



COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION
NORMAN MANLEY LAW SCHOOL

THE 2027 PHILIP C. JESSUP INTERNATIONAL LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION

TRY-OUTS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2026, AT 4PM

The International Rounds of the 2027 Jessup will be held in person at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto, Canada from 27 March to 3 April 2027.

If you are interested in being a candidate for Norman Manley Law School's Jessup team, you must:

- 1. Apply on or before 7 October 2026 by completing and submitting the (1) *Application Form*, and (2) *Declaration* to scott.mullings@nmlscle.com, and**
- 2. Present oral arguments based on the *Try-Out Problem* on 16 October 2026 at the Gibraltar Building. The *Try-Out Problem* and *Instructions* in respect of the try-out process are set out below.**

NORMAN MANLEY LAW SCHOOL

APPLICATION TO JOIN THE 2027 PHILIP C. JESSUP INTERNATIONAL LAW MOOT COURT TEAM

NAME _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ CONTACT NUMBER: _____

1. WHY SHOULD YOU BE SELECTED AS A MEMBER OF THE JESSUP MOOT COURT TEAM? (100 words or less).
2. WHY HAS THE NORMAN MANLEY LAW SCHOOL MAINTAINED SUCH AN EXCELLENT TRACK RECORD AT THE JESSUP? (100 words or less).
(Please write your answers on another sheet and attach to this Application)
3. I have completed and signed the Declaration by Applicant for Participation on the Norman Manley Law School Teams.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

If you wish to be a Researcher for the Team, and not an Oralist, kindly indicate this now. ____ I wish to be the Researcher. (tick space)

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DECLARATION BY APPLICANT FOR PARTICIPATION
ON THE NORMAN MANLEY LAW SCHOOL TEAMS

**I _____ understand
and agree that if I am selected as a member of the team:**

1. I must be in good standing with the School as regards registration and financial obligations. I must also be the holder of any visa required for travel.
2. I consent to be a member of the Mooting Society upon its establishment by the School.
3. I understand that I will be required to commit to several hours of individual and group preparation per week for the competition, while fulfilling the academic requirements of each course including the attendance policy
4. I may be selected as the team researcher, which will require me to do research, drafting, support speakers and perform as instructing counsel during the matches.
5. I agree that it is my responsibility to meet all team deadlines for preparation and adhere to guidelines provided for travel.
6. If, in the opinion of the Team Advisor or School Administration, it is in the best interests of the team, I may be removed from the team and, in their absolute discretion, be replaced by another student.
7. The name of the Moot Competition is _____.

SIGNED AND AGREED:

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

TRY-OUT PROBLEM

CASE CONCERNING THE WATAMBA CLIMATE ACCORD

(Republic of Veritas v Mekfet)

1. Mekfet is a State in the Watamba region that is well known for its robust healthcare system. The healthcare system known as "OsamaCare" has been successful in significantly reducing the rates of many communicable and non-communicable diseases that previously strained public health resources. It is also celebrated by many economists as being essential in ensuring the economic survival of Mekfet by *inter alia* improving the productivity of its citizens. OsamaCare is entirely funded by the Government and is universally accessible to its citizens.
2. Due to the success of policies, such as OsamaCare, Mekfet experiences a low death rate and its population has increased drastically over the past 50 years. Mekfet has a population of 40 million people, with a high per capita birth rate of 50.25 births per 1000 people.
3. Mekfet is one of the foremost proponents of the Watamba Climate Accord ["WCA"] which provides in relevant part that:
 - "1. Prior to becoming parties to this Accord, States shall present policies for the limitation of greenhouse gas emissions and sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production emissions and preserves.
 2. Each party shall be bound to every such policy that they present."
4. Prior to entering the WCA, the President of Mekfet, Osama Elexia, presented Mekfet's policy, announcing that the State would be closing 100% of its coal mining operations. The sale of coal produced from Mekfet's mines, apart from meeting the energy needs of the State, was the primary source of financing for OsamaCare and was the only domestic source of energy available to Mekfet and the country's third largest export.
5. At a press conference urging other States to sign on to the WCA, President Elexia stated,

"Climate change is the greatest moral challenge of our generation. Mekfet will today press its hand to the arc of the moral universe and bend it once more towards the right side of history by discontinuing its coal operations. There is no such thing as clean coal, and we must reject the moral ambiguity which allows States to argue in favour of such illusions."

