



2023 INAUGURAL LAWTINA MOOT COURT COMPETITION OFFICIAL RULES

SECTION ONE: REGISTRATION OF TEAMS

The Lawtina Moot Court Competition (the “Competition”) is open to all female law students of ABA-accredited law schools. Any team of law students that wishes to participate in the Competition must register on the official website no later than **Monday, July 31, 2023**.

1.1 Registration

The deadline for Competition registration is **July 31, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.** The link for registration is posted on the Lawtina Network Summit website. Team registration will be capped at the first eighteen teams to register. Team registration is complete once the Directors have received a team’s online form with competitor names and emails and Lawtina Network Summit’s confirmed receipt of the registration fee.

1.2 Competition Fee

There is a \$200 fee for each team to enter the Competition.

1.3 Competition Format

This Competition will be held in person at St. Mary’s University School of Law in conjunction with the annual Lawtina Network Summit.

1.4 Important Competition Dates

June 15: Registration Opens for the Competition

July 31: Registration for the Competition closes.

August 4: Informational Zoom for competitors to explain competition and rules.

August 7: Problem released to competitors.

September 15: Briefs Due

September 22: Briefs released to competitors.

October 6: Preliminary Rounds and Quarterfinals

October 7: Semifinals and Final Round

1.5 Team Roster

Each team must consist of two female law students. The team that attends the oral arguments shall be the same team that prepared the brief. Each team must specifically name each team member when the Team Registration Form is submitted electronically, which shall be submitted no later than **July 31, 2023**. At the time the team competes in the Competition, each team member must be a law student pursuing or entering a Juris Doctor degree program. All team members must be students at the same law school. No student may be a member of more than one team in the competition.

SECTION TWO: TEAM EXPECTATIONS

2.1 Designation of Teams as Counsel for Petitioner or Respondent

Each team will be randomly assigned to represent Petitioner or Respondent for purposes of preparing the Brief for the Competition. If a participating law school enters two or more teams, teams will be assigned to opposite sides. Team designations will be issued to each team via e-mail on **Monday, August 7, 2023**.

2.2 Competitor Work Product

(a) All work product of the team, both the brief and oral argument, must be exclusively that of its team members. Competitors may rely on all legal research and publicly available research tools in preparing their brief and oral argument, but the work product must be their own. **There is no cutoff date for applicable case law.** Plagiarism is strictly prohibited.

(b) If a school registers two or more teams for the competition, the teams may not confer with one another in any aspect of writing their briefs. The teams may not share research, arguments, or any other knowledge pertaining to their briefs. Non team-members may not review or in any way share any written materials, strategy, or other information about the brief or the problem prior to submitting their respective briefs. Once briefs are submitted, practice oral arguments are permitted between teams from the same school.

(c) Teammates may receive assistance from others, including from a second team from the same school, with oral argument preparation beginning on **September 16, 2023**.

2.3 Requests for Clarification

A team may make a request for clarification or interpretation of these Rules or Competition Problem by email. Any such request must be emailed by a team member or coach to both **lawtinamootcourt@gmail.com** and **nabou-hossa@gcaklaw.com** and with the subject line “Lawtina Moot Court Clarification” by **Monday, September 11, 2022 at 11:59 p.m.**

SECTION THREE: COMPETITION BRIEFS

3.1 Length and Form of Briefs

(a) Briefs are to be submitted electronically and formatted for 8 1/2" by 11" white paper. The team letter, as provided by the Directors on **August 7, 2023**, must be in the top-right corner of each page of the brief. Briefs should be typed and the text should be justified. Footnotes and argument headings must be single-spaced. The cover page, table of contents, table of authorities, and appendices must also be single-spaced. All other portions of the brief must be double-spaced.

(b) Briefs must be written in Times New Roman 12-point typeface, and footnotes should be 12-point. Briefs must have one-inch margins on all sides. All citations should be in compliance with *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*. Briefs must not contain any information identifying competitors' law schools or competitors' names.

(c) Briefs shall not exceed 25 pages in length, excluding Cover Page, Table of Contents, Table of Authorities, and Appendices. A one point penalty will be assessed per page over limit.

3.2 Brief Sections

A brief must contain the following items in the order indicated:

- (a) **Cover Page** – Not included in page limit
- (b) **Table of Contents** – Not included in page limit
- (c) **Table of Authorities** – Not included in page limit
This section shall include all authorities: cases (alphabetically arranged), statutes, and other authorities with references to the pages of the brief where they are cited.
- (d) **Questions Presented** – Included in page limit, must be on separate page
- (e) **Statement of Case** – Included in page limit
- (f) **Summary of Argument** – Included in page limit
- (g) **Argument** – Included in page limit
- (h) **Conclusion** – Included in page limit

Briefs should omit a formal statement of jurisdiction and a statement of relevant provisions. Appendices may be used to recite the text of statutes, provisions, or regulations but are not mandatory.

