



## THE 2022 MANFRED LACHS SPACE LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION

### **CANDIDIA vs. XENOVIA**

#### **Synopsis of the Case Concerning Registration and Damages Involving Objects Manufactured in Space**

Candidia and Xenovia are two small nations with growing space sector activities, using many new technologies, such as 3-D printers and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to manufacture space objects in outer space. Candidia's "Valerian 806" satellite is part of a mega-satellite constellation. It was manufactured in space, and deployed to low Earth orbit from the "Pacem" space station. Valerian's owners defaulted on payments due. The creditor contracted for the Fenix-3 satellite, registered in Xenovia, to take possession of Valerian 806 and to relocate it to another orbit. In the process of taking possession, both the Valerian 806 and Fenix-3 satellites were destroyed in an explosion. Most of the fragments burned up in the atmosphere but some pieces survived atmospheric re-entry. Tragically, one large fragment of the Fenix-3 satellite struck a cargo plane of the Candidia military in flight, which crashed into the ocean killing all nine persons on board.

Unable to reach a resolution to their dispute by diplomatic means, both Parties have submitted their claims for compensation for damages to the International Court of Justice for adjudication.