

Dear Colleagues, dear students, ladies and gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Grand Final of the 15<sup>th</sup> International Roman Law Moot competition, organized by the Law School of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, with the participation of the Law Schools of the Universities of Naples, Vienna, Cambridge, Oxford, Tübingen, Trier and Liège.

It is also a pleasure to welcome the Roman Law Moot Court back in Greece, 15 years after it first started in Kavala, in Macedonia.

For the first time such an event is organized at the Attalos Stoa, in the ancient Agora of Athens, at the very place where legal forensics were born and practiced, 2,500 years ago.

Mooting in different fields of law has acquired an important place in the Law School of our University, as an exercise for aspiring lawyers.

This competition though, is unique of its kind, in that it focuses on Roman Law, as the common foundation of modern legal systems throughout the world.

Moot Courts are an excellent opportunity for our students, not only to sharpen their lawyer's skills, but also to cultivate excellence, while practicing a sporting spirit and learning fair play.

The Law students you are about to hear will undertake a difficult challenge, pleading as lawyers in a fictional case, in English. They must address complex legal issues and challenge the arguments of their opponents. A task even more

challenging when they compete before an audience, with professors of some of the most renowned Law Schools acting as judges.

We wish them, and all of you, an excellent competition.