



## **2025 LLOYD DEAN MOOT - RULES AND GUIDELINES**

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## Interpretation of Rules

### **A. Applicability**

The following rules shall govern the 2025 Lloyd Dean Moot Court Competition (the “Competition”).

### **B. Complete Rules**

The following rules are wholly comprehensive. No other rules shall apply to the competition, unless made clear by the Lloyd Dean Moot Committee (the “Committee”) by a **Rules Amendment**.

### **C. Interpretation of Rules**

If a participant or team has any questions about any rules, it is the participant or teams duty to contact the Committee via email for clarification. The Committee retains sole discretion regarding the interpretation of rules.

### **D. Rules Amendment**

If there are any changes or alterations to any rules by the Committee, the Committee shall notify all participants and teams of the changes or alterations via an email entitled “*Rules Amendment*.” Participants and teams shall be notified of any changes or variations by **February 22, 2025, at 12pm noon EST**. No changes or alterations to the rules shall be made after this deadline.

## Organization of the Competition

### **A. Administration**

The Competition is presented annually by the Black Law Student Association, Windsor Chapter and organized by the Committee.

### **B. Competition Rounds**

The Competition shall consist of two (2) rounds: one (1) preliminary round and one (1) final round.

### **C. Final Round Selection**

The final round will consist of the **top two (2)** teams selected in accordance with these rules. Selection for the top two teams shall **not be limited** to one (1) Respondent teams and one (1) Appellant team. Rather, if the best two teams from the preliminary rounds are both Respondents, for example, **both teams will make the final round**. For this reason, teams are expected to have a firm understanding of the arguments that *could* be made for the Respondent and the Appellant.

### **D. Final Round Position Designation**

In the event that both finalist teams argued on behalf of either the Respondents or Appellants in the preliminary round as contemplated in “Final Round Selection” above, a coin flip will determine which team gets to choose the position they want to take. For example: Finalist Team A chooses heads, and the coin lands on tails. In this scenario, Finalist Team B would get to choose to represent the Respondents or Appellants.

## **Participation and Coaches**

### **A. Team Eligibility**

The Competition is open to any undergraduate student that are **currently** enrolled at any post-secondary institution in Canada. Current law students of any institution are **not** eligible to compete in the Competition.

### **B. Returning Students**

Students who have participated in the Competition in previous years **are** permitted to participate in the 2025 Competition.

### **C. Team Composition and Selection**

Each Team shall be composed of two (2) Participants. Participants may form their own teams. Where a participant has signed up as an individual, the Committee will assign them a partner. Each Team shall be assigned a team number by the Committee.

### **D. Assistance from Moot Coaches and Advisors**

- a. Moot Coaches.** Each team shall be assigned an upper-year Windsor Law student to serve as a Coach. Coaches provide their time on a volunteer basis. It is the moot teams duty to reach out their Coach to schedule practices or otherwise seek assistance.
- b. Role of Moot Coach.** Moot coaches are there to assist mooters. Under no circumstances will a Coach write a team's oral submissions. Assistance includes, but is not limited to, showing mooters how to conduct legal research, assisting in submission structure, and how to give deference to the bench.
- c. Issues With Moot Coach.** If a team is dissatisfied with their moot Coach, the team shall contact the Committee via email to express their concerns. Where possible, the Committee will seek to provide the team with a new Coach.
  - i. Trivial Issues not Actionable.** Under no circumstances will the Committee assign a team a new Coach for a reason which is deemed by the committee to be trivial.
  - ii. Non-Trivial Issues.** Not trivial issues include, but are not limited to, conflicts regarding harassment, distrust, breakdown of mooter-coach relationship through no fault of the mooter, and moot coach unavailability.
- d. Outside Assistance.** Mooters are permitted to seek outside assistance from any person who is not on the Committee. This includes, but is not limited to, practicing attorneys, professors, and law students who are not the mooters Coach. Under no circumstances will outside assistance write a team's oral submissions.

## **Participant Withdrawal and Ethical Violations**

### **A. Withdrawal from the Competition**

The success of this Competition relies upon mooters carrying themselves professionally

and following through with their commitment. Where a team seeks to withdraw, they shall do so **no later than Monday February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12pm noon EST**, stating the reason for their withdrawal. Teams that attempt to withdraw after this date, or do not attend their scheduled moot, will be deemed to have committed an **Ethical Violation**.

## **B. Ethical Violations**

Any contravention of these rules, including late withdrawals, will be considered an Ethical Violation by the Committee. All Ethical Violations will be reported to the mooters undergraduate institution.

