



Introduction

Since the inception of the Jean-Pictet Competition in 1989, several other international humanitarian law competitions have been initiated. Some have essay contests, role-playing, mock trials, etc. This is all a very positive development for the dissemination of international humanitarian law that demonstrates its importance. This development also makes international humanitarian law more well known and brings to light its applicability. The various other competitions make a truly important contribution in this sense.

Over time, it has, however, proved to be useful to point out certain distinctions and pieces of information about the connection between the Jean-Pictet Competition and the Committee for the Jean-Pictet Competition (CJPC), on one hand, and the other initiatives and organizations, on the other hand.

For any questions or for additional information, please visit the website for the Competition:

www.concourspictet.org. If necessary, it is possible to contact the administrator of the Competition: helene@concourspictet.org.

* * * *

1. Connection between the Jean-Pictet Competition and the CJPC

What is the CJPC?

The CJPC is a non-profit organization under the French Law of July 1, 1901, with its headquarters in Chamalieres (France).

What is the goal of the CJPC?

The only goal of the CJPC is to organize the annual Jean-Pictet International Humanitarian Law Competition, the first of which took place in February 1989. The Competition is a week-long event held between February and April of each year.

Who is on the CJPC?

Totally independent, the Committee is made up of 12 people of different backgrounds who volunteer their time and who are assisted by the administrator: Helene Maghdessian.

2. Connection between the Jean-Pictet Competition and other initiatives or organizations

2.1 Absence of national, regional or other pre-selection

Is there a national, regional or other pre-selection for the Jean-Pictet Competition?

There is no national, regional or other pre-selection for the Jean-Pictet Competition. All applications completed according to requirements as outlined on the website for the Competition and received on time are reviewed by the CJPC to select the teams.

There is no doubt, however, that some teams benefit from financial support granted by organizations other than the CJPC, possibly by a selection process (such as a competition) organized by a university or at the national or local level.

Is it an asset to have participated in an independent selection for the Competition?

The fact of having won another competition or having been selected by another organization is not a guarantee of selection by the Jean-Pictet Competition. The content of the application submitted for consideration is what is reviewed by the CJPC. There are no extensions to the application deadline for the Jean-Pictet Competition in order to allow the required time for the selection process.

2.2 Criteria and Selection Process

Are the selection criteria the same for the Jean-Pictet Competition and the other contests that exist on the national, regional or other level?

Similarly, the criteria used in other selections or contests have no influence on the selection process for the Jean-Pictet Competition. Furthermore, a team admitted to another contest, national or regional, for example, may not be selected for the Jean-Pictet Competition because of different selection criteria used. This also applies to the evaluations during the Competition as well as the subject matter and style of the Competition which may differ from other competitions.

What are the selection criteria for the Jean-Pictet Competition?

The requirements and criteria appearing on the website for the Jean-Pictet Competition in the month of September preceding each session are used by the CJPC to evaluate each application according to the following:

- the quality of the curriculum vitae of the three individuals making up the team;
- the quality of the answers to the questions on international humanitarian law in the applicant's file (questions 1 and 2); and
- the motivation of the team (question 3).

The CJPC also considers, to a lesser degree, the geographical distribution of the selected teams.

When is the selection of teams announced?

Team selections are announced in the month of January prior to each session.

How many teams may participate in the Jean-Pictet Competition?

The maximum number of teams that may participate in the three sessions combined (English, French, Spanish) is 56 teams. Also, the rules of the Competition do not allow two teams from the same institution to be candidates for the same session.

2.3 Ties between the Jean-Pictet Competition and the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC)

What are the ties between the Jean-Pictet Competition and the ICRC?

The Jean-Pictet Competition is managed and organized completely independently of the ICRC. Nonetheless the Competition has a privileged connection with the ICRC with regard to the teaching of International Humanitarian Law at the university level.

How does the ICRC offer support to the Jean-Pictet Competition?

For many years, the Jean-Pictet Competition has had the benefit of solid support from the ICRC which contributes to the event in different ways:

- offering financial support to the CJPC to facilitate its work during the months before and following the Competition;
- in promoting the event through its delegations;
- in facilitating the participation of teams coming from countries affected by armed conflicts and other violent situations; and
- in offering colleagues, from everywhere including Geneva, as jury members and tutors.

Thus, in many regions of the world, the ICRC is involved in the planning of events aimed at getting students interested in International Humanitarian Law. Several of these events utilize, in one way or another, the moot court approach of the Jean-Pictet Competition and in this way contribute to the promotion of the Competition.

What are the current ties between the International Humanitarian Law competitions organized by the Delegations of the ICRC and the Jean-Pictet Competition?

In spite of the strong ties existing between the Jean-Pictet Competition and the ICRC, the ICRC is not involved in the selection of the teams for the Competition and there is no guarantee of selection of a team associated with the ICRC. In all cases, the situation described generally above – "Absence of national, regional or other pre-selection" – is applicable in all cases.