



Judge Instructions and Script

Thank you for volunteering your time to train the next generation of advocates. We encourage **as many questions** as you're able to ask—even if they're "simple." Students love questions.

Questions like "could you explain that again?", or even questions like "what was that case about?" can be just as helpful as complex questions for testing the students' knowledge.

Please use any of the questions below to aid your questioning of the competitors.

For the Judge:

Thank you for donating some of your time to ensure the tournament runs smoothly. Please read the following directions carefully.

Before the round:

You will arrive 30 minutes before the round is scheduled and report to the "Judge Welcome" breakout room. The link you'll use to join will be emailed to you prior to the tournament. You will attend a 15 minute judge training, and then a staff member will assign you to the room that you are in charge of. The ballot admin team will assign one of the judges to be the Chief Justice for the round in which there is more than one Justice. Join the breakout room you are assigned to and follow the remaining instructions.

During the Round:

NEW: For preliminary rounds (Day 1 of the tournament), there will not be a clerk. The Chief Justice will ensure all participants are present (including the co-justice) and have their cameras on. She or he will then ask the co-justice if there are any conflicts with the competitors. A conflict means that a judge personally knows one or more competitors outside of the competition setting (for example, as friends, family, or teammates). In the unlikely event that a judge or student has a conflict, the Chief Justice should contact tournament staff by leaving the breakout room and entering the main room.

Do not begin the round if participants have their cameras off. After confirming all are present, the Chief Justice will open the round with the script.

For elimination rounds (Day 2 of the tournament), there will be a clerk present. The clerk will ask the judges and students if there are any conflicts of interest. A conflict means that a judge personally knows one or more competitors outside of the competition setting (for example, as friends, family, or teammates). In the unlikely event that a judge or student has a conflict, they should privately message the Clerk via the chatbox. The Clerk will then notify the Ballot administration team so the



issue can be resolved before the round begins. If there are no conflicts, the Clerk will proceed with confirming that all judges and competitors are ready and will ask the Chief Justice to identify him or herself. Once the Chief Justice confirms that the participants are all ready, the Courtroom Clerk begins the script below.

Bringing the Round to Order:

[*Elimination Rounds only*]: Courtroom Clerk: Oyez, oyez, oyez. (O-yay). The Supreme Court of the United States is now in session, the Honorable Chief Justice _____ presiding. All those having cause to be before this honorable Court draw nigh and pay heed. God save the United States, and God save this honorable Court.

[*Begin at this point during preliminary rounds.*]

Chief Justice: We'll hear arguments this (afternoon/evening) in case number 26-533, David Bronner, President of the United States, Petitioner vs. Mark Crosby, Respondent. Is the Petitioner ready?

Petitioners: [First advocate says:] The Petitioner is ready, your Honor.

Chief Justice: Is the Respondent ready?

Respondents: [First advocate says:] The Respondent is ready, your Honor.

[Chief Justice ensures that all her or his documents are in order and is ready for the oral argument to begin.]

Chief Justice: You may proceed.

As soon as the Chief Justice notes that the competitors may begin, the clerk will turn off his or her camera and microphone. The judge will proceed with the round.

NOTE 1: Competitors are “protected” from questions for the first minute of each speech, except for the rebuttal. That means if the timer begins counting down from 8:30, the judge may not ask questions until 7:30 remain. Or if the timer begins counting down from 10:00, the judge may not ask questions until 9:00 remain.

NOTE 2: When the first petitioner asks for rebuttal time during their first speech, please verbally grant their request by saying “granted.”

At the conclusion of the round:

Chief Justice: The case is now submitted.



[The judge should exit the room immediately to fill out his or her ballot in the “Judge Deliberation Room.”]

Ballots are to be submitted to ballots@hsmca.org.