

Water Justice Moot Court Reflection

8th World Water Forum – March 2018

Matija Kajić

Utrecht University, Netherlands

I was both humbled and elevated to have partaken in the 2018 World Water Conference's student moot court. The 2018 Conference has had a number of positive results, from the Brasilia Declaration of Judges on Water Justice, to major strides in centering water as a vital topic on the world environmental agenda. However, it has also had a countless number of positive results for me personally. The two elements which I will most take away from this conference are the expert commentary speeches given after our student moot court, and the lessons learned at the *Water Justice and Ecosystems: Scientific, Ethical, Legal and Policy Perspectives* panel which we had the pleasure of attending.

The 4 experts who gave their adept opinions on our Moot Court memorials, argumentation and speeches were Mara Tignino (Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Geneva/Geneva Water Hub), Maria Luiza Machado Granziera (Professor, Catholic University of Santos, Brazil), Michel Prieur (Professor, University of Limoges, and President, International Center of Comparative Environmental Law – CIDCE, France), and our moot court memory Emmah Wabuke (Professor, Strathmore Law School, Kenya). I highlight this experience as the most vital take-away from the moot court experience because it offered a reflection on both our argumentation and presentation skills, that is often over-simplified, or brushed over in my usual academic settings. I was given the opportunity to clearly see which areas of my legal argumentation and which areas of my professional-setting speaking skills called for more attention, and greater improvement. That type of learning experience is priceless.

I highlight the experience of the Multidisciplinary Panel on Day 2, which looked at Water Justice Ecosystems from a Scientific, Ethical, Legal and Policy Perspective, because the issue of a multidisciplinary approach in solving Environmental problems is one I see too often overlooked, but one which holds the highest potential to induce positive change. This panel on day 2 did exactly that, by giving the floor to speakers who could each offer their disciplines and their experience's own point of view on the matter of ecosystem eater management. The Co-Chairs were Aban Marker Kabraji, José Pedro de Oliveira Costa, and the speakers were Denise Antolini, Justice Michael Hantke Domas, Alejandro Iza, Jennifer Mohamed Katerere and Ayman Rabi.

In this reflection I have only highlighted two elements of the conference which will prominently stay with me throughout my academic and personal life. Albeit, this is only because I feel it would be rude to impose upon the reader a 10-page reflection on all the things I learned, all the people I was inspired by, and all the lessons I will carry with me henceforth from the 2018 World Water Conference. Which is why in reflection on the conference, it will suffice to say that I am left with a feeling of immense gratitude, to be sent every-which way, for everything from opportunity, to funding, to mentorship, to organization and company.