



THE HONOURABLE SOCIETY OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE

RICHARD MURTAGH MEMORIAL MOOT 2019/20

RULES

Eligibility to enter

1. The competition is to open to members of Middle Temple who:
 - i. Are currently undertaking the Bar Professional Training Course;
 - ii. Are currently undertaking a Graduate Diploma in Law; or
 - iii. Have been Called to the Bar but have not yet accepted an offer of pupillage.
2. Entrants must be available to attend the semi-final and final rounds on Saturday 29th February 2020 in Middle Temple Hall.

Teams

3. Teams will comprise two mooters who may be from different BPTC providers.
4. The organisers may be able to assist in forming teams. To enquire, email murtaghmoot@gmail.com.
5. The Middle Temple will cover the reasonable travel costs of team members travelling from outside of London. To recover travel costs, visit the [Middle Temple mooting page](#) and click the link for the travel expenses form.

Overview of the competition

6. The first round will require teams to submit a skeleton argument in response to a moot problem set by the organisers.
7. The highest scoring skeleton arguments (marked according to the criteria in paragraph 14) will be selected to progress to the live semi-final on 29th February 2020.
8. The two highest scoring teams in the semi-final (marked according to the criteria at paragraph 29) will be selected to progress immediately to the final round held on the same day.
9. The final round will be followed by a drinks reception in Middle Temple.

First round: skeleton arguments

10. The moot problem will be released on **20th December 2019**.
11. Teams must submit skeleton arguments and completed entry forms by **31st January 2020**.
12. The results of the first round will be announced on or before **11th February 2020**. Teams will be notified by email and will receive a copy of the skeleton argument for their opponent in the next round.
13. Skeleton arguments should:
 - i. Be submitted on behalf of **either** the Appellant or Respondent for both grounds of appeal;
 - ii. Be no longer than two A4 pages in length (including the heading);
 - iii. Be written in Times New Roman font, 12pt, 1.5 line spacing without footnotes;
 - iv. Contain within the body of the skeleton argument the names of the team members;
 - v. Make reference to no more than eight authorities including those provided within the moot problem. Authorities include case law of any jurisdiction, legislation of any type and legal literature of any form;
 - vi. Wherever possible, refer to page numbers or paragraph letters within those authorities; and
 - vii. Be submitted by the deadline.
14. Skeleton arguments will be marked by the organisers according to the following criteria:
 - i. Quality and clarity of legal argument (20 marks)
 - ii. Presentation (10 marks)
 - iii. Adherence to the rules (5 marks)
15. The decision of the organisers will be final.

Semi-final and final rounds

16. The moot problem from the first round will be used for the semi-final and final rounds.
17. Teams must prepare to act for either the Appellant or Respondent.
18. Skeleton arguments for both the Appellant **and** Respondent must be emailed to the organisers no later than **12:00pm on 21st February 2020**.
19. Roles in the semi-final round will be allocated not less than three days in advance.
20. The organisers will conduct a skeleton argument exchange for the semi-final round not less than three days in advance.
21. Roles in the final round will be allocated by random selection only after the conclusion of the semi-final round.

22. The organisers will conduct a skeleton argument exchange before the final round and teams will be given one hour to prepare.
23. Teams must bring to the competition no fewer than four copies of both their skeleton arguments.
24. Teams must each prepare a combined bundle containing all the authorities referred to in both their Appellant and Respondent skeleton arguments and bring to the competition no fewer than four copies.
25. Mooters may only rely on the authorities cited within their skeleton argument. However, in responding to judicial intervention mooters may refer to any authority, whether or not included in their skeleton argument.
26. Each mooter will be permitted to speak for no longer than 12 minutes.
27. Extra time will not be permitted for dealing with judicial interventions.
28. Mooters will appear in the following order:
 - i. Lead Appellant
 - ii. Junior Appellant
 - iii. Lead Respondent
 - iv. Junior Respondent
29. Each mooter will be judged individually according to the following criteria:
 - i. Quality of legal argument (20 marks)
 - ii. Presentation of legal argument (20 marks)
 - iii. Flexibility when handling judicial intervention (20 marks)
 - iv. Overall impression (20 marks)

The scores from both team members will be combined to produce a collective score for the team. The team with the highest collective score will be taken to win that moot.
30. The decision of the moot judge will be final in any given round.

Organisers

31. The organisers of this competition are Amy Woolfson, Abigail Scott and Mary Ann Toman Rowe.
32. The organisers shall have absolute discretion to resolve any question concerning the interpretation of these rules.
33. The organisers reserve the right to disqualify at any stage any participant who fails to adhere to the rules of the competition as set out above.
34. Queries relating to the competition should be emailed to murtaghmoot@gmail.com.