## **Questions Regarding the Moot Problem**

### **A. Notification**

Any questions, clarifications, or concerns regarding the Moot Problem by participants or teams shall be expressed by said participant or team via an email to [lloyddeanmoot@gmail.com](mailto:lloyddeanmoot@gmail.com) by **Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 12pm noon EST**.

### **B. Clarifications Release**

A full list of clarifications will be sent to **all** participants and teams by **Tuesday February 4<sup>th</sup> at 12pm noon EST**.

## **Oral Submissions Procedure**

### **A. Team Designation.**

Teams shall be designated as a Respondent or Appellant. It is each teams duty to submit oral submissions which support their side.

### **B. Knowledge of Both Arguments for Finals**

Each team is expected to have a firm understanding of both the Respondent and Appellant arguments that *could* be submitted, as the Finalists will consist of the top two teams. In the event that the top two teams

### **C. General Procedures**

1. Each team shall have no more than **thirty (30) minutes** to make their oral arguments. The time taken to respond to judges' questions **is counted against** the time limit; be concise in answers.
2. The Appellant team shall make their oral submissions first.
3. The Respondent team shall make their oral submissions second.
4. **Right of Reply.** The Right of Reply will be used as if in a Canadian Appellate Court. Once the Respondent team has completed their oral submissions, the Appellant team may exercise their Right or Reply to address arguments raised by the Respondents that the Appellants believe were a misapplication of the law or facts. Appellants **do not** need to reserve time for their Right of Reply. Under no

circumstances shall a right of reply be used to address a matter that the Respondents had too little time to express in their original submissions, or an argument that they recently thought of. Any right of reply shall last for no longer than two (2) minutes. **The failure to properly use the Right of Reply shall result in scoring reductions.**

5. **Order of Submissions.** The order of oral submissions in each round shall be as follows:
  - a. **Appellant 1** (15 minutes)
  - b. **Appellant 2** (15 minutes)
  - c. **Respondent 1** (15 minutes)
  - d. **Respondent 2** (15 minutes)
  - e. **Appellants Right of Reply** (optional) (2 minutes)
6. **Clerks Time Indication.** Clerks shall indicate the time remaining for mooters and judges in the following intervals through Chat and/or a sign: 10 minutes remaining, 5 minutes remaining, 3 minutes remaining, 1 minute remaining, and “Times Up.”
7. **Extension of Time at Judges Discretion.** If a participants time expires, the participant may ask the bench for a brief extension. Where this is the case, the participants shall conclude as fast as possible. The over-indulgence of additional time granted by the bench shall result in scoring reductions.

#### **D. Virtual Courtroom Decorum**

Communication by participants shall be in a respectful manner. Participants shall not disparage or harass opposing counsel. While participants are not actively in their own oral submissions, they shall **mute** their microphone. At all times during the Competition, all participants cameras **shall remain on. Screensharing is prohibited.** Participants compete with an understanding that their moot shall be recorded and **understand that screenshots from the Competition may be used in promotional materials by the Committee.**

### **Judges and Spectators**

#### **A. Three Panel Benches**

The bench in each preliminary round shall consist of three (3) judges. The bench shall be composed of a variety of: practitioners, Windsor Faculty of Law professors, Windsor Faculty of Law upper-year students, and articling students.

#### **B. Oral Feedback**

In each round, Judges shall provide oral feedback to each participant immediately following the conclusion of the round.

#### **C. Written Feedback**

Judges are under **no obligation** to provide written feedback to participants, other than their scoring sheet, which will be later provided to the participants by the Committee.

#### **D. Spectators**

Where a participant or team wishes to have a friend or family member watch their moot as a

spectator, the participant or team shall request permission by the Committee via email by no later than Friday, February 28 at 12pm noon EST. The Committee shall approve or deny at their sole discretion.

### **E. Scouting**

No participant or team shall attend a preliminary round moot other than those of which their team is competing in, even after their round has completed. This rule **does not** apply to the final round, where any preliminary round participant may attend.

## **Competition Scoring**

### **A. Preliminary Rounds**

Scoring of the preliminary rounds shall consist of two parts: (1) quality of legal argument and (2) presentation of legal argument. **Teams are encouraged to view the Scoring Rubric, found in Appendix A of these Rules.**

### **B. Score Calculation**

In accordance with the Scoring Rubric, each participant shall be scored individually. Team members scores shall then be added with one another to create one Team Cumulative Score.

### **C. Selection of Finalists**

The teams with the highest preliminary round Team Cumulative Score shall compete in the Final Round. In the event of a tie, the Moot Committee shall cast a tie-breaking vote after reviewing the recorded preliminary round moot.

