March 20, 2020

After evaluating the reality of the impact of Covid-19 on the academic and professional community, as well as the public health, we have decided to cancel the in-person competition of the Manfred Lachs North America Space Law Moot Court.

First and foremost is the health and safety of our competitors and volunteers. However, we are also aware of our responsibility as stewards of public health to help mitigate the spread of Covid-19 to more vulnerable populations and groups.

Similarly, multiple schools have begun to escalate their response by limiting domestic travel, attendance at group events, and closing their campuses. Our host venue Georgetown University Law Center, suspended on and off-campus events for the rest of the semester. So even if your school has not done so yet, the likelihood will continue to increase in the next week that more schools will close travel and events.

This is also true for our volunteers and professional partners, whose workplaces in DC and across the country have implemented telecommuting and limits to travel and attendance.

For the reasons above, we believe it is infeasible and inadvisable to continue with the in-person competition, and that the situation in the future is too uncertain to consider postponing.

After consultation with the IISL Moot Court Committee, the Manfred Lachs North America Regional Competition will proceed as follows:

- Memorials will be scored and ranked in two divisions by 30 March.
- Scores and memorials will be released to all teams.
- The top four (4) memorial scores in each division will advance to the Quarter-Finals.
- At that time, we will work with quarter-finalists to schedule oral arguments.

This alternative competition plan is dependent on the continuing availability of remote teleconference services, and the feasibility of such an option for teams.

Thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding as we all continue to process the current situation.

Sincerely,
Nathan A. Johnson, Regional Organizer