

# Mexicans recognized at international Space Law competition



**Law students Santiago Yarahúan, Omar Antonio Reyes, and Eduardo Alberto Reyes from Tecnológico de Monterrey's Santa Fe campus have won awards for achieving the third-best cumulative score in the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition.**

The Manfred Lachs Space Moot is a **mock space law competition** organized by the **International Institute of Space Law**.

*"We took part in **Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic** at the regional level of the competition. There are five regions worldwide, and in this case, we represented the **Tec in the Latin American region**.*

*"We got to **third place with our cumulative score**; 50 percent of this was the written part that we sent a month before the competition, which we were working on intensely for four months," said Omar.*

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According to Omar, the other half comprised the oral arguments **which took place in a mock trial before the international court of justice.**

### **Delving into an unknown subject**

Santiago said that achieving this recognition and representing the Tec was a great satisfaction.

***“It wasn’t easy. We had to delve into a subject that none of the three of us knew about. Getting into a subject that is extremely new and doesn’t have complete regulations, which could lead us to different scenarios, was very challenging,”*** he said.

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***“What’s more, we submitted our petitions and did our oral argument practice independently, using the academic support that the Tec offered us throughout our preparation,”*** said Eduardo.

The cases that are debated in the competition are all futuristic and the Tec team focused on the hypothetical case of a space object that tried to grab another satellite by force, causing it to explode.

***“As space is an incredibly dangerous environment, the explosion caused damage to an aircraft that was in flight and killed nine people on board. It was futuristic.***

***“It was very important for us to be able to consolidate our efforts, so getting the third-best cumulative score is proof that **this institution has adequately prepared us for the rest of our careers,**”*** said Santiago.

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Santiago said that their studies at the Tec are what have allowed them to compete with different universities in the region such as the **UNAM, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, Colombia, Peru, and Brazil.**

***“This is clear proof that **we are qualified to be tomorrow’s leaders in space law.** It’s encouraging that the judges know you and see your talents and potential.***

***“It’s encouraging to network with the different participants, even the speakers and judges that, without a doubt, **we’ll appreciate for the rest of our lives,**”*** said Santiago.

*"We're qualified to be tomorrow's leaders in space law."*

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Cd4MwaNO3so/>

The team aims to continue learning about the subject and **inspire** others so that more people learn about the subject and participate as they have.

*"I'm hoping to affiliate with the International Institute of Space Law to start publishing articles and contribute a little to the matter at an academic level. I want to continue with this team or maybe create another one that continues to represent the Tec,"* said Omar.

Santiago shared his interest in being part of the International Institute of Space Law as he aims to promote and direct his career toward space law.

*"It's a topic that I would like to contribute to in the future because of its importance. It's similar to other things that I do, such as **disarmament and arms control**, which in space is far from being restricted,"* he said.

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Finally, Eduardo said that he would also like to delve a little deeper into the matter, since he sees a great future for it.

*"**There are industries that are trying to increase space activity.** There are a lot of opportunities to grow there and like my colleagues, I would like to continue studying and researching the subject.*

*"I want to keep in touch with the other members of the team, **it has been a very rewarding experience for the three of us,**"* he concluded.

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