

2026 1L/E MOOT COURT COMPETITION

**Priority Sign Up: Friday, January 16th (by 11:59pm)*

**Those signing up by the priority deadline receive the best chance of being assigned their preferred party and time slot for the Preliminary Round (Round 1). Competitors signing up prior to Jan. 16 by 5pm will also be encouraged to register and attend the Moot Court Honors Board Alumni Mixer on Jan. 16th at 5:30pm.*

Final Sign Up: Friday, January 30th (by 11:59pm)

[Sign-up Form](#)

I. IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, Feb. 3 Brief Writing Workshop (5:00pm-6:00pm) @ Zoom.

Thursday, Feb. 5 Office Hours (4:00pm-6:00pm) @ Classroom D and Zoom.

Tuesday, Feb. 10 Oral Argument Workshop (5:00pm-6:00pm) @ Zoom.

Thursday, Feb. 12 Office Hours (4:00pm-6:00pm) @ Classroom D and Zoom.

Thursday, Feb. 12 Brief Due (11:59pm)

Saturday, Feb. 14 Round 1 Oral Arguments (Starts at 9:00am) @ Classrooms D & E.

**Round 1 Results & Best Brief Nominees to be announced upon completion of rounds*

**Classroom, Party Preference, and Assigned Time will be confirmed via email after registration.*

Sunday, Feb. 15 Round 2 Oral Arguments (Starts at 12:00pm) @ Classroom D.

Saturday, Feb. 21 Competition Final Four + Awards (Starts at 10:00am) @
McGeorge Courtroom.

Zoom Link for all virtual sessions: [Here](#).

Meeting ID: 650 348 0973

Password: 5E6Tv5

II. BRIEF RULES

Deadline: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026 BY 11:59 PM. Competition briefs must be submitted via email to Jordan Fortunati (J_Fortunati@u.pacific.edu) and Malea Parcasio-Eshelman (M_Parcasioeshelman@u.pacific.edu). All competitors must submit a competition brief in order to compete in oral arguments.

Party Designation: You will be assigned to either Petitioner or Respondent. You may indicate your preference during registration.

Outside Assistance: Each competitor has the option of working with one other competitor (from the same side) for a joint brief submission. You may discuss the problem with others and receive general advice from anyone on the Moot Court Honors Board. You may practice oral arguments with other competitors, but note that competitors will be arguing individually.

Cover Page: Follow the template on the last page of this packet. Do not put your name(s) anywhere on the brief. You will be assigned an anonymous grading number, which must be used in place of your name.

Brief Components: All briefs must contain the following headings presented in the following order: (1) Question Presented; (2) Statement of Facts; (3) Argument; (4) Conclusion. Briefs should be no longer than 1,500 words (excluding the cover page).

Format: All briefs must be double-spaced, except for the cover page (which is already formatted) and any argument point headings, which should be single spaced. Use 1-inch margins and 12-point Times New Roman font.

Closed Universe: This is a closed research competition. Do not go beyond the problem presented and the attached case excerpts. Additional research is not permitted. Your task is to help the Court decide the question presented based on the cases provided.

Citations: Follow the citations below for the legal authorities included in the case file. There are no pin cites for this brief. Citations should be in the text, not in footnotes or endnotes.

Long Case Citations:

Katz v. United States, 389 U.S. 347 (1967)

Kyllo v. United States, 533 U.S. 27 (2001)

Illinois v. Caballes, 543 U.S. 405 (2005)

Short Case Citations:

Katz, 389 U.S. 347

Kyllo, 533 U.S. 27

Caballes, 543 U.S. 405

Submission Please submit brief as a PDF, titled “[Party Designation][Anonymous Grading Number]_Brief”. (E.g., P09_Brief or R12_Brief or P02_P05_Brief.)

We will provide example briefs to familiarize yourself with the general format/style of moot court briefs at the Brief Writing Presentation.

III. BRIEF GRADING RUBRIC

Category	Criteria	Points
Question Presented	Does the question presented incorporate facts and use them persuasively to state the issue before the court.	___/5
Statement of Facts	Includes all relevant facts to the competitor’s arguments and states them persuasively. Does not overstate or misrepresent facts, does not omit relevant bad facts. All facts presented in the argument are in the Statement of Facts.	___/5
Argument	Follows C-R-A-C (conclusion, rule, argument, conclusion). Point headings are presented persuasively. Rules are presented persuasively. Brief analogizes and distinguishes facts and law between cases. Makes arguments that are supported by the case law. Includes policy-based reasoning when appropriate.	___/25
Conclusion	Briefly and succinctly summarizes all arguments with reference to key facts/rules. Includes the proper requested relied for the party. Persuasively written and consistent	___/5

	with theme.	
Writing Style and Mechanics	Demonstrates competitor has spent time revising and editing their brief before submission. Follows basic rules of grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Persuasive thesis sentences. Persuasive paragraph and sentence structure. Appropriate word choices; absence of legalese. Formal and professional tone.	___/10
Format Deductions	Competitor's brief follows the format guidelines. 12-point Times New Roman font. Double spaced. Cover page and argument headings single spaced. No longer than 1500 words. Has all brief components. Citations are correct.	
	TOTAL	___/50

IV. ORAL ARGUMENT FORMATS & ADVANCING

Competition Round 1 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14. Round 1 will be held in Classrooms D/E with the first argument starting at 9:00am.