### **D. Final Round**

The winner of the final round shall be determined solely by the Final Round Bench, and will be announced briefly following the final moot.

## **Awards**

**The following awards shall be distributed following the Final Round of the Competition, at the Virtual Awards Ceremony.**

1. **The Spirit of the Moot Award:** Awarded to an individual or team that embodies the values and ideals of the Competition.
2. **Honourable Mentions:** The teams which had the two highest scores, not counting the Competition Finalists.
3. **First Place Team:** \$1000 to be awarded to the first-place team.
4. **Second Place Team:** \$500 to be awarded to the second-place team.

## **Communication with the Committee**

### **A. General**

All communication with the Committee shall be made via email to: [lloyddeanmoot@gmail.com](mailto:lloyddeanmoot@gmail.com).

## B. Emergencies

Where an email sent to the Committee has not been responded to after five (5) calendar days, the participant or team may contact the Committee Chair directly via email to: [colthurj@uwindsor.ca](mailto:colthurj@uwindsor.ca). The five (5) calendar day requirement does not apply to emails sent later than February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025. All such emails may be directly sent to the Committee Chair via email to: [colthurj@uwindsor.ca](mailto:colthurj@uwindsor.ca).

## Other

### A. Dress Code

Participants shall dress business-casual or business-professional during all stages of the Competition.

### B. Technology

The Competition shall be held on Zoom. Mooters shall check in at the time designated by the Committee (via email, closer to the competition date) and then be present in their Zoom room at least 15 minutes prior to the start of their moot.

## **Best Practices for Zoom Appearances**

The following contains a short excerpt of the Advocates Society's "*Best Practices for Remote Hearings*." **Participants are highly encouraged to read, understand, and implement these practices in their moot.**

### **Identify an appropriate environment for the moot and improve internet connectivity.**

- Choose a professional environment with a neutral backdrop and adequate lighting.
- If possible, choose a location near a modem and/or connect directly to the internet via ethernet for better connectivity.
  - o If connecting by Wi-Fi, to reduce potential connection problems, minimize the use of bandwidth by other members of the household or office.
  - o Choose a quiet location with minimal distractions.

### **Prepare hardware and software in advance.**

- Fully charge and plug in devices during the hearing.
  - o Place devices on a stable and stationary surface.
- Handheld devices [iphones, smartphones, ipads, tablets etc.] should not be used.
- Test accessing Zoom and the internet connection in advance of the hearing, in the location that will be used for the hearing (see <https://zoom.us/test>).
- Ensure devices that will be used during the hearing meet Zoom system requirements (see <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-System-Requirements-for-PC-Mac-and-Linux>).
- Select a screen name for Zoom containing your full name and role in the proceeding (e.g. Jane Doe, Appellant 1).
- Position the camera on your computer or similar device in a way for it to be level with your face and 1-2 feet away from where you will be seated for the moot.

### **Plan for communicating with others.**

- Consider how mooters will communicate with teammates (if necessary) privately

during the hearing.

- Exchange telephone numbers and email addresses in advance to communicate in the event technological or other issues arise during the hearing.

#### **Take steps to minimize background noise.**

- Mute your microphone if you are not speaking.
  - o Participants who have not muted their microphones may be muted by the Committee.
  - o Put cell phones and other devices on silent and mute notifications on your computer to avoid interrupting the hearing. For example, if you will be using an Apple computer, sign out of your iMessages application to avoid disturbance and turn on your “do not disturb” feature.

#### **Adapt oral argument for a remote hearing.**

- Gowning is not required for any Zoom appearances at this time.
- Mooters should wear appropriate business attire.
- Consider speaking more clearly than usual to adapt to lag times in the video or audio technology.
  - o Consider whether to proceed more slowly than usual when referring to your [notes], as it may take longer for judges to locate the electronic documents.



## Appendix A – Scoring Rubric

Style (40 Points Maximum)	
Eye Contact	/5
Minimal or no reliance on notes	/5
Quality of Speaking (pace, volume, style, etc.)	/10
Speaking while answering questions	/10
Time management	/5
Professionalism	/5
<b>Style Total</b>	<b>/40</b>
Content (60 Points Maximum)	
Introduction, roadmap, and conclusion	/10
Clarity of submissions	/5
Anticipates & addresses counterarguments	/5
Persuasiveness of submissions	/10
Legal knowledge and factual knowledge	/10
Use of precedent to reinforce submissions	/10
Quality of answers to questions	/10
<b>Content Total</b>	<b>/60</b>
<b>MOOT TOTAL</b>	<b>/100</b>