

## SOAS Advocacy Society: Mooting Competition 2018

### Competition Handbook

#### 1. Fundamentals

By signing up for this competition you agree to adhere to the terms below, and attend all the mooting rounds specified in the timeline.

##### Eligibility

The competition is open to students at any stage of their legal studies at SOAS.

##### Registration

Registration is now open and will close at 1200 GMT on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Please complete the [Registration Form](#) in due time. Alternatively, you may sign – up by emailing us at [soasadvocacysociety@gmail.com](mailto:soasadvocacysociety@gmail.com). You must include your CV and a 100-word motivational statement to be selected.

##### Publication of the problem

Please consult the timeline below.

##### Clarification requests

All requests for clarification concerning the moot problems should be submitted two days after the publication at latest. Please submit such requests via email to [soasadvocacysociety@gmail.com](mailto:soasadvocacysociety@gmail.com).

##### Notification of Acceptance / Teaming Arrangements

The organising committee will endeavour to inform all participants of their acceptance and allotted mooting partner by 6<sup>th</sup> January 2018. If you would prefer to team-up with someone, then both of you must include the other's name in the Registration Form.

##### Submission of skeleton arguments

Skeleton arguments for each round must be submitted per the timeline below. The organising committee reserves the right to disqualify any team for late submission.

## Timeline

<b>i. Friday 5th January</b>	<b>Application deadline</b>
ii. Saturday 6th January	Confirmation of teams, room and side allotment
iii. Sunday 7th January	Problem release for the Qualifying Round
iv. Friday 12th January	Skeleton Submission
<b>v. Monday 15th January</b>	<b>Qualifying Round</b>
vi. Tuesday 16th January	Problem release for the Quarter Final
vii. Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Skeleton Submission
<b>viii. Friday 26th January</b>	<b>Quarter Final</b>
ix. Saturday 27th January	Problem release for the Semi Final
x. Friday 2nd February	Skeleton submission
<b>xi. Monday 5th February</b>	<b>Semi Final</b>
xii. Tuesday 6th February	Problem release for the Final
xiii. Monday 12th February	Skeleton submission
<b>xiv. Wednesday 21st February</b>	<b>Final at the Supreme Court</b>

## Resolution format

In the case of any dispute, the organising committee retains absolute discretion in how it chooses to remedy the issue.

## **2. Moot Format**

- There is a 32 student / 16 team cap for the competition. The first qualifying round will operate as a knockout round where the highest ranked 8 teams will break to the quarter finals. Team breaks for the quarter final will be announced at the end of day of the Qualifying Round.
- All moot problems involve cases on appeal to the Court of Appeal or the Supreme Court, represented by a single judge. Each will focus on a different practice area.
- Each team will consist of two speakers, Lead Counsel and Junior Counsel.
- The order and format of the submissions will be as follows:
  - Lead Appellant (first ground of appeal) – *20 minutes*
  - Junior Appellant (second ground of appeal) – *15 minutes*
  - Lead Respondent – *20 minutes*
  - Junior Respondent - *15 minutes*
  - Junior appellant's right to reply – *2 minutes*

## **3. Scoring Criteria**

- Each team member will be scored individually out of a total of 40 points. At the end of the moot the individual scores will be added together to arrive at an overall team score. It is this score that will determine which team are the winners for the round in question.

	Skeleton (5)	Content & structure of oral arguments (10)	Ability to respond to judicial intervention (10)	Style (10)	Court Etiquette (5)	Total (40)
Leading Counsel						
Junior Speech						
Total						

#### 4. Prizes:

- Each speaker of the winning team will receive £200 each.
- Each speaker of the runners up will receive £150 each.
- The Best Advocate, selected at the organising committee's discretion, will be awarded £150.

#### 5. Skeleton arguments:

- Each team must submit a skeleton argument detailing the main points of their submission in support of their case.
- As specified above, these must be submitted per the deadlines in the timeline.
- The opposing team's skeleton argument will be provided to you 2 days in advance of each round.
- The skeleton argument can be a maximum of 1 side of A4 in length.
- Any team may be disqualified for late submission at the organising committee's discretion.

#### 6. Authorities:

- The maximum number of authorities to be relied upon will be six per team. Either the Appellants, or the Respondents may use all authorities cited, for any purpose.
- For the purpose of this competition only cases and statutes will count as authorities. No authority may be relied upon unless it is clearly and correctly cited in the skeleton argument.

- Each team will need to produce two identical bundles combining both Senior and Junior Counsel's authorities, one for the Moot Judge and one for the opposing team, for each oral round.

#### **7. Judges:**

- There will be one judge per moot.
- Wherever possible, the judge in each round will be an academic from within the SOAS Law School, however it may be necessary to source a judge from outside of the Law School from time to time. Should this situation arise then the judge will be either a barrister, pupil barrister or similar. The judge's name in each round will be announced nearer to the time of the competition by way of email to the contestants.
- The judge's decision will be final, with no facilitation for appeals or complaints.
- The final will be judged by Lord Carnwath who will not be using the judging criteria specified below. Oral feedback but not individual ranking may be offered.

#### **8. Round schedule:**

- The Qualifying Round, Quarter – Final and Semi – Final will be held at the SOAS Russell Square campus between 4 – 6 PM per the timeline. Room allotments will be released alongside mooting problems.
- Final:
  - i. Arrival at the Supreme Court: 3:25 PM
  - ii. Reception and tour: 3:45 – 4:30 PM
  - iii. Final: 4:45 PM – 6 PM
  - iv. Awards: 6 – 6:30 PM

#### **9. Organizing committee:**

- Murtaza F Khan (master of moot); [murtazafarooq11@gmail.com](mailto:murtazafarooq11@gmail.com)
- Ynshele Bourthoumieux (deputy); [628153@soas.ac.uk](mailto:628153@soas.ac.uk)

Please note that in entering this competition you consent to having your photograph taken and uploaded onto our website and Facebook page. You will also be consenting to your photograph being used in other promotional materials for this event within the Law School and otherwise. You also consent to being recorded at the final at the Supreme Court. This also includes materials exchanged with the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting (our sponsor).