3.3 Submission

(a) Briefs must be submitted both as an electronic PDF copy and as a Word document. The electronic copy and Word document of the entire brief as well as the certification form must be sent together via email to both lawtinamootcourt@gmail.com and nabou-hossa@gcaklaw.com. These items must arrive by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 15, 2023**.

(b) The email's subject line must include the team letter of the team submitting the brief. The email's subject line must read as follows: "Team [Team Letter] 2023 Lawtina Brief Submission."

Once briefs are submitted, they are final; no subsequent revisions to briefs will be permitted. Any team whose electronic copy and Word document are received after the deadline shall be assessed a late submission penalty of five points for every day the brief is late. This penalty will be deducted from the overall score of the brief.

3.4 Publication of Briefs

The Competition will publish electronic copies of each team's brief through email no later than **Friday, September 22, 2023**. After brief publication, teams may view, download, and print other teams' briefs.

3.5 Scoring

Each brief will be scored by a panel of at least three to five practicing attorneys. A team's brief score is the average of its individual brief scores. A team's maximum possible brief score is 100 points.

SECTION FOUR: ORAL ARGUMENTS

4.1 Round Composition

- (a) Only the two designated members from each team may compete in oral arguments. Teams may decide how to allocate the time permitted for oral arguments in any given round.
- (b) Advocates shall argue in the following order: Petitioner's full argument, Respondent's full argument, and Petitioner's rebuttal (if desired and requested).
- (c) Rounds will consist of twenty-five minutes per team. Teams may choose how to allocate their twenty-five minutes. However, no team member may argue for fewer than nine minutes or more than sixteen minutes.
- (d) The twenty-five minutes includes any time the Petitioner may wish to reserve for rebuttal. Rebuttal may not exceed three minutes. Only one advocate may argue during rebuttal.
- (e) Judges may interrupt arguments to ask questions and may, within their discretion, allow additional time to any participant. The time will not stop when judges pose questions or while advocates are answering them. Bailiffs will be present in each round and will inform competitors of their remaining time at the following intervals: ten minutes remaining, five minutes remaining, three minutes, and one minute remaining.

4.2 Round Assignments

- (a) Each team shall be assigned a side to argue for on each round. Teams will be expected to prepare oral arguments for both sides of the argument. The assignments during preliminary rounds will be random. After quarterfinals, teams will be ranked by winning records.

(b) For purposes of rankings, ties will be broken first by average argument scores from the preliminary rounds and then by brief scores. The top eight teams advance to the quarterfinal round, which employs a seeded bracket. Teams shall advance to the next round by winning head-to-head matchups. The three elimination rounds are the quarterfinals (eight teams), semifinals (four teams), and the final round (two teams).

4.3 Scoring

(a) Judges will give each team member a score out of 100 in the three preliminary rounds and the octo-final round. The team's average will be computed for the overall round oral advocacy score. The following will be included in each Judge's ballot:

- Knowledge of the Record (25 points)
- Application of the Law (40 points)
- Extemporaneous Skills (15 points)
- Courtroom Demeanor (10 points)
- Policy Arguments (10 points)

(b) The winner of each preliminary round will be determined by a combination of the team's total team brief scores and argument score from that round. The argument score in the preliminary rounds will count for 75% and the brief score will count for 25%. In the quarterfinals, the argument score will count for 90% and the brief score will count for 10%.

(c) Brief scores will not be counted in the semifinals and finals advanced rounds. The winning team in the final round will be determined based on a vote from each Final Round Judge after deliberation.

4.4 Observation

Scouting is not permitted. While a team is competing, competitors and coaches of that team may not observe any round in which that team is not arguing. The only round available for general observation will be the final round, which will be open for in-person attendance on **Saturday, October 7, 2023** at the conclusion of the **LAWTINA NETWORK SUMMIT**.

SECTION FIVE: COMPETITION INFORMATION

5.1 Awards

The recipient of the "Best Oralist" award will be determined by the highest average individual score from the first two rounds. The recipient of the "Best Brief" award will be determined by the highest average brief score.

5.2 Competition Schedule

The competition schedule will be emailed to teams one week before the competition; it will also be published on the Competition website. The Directors may make changes to the schedule before

and during the competition. Competitors will be notified of any changes to the schedule via email as soon as possible after changes are determined necessary. By **October 2, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.**, competitors will receive detailed instructions regarding each preliminary round in which they will argue, including times, argument locations, and directions. For subsequent rounds, competitors will receive information as soon as possible after advancement determinations are made.

5.3 Email Communications

All Competition e-mail communications should be directed to both email addresses: **lawtinamootcourt@gmail.com** and **nabou-hossa@gcaklaw.com**.

5.4 Requesting Score Sheets

After the competition, teams may request their oral argument scoresheets for the preliminary and quarterfinal rounds. Teams may email **lawtinamootcourt@gmail.com** beginning **Thursday, October 12, 2023**.

***ON BEHALF OF THE LAWTINA NETWORK SUMMIT,
WE WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK!***