6. Mekfet's discontinuance of its coal industry was facilitated by the signing of a bilateral agreement with the Republic of Veritas known as the "Build Better Together Initiative" or the "BBTI". Veritas is another State in the Watamba region with massive liquefied natural gas ("LNG") reserves and a booming renewable energy industry. The Republic of Veritas is also a major proponent of the WCA and is known as the greenest country in the world. Under the BBTI, the Republic of Veritas agreed to provide LNG and renewable energy infrastructure, at a considerably reduced cost, to Mekfet in exchange for Veritasian citizens being used as workers in the energy revolution and provided Mekfet adhered to the WCA. The Government of the Republic of Veritas is led by Prime Minister, Phillipa Chin, a well-known and well-respected international lawyer.
7. As the policies of Elexia have been introduced with the gradual closure of coal mines, there have been increased difficulties in funding OsamaCare. There have been reports of the re-emergence of some communicable diseases which have been virtually non-existent in rural areas, and increased rates of non-communicable diseases in urban areas. These diseases once ravaged Mekfet's population and its terrible effects provided the rationale for universal health care in the state.
8. President Elexia's term came to an end on 6 January 2025 and on the same day, Ronald Grump was elected the new president of Mekfet. Ronald Grump is a conservative tech billionaire who rose to fame on a platform of economic and social reform which he branded *"Make Mekfet Mighty Again"*.
9. In his first week as president, Grump placed tariffs on goods imported from Watamban countries claiming that, *"Mekfet has been taken advantage of for far too long. It is time we put Mekfet First: Mekfet Businesses, Mekfet Citizens and Mekfet Interests... bigly!"*
10. As part of his Mekfet First policy, Grump reduced the Veritasian citizens employed in building Mekfet's renewable energy industry and replaced them with Mekfetians. Also claiming that the move away from coal has crashed its health care system and brought the country's economy to its knees, Grump, under the advice of Mulligan Scottson, the Secretary of Energy and his most trusted advisor and ally, reopened Mekfet's coal mines and begins to re-establish its energy industry using coal. Scottson spearheaded this initiative and is publicly regarded as the main motivator of Grump's position on energy.

11. In his first Status of the Nation address, Grump stated that,

"the devastation of our health care system is huge, like really really huge, everybody says so... and this has been the fault of Osama and the WCA... I call it the treaty of death... it has depleted our Net International Reserves by 40% this year alone and is projected to worsen in the next few years. Our economy, once the fastest growing in the region, if not the world... like the whole world, has experienced growth of 0.07% down from last year's growth of 3.05%.

We are now contemplating a bail out from the International Monetary Fund but they are telling us we are too poor to afford a bailout. This OsamaCare stuff is crashing and the whole country is in the passenger seat and its crashing because it has no fuel and that was coal. Good, beautiful, clean coal used to be the fuel that funded our health care and because it's gone we are all dying, literally people are dying! If we are to save our country and our fellow citizens, we must mine and use our precious coal."

12. Prime Minister Chin strongly protested the decision to resume coal production, claiming Mekfet's actions were a violation of the BBTI and the WCA. Veritas has since suspended its provision of LNG and recalled Veritasian citizens working on the renewable energy project in Mekfet to Veritas. Several Veritasian citizens still employed in high level positions in Mekfet's Ministry of Energy did not respond to this call and remained in Mekfet, criticising Veritas' Government for what they called an 'over reaction'.

13. The largest LNG producer in the Republic of Veritas is Dread Ego Engineering ("Dread Ego"). The company was once a company wholly owned by the Government and is the main energy provider in the State. In 2015, however, the Government divested itself of most of its shareholding in Dread Ego, and it now maintains only 40% of the shareholding of the company. Upon its divestment of most of its shareholding, the Government of Veritas awarded Dread Ego a licence to produce electricity to supply the national power grid. This licence stipulates that 85% of the country's electricity supply must be provided by Dread Ego. Consistent with the Government's shareholding, 40% of the company's profits is paid over to the Government which is used to supplement the consolidated fund.

14. The 10-member Board of Directors of Dread Ego is predominantly constituted by retired members of the Veritasian Army. The Communications Director in the Veritasian Ministry of Science, Technology & Energy, John Matthews, also sits on the board.

