

## **AUTHOR OF THE MOOT PROBLEM**

### **Prof John McDermott**

John McDermott is a graduate of Middlebury College (BA) and the University of Denver (JD) and has over forty years experience as a lawyer and law professor including five years as an attorney with the federal judicial system. His major areas of interest include intellectual property, civil dispute resolution, and international trade. He also has ten years pre-law experience as a research chemist and aerospace engineer. John is licensed to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the Montana Supreme Court, the Colorado Supreme Court, the United States District Courts for the Districts of Colorado and Montana, and the United States Courts of Appeal for the Ninth and Tenth Circuits. He has been member of LAWASIA (Lawyers Association for Asia and the Western Pacific) for more than twenty five years and a regular speaker at Law Conferences (1985 to present). John was an Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Indian Law Program for the University of Montana School of Law where he directed legal services program for Native Americans while representing them in Federal and State court litigation. He also served as General Counsel for several Indian Organizations and conducted training programs for Indian leaders, including programs for tribal court judges and administrative personnel. John was also the visiting Professor of Law to Dokkyo University, visiting Lecturer to Waseda University (both in Japan) and visiting Professor of Law at Vermont Law School. Presently, he is a Professor of Law at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles where he teaches Admiralty Law, Intellectual Property Law, Conflict of Laws (Private International Law), International Business Transactions, Japanese Law and Islamic Law. He also has taught Civil Procedure, International Commercial Arbitration, Federal Jurisdiction, and International Civil Litigation.

### *Potential Conflict of Interest ... or appearance thereof.*

As some of coaches may be aware, Professor McDermott has selected and actively coached the team representing Loyola Law School of Los Angeles in several previous LAWASIA Moot competitions. A team from Loyola-Los Angeles will compete in the Seoul Moot.

However, In order to avoid even the appearance of impropriety, Professor McDermott will not be coaching the Loyola-LA Team this year. The Law School has appointed Adjunct Professor Aaron Ghirardelli, an experienced Italian attorney and arbitrator, to coach this year's LAWASIA Moot Team. Before Professor Ghirardelli appointment, Professor McDermott, as Faculty Advisor, selected the three member-team, one of whom subsequently withdrew for personal reasons. Profess Ghirardelli selected another student to replace her.

Professor McDermott's only contact with Professor Ghirardelli or any of the members of the Loyola-LA Team has been in an administrative capacity dealing primarily with such things as travel arrangements and reimbursement. He has NOT discussed the Problem with Professor Ghirardelli or with any of the members of the Team nor provided any advice during the preparation of the Memorials other than to emphasize the importance of complying with the formatting rules. Nor will Professor McDermott serve as a "practice arbitrator" during the Team's upcoming practices.

As Professor McDermott is presenting at least one paper at the Conference, he may not even be able to watch the Team as it competes in the preliminary rounds.