

**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA COLLEGE OF LAW
2011 CALVERT INTRA-SCHOOL MOOT COURT COMPETITION**

RULES, REGULATIONS, AND GENERAL INFORMATION
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Schedule

Monday, October 17: First round of competition. All teams will argue once. Rounds will take place at 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm.

Tuesday, October 18: Continuation of first round. All teams will argue once. Rounds take place at 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm.

Thursday, October 20: Quarter and Semi-Final Rounds. Quarter-Final rounds take place at 5:30 pm, and Semi-Final rounds take place at 7:30 pm.

Friday, October 21: Championship Round. Takes place at noon in the Bell Courtroom.

Please report to the Calvert table in the Pit to receive your room and party assignments 30 minutes prior to the start of each round in which you are participating.

Authority/Bench Brief

The BOA will provide judges with a bench brief to familiarize them with the issues of the case and to aid their evaluation of the merits of your argument. **The reading, possession of, or use of this bench brief for preparation of oral arguments is strictly prohibited.** Gaining unauthorized access to this bench brief will be considered cheating and thus a violation of the Honor Code. Violation of this rule will disqualify a team's members from all competition awards (including both team and best speaker awards), from participating in any future intra-school or inter-school competitions, and from serving in any capacity on the Board of Advocates.

Opposing teams may report a suspected rule violation by submitting a grievance form, which will be available on the Calvert forum during the competition.

Presentation Rules

1. Oral argument is limited to a **total of 30 minutes per team.**
2. A team may divide its allotted time as it chooses; however, a team **may not allocate less than 13 minutes** per speaker, excluding rebuttal (i.e. Speaker #1 – 13 minutes, Speaker #2 – 17 minutes; or Speaker #1 – 13 minutes, Speaker #2 – 15 minutes, Rebuttal – 2 minutes).
3. The petitioner may reserve up to a **maximum of 2 minutes for rebuttal.** Only one advocate may argue rebuttal and that advocate must be identified by the first speaker.
4. If time expires when an advocate is speaking, the advocate may request to briefly conclude. The judges may, in their sole discretion, extend any speaker's time.

5. Order of arguments:
 - a. 1st Petitioner
 - b. 2nd Petitioner
 - c. 1st Respondent
 - d. 2nd Respondent
 - e. Rebuttal by 1st or 2nd Petitioner (optional)
6. Each team member should choose an issue outlined in the problem and be prepared to argue both sides of that issue throughout the competition. Each participant should thoroughly understand all the facts and case law relevant to the issue he/she argues; however, each participant should also understand the other issue, as judges may ask questions on any of the issues at any time.

General Procedures Applicable to All Rounds

1. Dress in courtroom attire (military uniforms are not considered courtroom attire).
2. Check in at the Calvert table in the Pit 30 minutes before your round begins to receive your room and party assignment, and then report to that room 10-15 minutes early. Do not enter the room if an argument is in progress.
3. On the blackboard/easel provided, write:
 - a. team number;
 - b. side you will argue (petitioner or respondent);
 - c. your names, in speaking order, and the time each speaker will use; and
 - d. name of the speaker giving rebuttal, if any, and the time allocated for rebuttal.
4. If the judges are not already present, stand when the judges enter the room. Sit when the judges sit. Await instructions from the judges.
5. Participants may not change partners at any point throughout the competition.
6. Begin all arguments with “May it please the court...,” and refer to the judges as “Your Honor” when addressing them or answering questions.
7. Teams will be paired against each other randomly for the competition. No team will face the same team twice during rounds one and two. Quarter- and semi-final rounds will be bracketed based off of the top eight teams’ performances during rounds one and two.
8. If an odd number of teams compete, rounds one and two will be structured so that no team receives a buy.
9. Withdrawal from any competition, intra school and/or interscholastic, sponsored by the College of Law disqualifies a student from (1) consideration for future team placement; and/or (2) consideration for Order of the Barrister or Order of the Solicitor awards at graduation. *This includes withdrawal by a team who, after rounds one and two, advances, but is unable to or refuses to compete in the Quarter-Final, Semi-Final or Final rounds.*

Scoring

1. Each judge will evaluate each advocate on a **100-point** scale as follows:
 - a. Organization: 10-20 points
 - b. Command of Issues: 10-20 points

- c. Answering Questions: 10-20 points
 - d. Persuasiveness (regardless of the merits): 10-20 points
 - e. Courtroom Manner: 10-20 points
2. Each judge will also select a winning team (petitioner or respondent), and the team with the most votes will be recorded as the winner of the round. No low-point wins will be given.
 3. If an even number of judges are assigned to a round, a tie will be broken by tossing out the most deviant score.
 4. At the end of the competition, the Top Ten Speakers will be announced, based on each speaker's performance during the first two rounds of the competition.

Updates Regarding Rules

1. All information concerning the competition will be posted on the Law Student Intranet Calvert Intra-School Competition Forum.
2. These rules are subject to revision at any time. You will be notified of any revisions via your OU e-mail account as soon as possible.
3. You may contact Amanda Pennington at Amanda.pennington@ou.edu or Patrick Moore at Patrickmoore@ou.edu with general questions regarding the competition.