Round 1 is open to all competitors. Each side will have 7 minutes to argue. Petitioner goes first and will have the opportunity to reserve 2 minutes for rebuttal.

If 2 minutes are reserved for rebuttal, the Petitioner will have 5 minutes for the initial argument, followed by the rebuttal after the Respondent's argument.

Results and Best Brief nominees will be announced upon conclusion of the first round. The top competitors with the highest combined score (33% Brief Score + 67% Round 1 Oral Argument Score) will advance to Round 2. Best Brief nominees will be selected based solely on the contents of their submitted brief.

Competition Round 2 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15. Round 2 will be held in Classroom D with the first argument starting at 12:00 pm.

Each side will have 8 minutes to argue. Petitioner goes first and will have the opportunity to reserve 2 minutes for rebuttal. If 2 minutes are reserved for rebuttal, the Petitioner will have 6 minutes for the initial argument, followed by the rebuttal after the Respondent's argument. Results will be announced upon conclusion of the arguments. The four competitors with the highest Round 2 Oral Argument Score will advance to the Final Four and be assigned a mentor.

Final Four Round SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21. The Final Four Round will be held in the McGeorge Courtroom with the first argument starting at 10:00am

Friends and family welcome to attend!
Each side will be composed of two competitors each. Each competitor will have 8 minutes to argue. Petitioner goes first and will have the opportunity to reserve up to 3 minutes for rebuttal. If 3 minutes are reserved for rebuttal, the Petitioner will have 5 minutes for the initial argument, followed by the rebuttal after the Respondent's argument. Results and awards will be announced upon conclusion of the arguments.

V. AWARDS

*Best Petitioner's Brief: Competitor with the highest Brief Score.

*Best Respondent's Brief: Competitor with the highest Brief Score.

**Competitors writing the brief with a partner may still win a Best Brief Award. However, they are ineligible to receive a Best Overall Advocate Award.*

Best Oral Advocate: Competitor with the highest Final Four Oral Argument Score.

Best Overall Advocate: Competitor with the highest Composite Score—weighted 10% Rd 1, 15% Rd 2, 25% Rd 3, 50% Brief.

The awards below are new to the 1L/E Moot Court Competition!

Second Runner Up: Finalist competitor with second highest Oral Argument score.

Finalist: Finalist competitors with third and fourth highest Oral Argument score.

*Top Ten Advocate: Competitors who advanced to the semifinalist round.

*Top Preliminary Round Advocate: Competitors with the highest Oral Argument scores in the preliminary round who did not advance to Round 2.

**Number of awardees may change depending on number of competitors.*

V. Oral Argument Grading Rubric

Category	Criteria	Points
Introduction	<p>Introduces themselves, the party they represent, and relief that they seek from the Court.</p> <p>There is a thoughtful and applicable theme and a roadmap that introduces all the arguments that will be argued.</p>	___/10
Argument	<p>Arguments are made in an organized and logical manner.</p> <p>Arguments are supported by case precedent (either by analogical reasoning or distinguishing cases) and with citations to the record.</p> <p>Listens to the questions and provides a direct answer to the question (i.e., Yes or No because ...) with short explanation incorporating the law and facts.</p>	___/60
Speech & Delivery	<p>Presentation is clear and deliberate; not simply reading off a prepared script but engaging with the Court.</p> <p>Smooth transitions between arguments and question responses. Tone is audible and shows deference to the Court.</p>	___/30
	TOTAL	___/100

Additional Comments & Feedback	
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Judge Name: _____

VI. Office Hours & Mentors

In addition to the Brief Writing & Oral Argument Presentations, there will be office hours available (virtually and in-person) on Feb. 10 and 12 (see the first page of this packet for more details).

For the competitors advancing to the Final Round, each will be assigned to a “mentor” (current member of the Moot Court Honors Board) as a resource for any questions and practice throughout the remainder of the competition.

Do not hesitate to send questions to Jordan Fortunati (J_Fortunati@u.pacific.edu) and Malea Parcasio-Eshelman (M_Parcasioeshelman@u.pacific.edu)

Please consider following McGeorge Moot Court on Instagram for updates about the 1L/E Competition and news about Moot Court competition results.

<https://www.instagram.com/mcgeorgemootcourteam/>

No. [] - []

IN THE

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

[Petitioner Name],
PETITIONER,

v.

[Respondent Name],
RESPONDENT.

ON WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE
FOURTEENTH CIRCUIT

BRIEF FOR [PETITIONER/RESPONDENT]

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

STATEMENT FACTS

ARGUMENT

- I. **[This is a declarative statement of your answer to the first question presented.]**

Begin your discussion of the first question presented here.

- A. **[If you need to break your argument into subheadings, follow the same general guidelines of format and style.]**

Begin discussion of a subsection of your argument here.

- B. **[A second subheading, if necessary.]**

CONCLUSION