

THE RULES

A. Eligibility

1. The competition is open to undergraduate and postgraduate law students, provided that as of 31 December 2014 they are not qualified lawyers in any jurisdiction.
2. Each team will consist of two students: Lead and Junior Counsels.
3. Each team must pay a registration fee of £90.00 to the Southampton Law School by 9 January 2015 in order to be deemed registered for the competition.

B. Format

1. The competition will be organised over the course of two days. The timetable for the General Rounds together with the Moot Problem will be published on the moot website by Friday, 16 January 2015.
2. Each team must submit a skeleton argument, not longer than two sides of A4, including the authorities to be relied upon, for each party to the dispute by 17.00 on Thursday, 5 February 2015 to ILM@soton.ac.uk. These cannot be altered for the General Rounds, though may be revised for the Final Round. Any revised skeleton argument must be submitted to the organisers via email by 23.59 on 7 February 2015.
3. The General Rounds will be held on Saturday, 7 February 2015, at the London office of Clyde & Co.
4. In the General Rounds, teams will be divided into two groups of three: A and B. Each team will argue twice, once for each party to the dispute.
5. The highest ranked team from each of the two groups at the conclusion of the General Rounds will compete in the Final Round of the competition on Sunday, 8 February 2015, at 7 King's Bench Walk.
6. The decision as to which team will be the Appellant and which will be the Respondent in the Final Round will be determined by the flip of a coin (the team that was ranked higher in the General Rounds will call the toss). The winner of the toss will have five minutes to decide the party for which it wishes to argue in the Final Round.

C. Oral Presentation

1. Each team must present the judge and the opposing team with a bundle of authorities, including the skeleton argument.

2. Each speaker within a team will be allowed 15 minutes for the oral presentation, including judicial intervention.
3. The Appellant team may reserve a portion of their time for rebuttal as long as this is advised and agreed with the judge at the outset.
4. The Respondent team will not be entitled to surrebutal.

D. Scoring

1. Each team will be judged in accordance with four criteria: presentation and clarity of argument, use of authorities, dealing with judicial intervention, and courtroom manner.
2. All four criteria shall have equal weight.
3. Judges shall have the ultimate discretion and their decisions are final.

E. Clarifications

1. Requests for interpretation of the Rules or the Moot Problem should be directed to ILM@soton.ac.uk. Any such request will be answered promptly and the answer will be posted on the moot website.