of 16, and together with Universidad del Rosario, the only Latin American teams in the group of 32 in the elimination rounds. Unfortunately, after the first elimination round, the University of Toronto defeated the Los Andes team.

Although it is not the first time that Los Andes has advanced to the elimination rounds (1999, 2000, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2015), it was the first time that the international rounds were held virtually, lasted more than a month and involved an international problem that affected all participants simultaneously (a pandemic). It was also the first time that all of the more than 500 teams were allowed to compete in the international preliminary rounds regardless of their placing in the national rounds, or the longstanding rule that only one for every 10 country teams can participate in the international rounds. Additionally, it was the first time that Los Andes advanced undefeated with a team of only two student oralists who had to double as agents for both the Applicant and the Respondent sides. Additionally, for the first time Los Andes competed with a student from the Universidad de los Andes-Universidad Nacional de Colombia undergraduate agreement (Esteban) and a student from the Master's in International Law (María José).

The 2021 case addressed the international legality of entry regulations during a pandemic, the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice, a request for political asylum by a scientist working on a vaccine, and the responsibility of a State for shooting down a civilian aircraft.

### **What is "the Jessup"?**

The Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition, affectionately called "the Jessup," is the oldest and largest international law moot court for students on issues of international state responsibility. The moots are based on the "Jessup problem" that contains four claims between two fictitious states that litigate before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the judicial organ of the United Nations. The mock court requires teams of up to five students to prepare written memorials and oral arguments in English on behalf of the Applicant and the Respondent state. They are judged by former Jessup volunteers from around the world at national, regional and international rounds. The final Championship Round have often included real ICJ judges.

The Jessup started in 1960, when Harvard University professors Richard R. Baxter and Stephen M. Schwebel (later President of the ICJ) created the "International Law Moot" for their students with a case on the Cuban agrarian reform. In 1963 the moot's name was changed in honor of the ICJ judge, Philip C. Jessup, as the competition expanded to universities across the United States and Canada. In 1968, the American Society of International Law (ASIL) became the Jessup's official sponsor and sought to expand the competition outside of North America, inviting the participation of universities from France, Argentina, Ethiopia, Liberia, Nigeria, the United Kingdom and Zambia.

The Jessup's growing internationalization in the 1970s led to dividing the moot into two rounds: one for US universities and one for all other participating countries, with the winner for each division competing against each other in a final round for the Jessup Cup. This structure was maintained from 1972 to 1987 until the new International Law Students Association (ILSA) united the rounds in 1988. Since then the firms Shearman & Sterling, initially, and White & Case, currently, have been the main sponsors of the international rounds, as well as "Friends of the Jessup" a global coalition of former contestants, judges and supporters.

With more participating universities, national and regional competitions developed, and take place between December and March of each year, to elect national representatives for the international rounds. Each country may send one team for every ten that compete at the national level, though certain exceptions have been made under special circumstances. Teams advance at the international rounds to reach the elimination rounds (Run-Off, Octafinal, Quarterfinal, Semifinal) based on wins determined by the combined scores of the written memorials (one-third) and the oral arguments (two-thirds) of an individual round.

Since the international rounds began in 1968, more than 700 universities in 100 countries have participated in Jessup at one time or another. The teams that have advanced to the final Championship Round the most are the United States (Champion 17 times, Runner-Up 15 times); Australia (Champion 14 times, Runner-up 7 times); and Singapore (Champion 4 times, Runner-up 10 times). Universities where legal education is not in English have won the Cup six times and finished as runners-up seven times. Latin American universities have been in the final

championship rounds eight times with Jessup Cup winners UAndrés Bello Venezuela, 1997; UNacional de Mexico, 1998; U Los Andes, Colombia 2009; UBuenos Aires Argentina 2016. As Runners-Up Latin Americans have won in 2000, 2001, 2006 with UAndrés Bello and in 2015 with UCatólica, Chile. Written memorials are also awarded as the best of the international rounds (Alona Evans Award), best combined of the national rounds (Hardy C. Dillard Award), best Applicant or best Respondent (Richard Baxter Award), and Best Overall.

### **Los Andes History at the Jessup**

In 1978, Los Andes University law school participated for the first time at the Jessup under the initiative of the then dean Eduardo Álvarez-Correa and his friend, Professor Sherman Cohn of Georgetown University, at a time when there were less than 200 teams participating and only thirty went to the international rounds in Washington DC. Gabriel Saldarriaga, Alonso Hernández, Emilio Wills, José Kleinburg and Caroline George were the first generation of uniandinos to participate in the Jessup.

A decade later, Eduardo Wiesner was the first Colombian student ranked among the best oralists at #15 out of 123. In 1992 the team of Julieta Lemaitre, Paula Lozano and Mauricio Ramos ranked # 16 of the preliminary rounds, placed in the top 100 oralists, and ranked a memorial at #24 among 156. In 1993, four students ranked among the top 25 oralists (Andrés Consuegra # 6, Diana Ballestas # 15, Álvaro Rodríguez # 20, Juan Gamboa # 23). In 1994, Isabel Cristina Jaramillo, Romana Samaritani, Maristella Aldana and Margarita Martínez were members of the first and only Los Andes all women's team, and ranked # 14 at the international rounds.

