



Team from the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne wins 2026 René Cassin advocacy competition

Students from the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne have been declared the winners of the 2026 René Cassin advocacy competition for law students after beating a rival team from University of Paris-Panthéon-Assas in the final round.

This was the 41st René Cassin competition, consisting of a moot court with proceedings conducted in French based on the European Convention on Human Rights. The competition's academic committee, chaired by Mr Sébastien Touzé, Professor of Law at the Panthéon-Assas University Paris, had this year proposed a fictitious case related to climate change and its implications for the protection of the rights and freedoms safeguarded by the Convention.

The final took place at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg on 27 March 2026 and the jury was made up of judges of the Court, lawyers, academics and representatives of the competition's partner institutions. It was chaired by Mr Laurent Fabius, former Prime Minister and former President of the Constitutional Council.

Forty qualifying teams, coming from a range of countries including Armenia, Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Romania, Slovenia and Türkiye, competed at the headquarters of the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights, both in Strasbourg.

Further information about this year's competition and previous competitions can be found on the [René Cassin Competition website](#) and the [Court's website](#).

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The European Court of Human Rights was set up in Strasbourg by the Council of Europe member States in 1959 to deal with alleged violations of the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights.