



The Delegate

What an honor to have such a great guest in ATS MUN!

Our journalist Aristidis Aggelopoulos took a short interview from the distinguished lawyer and ICJ Coordinator, Mr. Robert Stern.

After having participated in MUNs around the world and coordinated the ICJ what makes the difference between this committee and the others?

The ICJ is unique. It is a court! it's not a General Assembly, it's neither a committee nor a commission. It has its own rules and rather unique procedures related to the legal system. It has different terminology. You don't use points of order. It's a court room and as realistic as possible. It's not exactly the same as the International Court of Justice because they usually don't have witnesses. It makes it more interesting for the students as it requires certain skills. The participation is constant and they have to be attentive the entire time they are involved. There are open speeches. They bring evidence to the advocate. There are questions to advocates and questions to witnesses. When they're all finished, the judges face all the evidence and present it. It includes stipulation and also real evidence. Then the judges discuss it, argue it and see which side persuaded them. It's a completely different set of policies and procedures.

Has your attitude towards life changed throughout your experience as a Public Defender?

I think I was always sensitive to the people who were disadvantaged. My whole life, my professional career has been spent trying to help the disadvantaged and I certainly saw that side of life from the part of the defender. I "translated" that into teaching and helping students. Not that students are necessarily disadvantaged, but they have needs and I like to be involved and help people who have certain needs in order for them to be creative, able to better themselves and be better than they are. Now, at that particular time that I'm retired, I still do the ICJ program and teach, and get to work with kids. I also do some volunteer legal work in England giving free legal advice to the poor and the disadvantaged. So, I have my hands even in retirement both in the law and teaching and I get the best out of these two

worlds.

Do you believe in Justice?

Oh! Absolutely! What is interesting, what is nice for me is to be able to see the jury! People who sit in juries are smart people; they understand and they see through all the testimonies. Normally the reach appropriate decisions almost all the time. That is not perfect. Nothing is a perfect system. There are mistakes. You read about these mistakes in the newspaper. You think they happen all the time, but if you think that there are thousands and thousands of cases happening ... most of them do the right.

How was your experience in the Atsmun conference?

Fa-nta-stic! It was very good, I enjoyed it. I liked it very much. We were a little concerned because the students started late the IC. They started the research late but they have done a wonderful job and especially most of the kids, I have been working with, are nice creators. They picked up all the legal concept, exploited the issue, took the steps and debated really really well! The decision taken is appropriate and they can justify it. They have done a great job and I have been taken a wonderful care of you and everybody has been kind. Patras is a lovely city and the hospitality is first rate. It has been terrific! I would be very happy to return and do it again and I think so does everybody who has been involved.



Keeping up with the committees...

International Court of Justice

The day started with a witness testimony and the ICJ Members admitted the evidence. Objections took place, some of which were sustained by the President. The Advocates proceeded with closing arguments. Later on, nine issues were noted on the flip chart, which were discussed after an initial vote. Mr. Stern coordinated the overall trial.

Historical Committee

During the session of the Historical Committee, the Italian scientist Gabrielle Petrakis was murdered and we have organized a research to reveal the perpetrator. Also, the Ottoman empire was threatened to be expelled from the Entente Coalition. She was brought before justice to answer to the accusations she endured.

Advisory Panel

The second day of the ATSMUN started with a sudden crisis in the committee. Chaos was caused when, during the debate, FBI agency ran into the committee and announced the death of Kim Jong-un in US soil. The delegates worked under pressure to reach an agreement but they concluded to the declaration of WW3. After intense and flaming debate, they rejected the idea of war and reached a diplomatic agreement.

European Council

In the EU Council there has been conducted a fruitful debate on very important issues of our days, such as the combat of terrorism in Europe and the direction that Europe needs to follow in order to maintain its protagonist role in world's events.

Special Political and Decolonization Committee

We discussed two resolutions on the issue of Nagorno Karabakh, one from Azerbaijan and the other from Russian Federation. Some amendments were made, one of which passed. In general, the delegates were quite active and their speeches were to the point. All in all, the debate was constructive and even heated sometimes.

UN Council on fighting ISIS

We read the worst operative clause in the history of clauses and it actually passed! The delegates of Canada and UK could not solve their personal issues, so we had to do group therapy and help

them love each other. The best Secretary General became a French secret agent that informed us about the bombing of the Eiffel Tower.

Security Council

The first day of debating started kind of slow because of the stress and the sleepiness of all. But as time passed things warmed up and the arguments provided were stronger.

Legal Committee

We had a fruitful and interesting debate. We passed 2 resolutions concerning criminal accountability of UN peacekeepers and privacy rights violations via new information technologies. The debate was constructive and measures were taken to tackle serious problems of our society.

Ad Hoc Committee on the elimination of xenophobia and racism

We were happy to see the majority of the delegates participating despite their anxiety. Their lack of aggression and their willingness to cooperate were two noticeable points. The resolutions and the majority of the amendments have passed so far. This is a proof of the extremely productive debate.



Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee

While debating on reviewing the status of the human rights in the republic of Turkey, delegates made efforts to suggest effective solutions in order to tackle the problems that Turkey is facing. Therefore, we strongly debated in amendments and delegates tried to find realistic measures.

Disarmament and International Security Committee

The day began with the ambassadors delivering their speeches. However, due to the fact that at first we had no resolutions to debate upon, we held an ice-breaking game which led to us singing and dancing. All the delegates of our committee have outstanding knowledge on the topics discussed while having a very good relationship with each other. This might be the reason why the committee is never completely silent!

ECOSOC

We all gathered at 9:00 am and proceeded with lobbying until 10:00. By then all 4 resolutions on the 2 subjects had been submitted and approved by the approval panel. The delegates began debating on the first resolution concerning economic sanctions and after 2 hours of intense debate the resolution had passed with only one amendment. After a short break we were back on schedule and the first resolution concerning tax evasion was the topic of the debate. The same debate persists even after the lunch break and it looks like it will be quite a fruitful one. Overall it was a very productive day for the committee and we hope we can keep it up.

Thanks to the chairs of the committees we are aware of what went on during the first days of the conference. Thanks guys!

Advisors go sightseeing...

Yesterday, all the advisors took a day trip to meet the sights of our city. They visited the Rio-Antirio bridge, the Archeological museum, the Cathedral of Saint Andrew and Achaia Claus. They had a great time and they were all so excited!