15. Dread Ego's revenue has diminished, and its share price has devalued drastically since Veritas ceased provision of LNG to Mekfet in response to Mekfet's resumption of coal production.
16. Between 15 and 16 October 2025, Mulligan Scottson as well as 13 prominent Mekfetian and Veritasian citizens working in the public and private sectors of Mekfet, who had been vocal in their support for the decision to resume coal production, were poisoned by nerve agents and die.
17. Investigations led by intelligence agencies of Mekfet reveal that on 11 September 2025, members of the Board of Directors of Dread Ego took the decision to hire a former member of the Veritasian armed forces to carry out and coordinate the poisoning operation which they dubbed "The Climate Defence Operation". It is believed by Mekfetian intelligence agencies that the 15 and 16 October nerve agent killings represented merely the beginning of the "Climate Defence Operation" and that it was intended for President Grump to be assassinated as part of the goal of reversing his controversial energy policies. There is no direct evidence as to whether John Matthews took part in authorizing the "Climate Defence Operation" or whether he was aware of it prior to it being launched.
18. Upon being briefed by Mekfet's intelligence agencies on 30 October 2025 concerning the "Climate Defence Operation", President Grump declared that the nerve agent killings amounted to an armed attack against the territorial integrity and political independence of Mekfet by the Republic of Veritas having been conducted by what he described as an arm of the Veritasian state. President Grump shortly thereafter ordered the bombing of Dread Ego's Power Plant in the capital city of the Republic of Veritas. In an early morning operation on 4 November 2025 by the Mekfet Air Force, the power plant is destroyed and 28 Veritasian citizens and persons of other nationalities perish.
19. On the same day, Prime Minister Chin protested the attack on the Dread Ego Power Plant as a *"clearly unjustifiable and disproportionate use of armed force"* and insisted that, *"the Government of Veritas played no role whatsoever in the poisoning of persons in Mekfet or in any unlawful act that may have been committed by the private corporation, Dread Ego. The Republic of Veritas will do whatever is necessary to deter any further acts of aggression by Mekfet"*.

20. Considering these developments, countries within and outside the Watamba Region desperately urged the Republic of Veritas and Mekfet to settle their dispute peacefully to prevent an all-out war. Following on the call for peace, countries in the Watamba region were successful in getting the Republic of Veritas and Mekfet to engage in peace-talks lasting several weeks.
21. The main result of those peace-talks was that Veritas and Mekfet agreed to have the issues between them resolved by the International Court of Justice ("the Court") in accordance with international law and to take every effort not to escalate the conflict while the matter was being resolved.
22. Accordingly, this dispute was submitted to the Court on 17 February 2026 by way of a special agreement between Mekfet and the Republic of Veritas. It was agreed that the Republic of Veritas would appear as the Applicant and Mekfet would appear as the Respondent, without prejudice as to which state bears any burden of proof.
23. In the Special Agreement, the Applicant seeks the Court to adjudge and declare that:
1. Mekfet's return to coal production is a violation of international law.
 2. The poisoning incidents in Mekfet do not amount to an armed attack by the Republic of Veritas against Mekfet.
 3. Mekfet's bombing of the Dread-Ego Engineering Power Plant was an armed attack or unlawful use of force in and against the Republic of Veritas.
24. The Respondent seeks in the Special Agreement for the Court to adjudge and declare that:
1. Mekfet's return to coal production is consistent with international law.
 2. The nerve agent killings that formed part of the "Climate Defence Operation" were an armed attack or an unlawful use of force in and against Mekfet attributable to the Republic of Veritas.
 3. Mekfet's bombing of the Dread-Ego Engineering Power Plant was not a violation of international law.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR JESSUP TEAM CANDIDATES

Candidates to the Jessup team (**Candidates**) are required to submit their application to join the Jessup team by **7 October 2026**.

On **16 October 2026**, each candidate will be required to appear as either the Applicant or Respondent and make oral arguments before a panel of judges who will be free to ask questions of the candidates to test the arguments being presented. The panel of judges will determine whether the candidate will argue for the Applicant or the Respondent prior to when he or she begins their pleading. Each candidate will be given no more than **15 minutes** to present their arguments.

During their pleading before the panel of judges, candidates will not be permitted to use electronics, cannot communicate with anyone nor can they otherwise be assisted by other persons, except the judges sitting on the panel.

Candidates are encouraged to observe Jessup Grand Final matches, which are available on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@jessupilsa>) to be acquainted with best mooting practice.