With the sudden death of Professor Álvarez-Correa in 1997, the coaching was inherited by one of his Jessup students, José Antonio Rivas. That year, the Andrés Bello University of Venezuela established itself as the first Latin American and non-native English-speaking team to reach the final and win the Jessup Cup. The following year the National University of Mexico won the Jessup Cup and Los Andes ranked four oralists among the top 100 (Alexandra Letts # 12, Marta María Ochoa # 25, María Eugenia Lloreda # 45 and Francesco Noero # 59). In 1999, the Los Andes team of Marta María Ochoa, Federico Guzmán, and Alexandra Letts, under Rivas' coaching, advanced to the quarter finals for the first time and won the Hardy Dillard award for best combined memorials of the national rounds. The following year, Federico Guzmán, Salvador Herencia, Ángela Suárez, Julieta Solano and Juan Pablo Coy ranked as the second best team with Federico Guzmán as the second best oralist of the preliminary rounds and the team advanced to the run-off rounds.

In 2007, with the first coaching of Liliana Obregón, three oralists finished in the top 50 (Sebastián Machado # 24, Estefanía Ponce # 34, Laura Sinisterra # 47), the team ranked #14 and advanced to the run-off rounds. In 2009, after 30 years of Los Andes participation and on the 50th anniversary of the Jessup, the team of Ricardo Alarcón, Giselle Herrera, Guillermo Otálora, and Sebastian Machado, under the direction and coaching of Liliana Obregón, won the Jessup Cup, becoming the third Latin American and non-English-speaking country to win the final round in Jessup's fifty years. The team also won the Alona Evans Award for Best Memorial (# 1) from the international rounds, and Sebastián Machado won the Schwebel Award for the best

oralist from the final round (Championship Round) and the International Law Institute award for the best oralist from a non-English speaking country.

After the achievements of 2009, Los Andes teams continued to accumulate awards. In 2010 the team of Andrés Esteban, Pablo Carrizosa and María Angélica Prada obtained the Hardy Dillard award for the eighth place of the best combined memorials of the national, regional and international rounds. In 2011 the team of María Angélica Prada, Ana María Durán and Pablo Carrizosa advanced to the elimination rounds undefeated in place # 11 and their memorials were ranked # 4 at the international rounds. The national runner-up position in 2014 led the Los Andes team to participate as an exhibition team for the first time, where it won best team, best oralist (Vanessa Daza) and best memorial. In 2015 the team of Vanessa Daza, Lilia-Rosa Mendoza, Nicolás Forero, Valeria Ruiz and Laura Arboleda, under the direction of Liliana Obregón, ranked # 29 in the preliminary rounds, qualifying for the run-off rounds. They also obtained an award for # 8 of the 30 best memorials of the advanced rounds and Nicolás Forero and Lilia Rosa Mendoza ranked # 40 and # 81 among the 100 best oralists of the international rounds. In 2016 again as runners-up, winning the award for the best team and the best oralist (Valentina Vera-Quiroz) of the exhibition rounds in Washington D.C. Although in 2020 the Uniandinos again won the National Cup (*Poporo de Oro*) and the best memorials of the national rounds with the team of David Amorochó, Esteban Bernal, Maríana Rozo, Maríana Reyes, Camilo Torres, and the coaching of Lilia Rosa Mendoza and Nicolás Forero, the international rounds were canceled due to the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The long history of participation of the Los Andes teams at the Jessup, and especially the achievements of the 2009 team, motivated national coaches and administrators to improve the Colombian rounds so that other universities would reach the international rounds in Washington (Javeriana 2010, 2012; Sabana 2014, 2017, 2018, 2019; URosario 2016). The improvement of the Colombian rounds was recognized in 2020 by awarding the national administrator, Giovanny Vega Barbosa, the Steven M. Schneebaum award and allowing, for the first time, that the national champion (Andes), runner-up (Sabana) participate in the preliminary rounds in Washington accompanied by a new exhibition team (Norte). Unfortunately, the Covid pandemic ruined the dream of three Colombian teams to be in Washington together, as the international rounds were canceled for the first time in Jessup history. However, the pandemic situation forced the Jessup to go virtual in 2021, which allowed six Colombian teams (Andes, Externado, Javeriana, Norte, Rosario, Sabana) to compete in the international preliminary rounds regardless of the final results of the national rounds. As a consequence, four Colombian teams reached the advanced rounds (Andes, Externado, Rosario, Sabana) and two teams (Andes, Rosario) reached the run-off rounds together, which meant that in 2021, Colombia had its best representation in Jessup history.

**Universidad de Los Andes (Colombia) @ The Jessup  
1978-2021**

<b>INTERNATIONAL ROUNDS</b>	
<b>First Participation</b>	1978
<b>All Female Team</b>	1994
<b>Two Person Team</b>	2021
<b>Top Team Rankings after Preliminary Rounds</b>	#14 1994; #12 1998; #13 1999; #2 2000; #20, 2001; #35 2004; #14,2007; #20 2009; #11 2011; #34, 2013; #29 2015; #7 2021
<b>Top 100 Oralists</b>	#15 1988; #77,#85 1993; #25,#45,#59 1998; #18,#74,#92 1999; #2 2000; #77, 2001; #73, 2003; #91 2004; #14, #24, #34, #47 2007; #39, #87 2009; #40, #81 2015; #78 2021
<b>Top Memorials</b>	#24 1993; #21 1999; #1 2009; #4 2011; #8 2015; #11 2021
<b>Best Applicant Side</b>	#11 2021
<b>Run-Off Rounds</b>	1999, 2000, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2015, 2021
<b>Quarter Finals</b>	1999, 2009
<b>Championship Round</b>	2009
<b>EXHIBITION ROUNDS</b>	
<b>Best Exhibition Team</b>	2014, 2016
<b>Best Exhibition Oralist</b>	2012, 2014, 2016
<b>Best Exhibition Memorial</b>	2014
<b>NATIONAL ROUNDS</b>	
<b>Champions</b>	1996-2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2020,2021
<b>Runner-Up</b>	2005, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
<b>Best Oralist</b>	2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016 y 2021
<b>Best Memorials</b>	2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020