



Judge Instructions and Script (National Championship)

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.

Prior to the Round:

For the four preliminary rounds, there will not be a clerk. The Chief Justice will ensure all participants are present (including the co-justice) and that there are no conflicts. 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 room and finding Stephanie Formo, the Tournament Director. She will be roaming the halls. You can also contact her at her number, 320-424-2978.

For elimination rounds (Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals), 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 notify the Clerk. 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 (morning/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.

NOTE 1: Competitors are “protected” from questions during their introduction up until their roadmap. You may ask questions after that point.

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 judges should notify the competitors that they will take five minutes or fewer to submit their ballot. They will then introduce themselves, provide some verbal points of feedback, congratulate the competitors, and exit the room.]