

**2025 INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS
MOOT COURT COMPETITION**

OFFICIAL RULES

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DEFINITIONS

Competition: shall mean the Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition.

Memorial: shall mean the written pleadings of each Participating Team.

Observer: shall mean any individual that attends the Competition that is not an official Team Member, Bailiff or Judge unless it is a researcher.

Oral Argument Session: shall mean the single match between two Participating Teams, one representing the VICTIMS and one representing the STATE.

Participant Team: shall mean a team that has officially registered to attend and compete in the Competition.

Problem: shall mean the Hypothetical Case as written under the direction of the Technical Committee.

Role: shall mean either the VICTIMS or the STATE. Designation of the Plaintiff in each case shall be established by the hypothetical case of each year.

Team Member: shall refer to the two students and the Coach that constitute a Participant Team.

Competitor: An individual Team Member, currently studying for a Juris Doctor (J.D) or its international equivalent, who represents his/her school.

Team Number: shall mean the number assigned to each Participating Team for identification purposes.

Coach: An official Team Member who plays an advisory Role to the two student Competitors.

Researcher: shall mean an official Competitor who is not a Speaker and attends the Competition as an observer and supports the team with academic and legal investigation.

Bailiffs: Bailiffs are responsible for keeping time and order during the 90-minute oral rounds.

Designated Online System: shall mean any software platform adopted by the Technical Committee for the purpose of managing the registration and scoring of the Competition. This might include, but is not limited to, Google Drive, Dropbox, OneDrive, ColdFusion, Python, JavaScript, or similar systems.

RULE 1: ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITION

1.1 General

This moot court competition (“Competition”), established to advance and promote human rights legal education around the world, is based on the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights and the legal obligations contemplated in the American Convention on Human Rights and the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man. Based on a hypothetical case supplied by the organizers of the Competition, participants will present two written memorials and participate in Oral Argument Sessions before a panel of Judges.

1.2 Date and Location of the Competition

The Oral Argument Sessions for each year's Competition shall be held in Washington, DC at the date determined by the Technical Committee. Traditionally, the Competition is held in late May. The Technical Committee reserves the right to determine another location or time.

1.3 Technical Committee

The Technical Committee is composed of members of the faculty, staff, and administration of American University Washington College of Law (WCL), or other designated experts, nominated by WCL's Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. The Technical Committee is responsible for implementing this Competition and the enforcement of the Official Rules. The Technical Committee will make its own rules and procedures. The Technical Committee shall have ultimate authority to interpret these rules and to determine their application.

1.4 Competition Calendar

Each year the Technical Committee will establish a Competition Calendar (“Calendar”) to be distributed prior to the registration of the Teams, which will establish the deadlines for the Competition. The Competition Calendar is attached to these Official Rules as Appendix A.

1.5 Competition Fees

The Competition Fees for Participating Teams and Observers will be determined by the Technical Committee. The fees for the current year are listed in Appendix B.

1.6 Visa

It is the sole responsibility of each Competition participant to ensure they have the necessary visa for travel to the United States, if travelling from abroad. **The visa that is required for participation in the Competition is that of a tourist (not student).** The Competition staff will provide a letter for participants to attach to their visa application, but this is not a guarantee the visa will be issued, nor is it a letter of sponsorship. These letters will be provided per request of any participant who is fully

registered. Each participant must follow the regulations of the U.S. Consulate in the appropriate location.

RULE 2: PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Team Composition

A Participant Team shall be composed of two (2) student members from a single school, and one (1) or two (2) Coach(es), and up to three (3) student researchers; only one (1) Team shall represent each University. Researchers shall attend the Competition as observers and pay related fees. Teams may bring observers who are not designated as researchers. However, the combined number of observers and researchers shall not exceed three (3) students in total or any other number determined by the Technical Committee. Having a 2nd coach, researchers, or observers is not mandatory.

2.1.1 Exceptions to One Team per University

In exceptional circumstances, a university may send multiple Teams to the Competition, so long as the Teams are from different campuses and are otherwise eligible to participate in the Competition pursuant to Rule 2.4.

2.2 Participant Teams

To preserve the integrity of the Competition, the number of Teams to participate each year will be determined by the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee reserves the right to restrict the number of Participant Teams. If the number of Teams registering for the Competition exceeds the maximum number of Teams allowed by the Technical Committee, the Technical Committee reserves the right to select which Teams will compete to ensure the diversity of the Competition. Geographical location, payment of registration fees, participation history in the Competition, and any partnerships with the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law will be considered when selecting participants. Fees will be returned in full to Teams that are not permitted to participate because of space limitations.

2.3 Team Selection

The selection process at each participating school should allow equal opportunity for all qualified students to compete for the moot court Team. Teams should be selected in a fair, transparent, and competitive manner.

2.4 Eligible Law Schools

All ABA-accredited law schools from the United States of America and all international law schools shall be eligible to participate in the Competition. In exceptional circumstances, the Technical Committee may permit the participation of schools of international relations or foreign affairs,

provided a demonstrable connection to human rights law exists. Participants from other non-law schools shall not be eligible to compete in the Competition.

2.5 Team Member Eligibility

Only students enrolled in a program of study equivalent to the U.S. Juris Doctor (JD) degree are eligible to participate as Competitors. Competitors may only take part in one edition of the Competition as Competitors (see Definitions).

Teams may include the participation of one (1) or two (2) Coaches. Coaches may be former Competitors, faculty members, or otherwise affiliated with the University. The registration of the first Coach is included in the registration fee; a second Coach, Researchers and Observers may register for an additional cost (see appendix B for exact fee). Teams may not have more than two (2) Coaches. While Team Competitors must attend the oral rounds of the Competition, the Coach's presence – while encouraged - is not mandatory.

2.5.1 Student Status

Only law students who have not completed studies, exams, or apprenticeships sufficient to enable them to practice law in their respective jurisdiction will be allowed to participate, with the exception of Rule 2.6. Verification of a participant's status as a student may be required for registration and all requested documentation must then be submitted to the Technical Committee before participation will be allowed.

2.5.2 LL.M. Students

Students enrolled in a program leading to a U.S. Master of Laws degree (LL.M.) or its international equivalent cannot participate in the Competition unless they are eligible for participation under Rule 2.5.1 and the spirit thereof. All questions of eligibility should be directed to the Technical Committee and clarified prior to Team registration.

2.6 Special Circumstances: Externships and Apprenticeships

Students enrolled in an externship, internship, or apprenticeship are encouraged to participate in the Competition unless such activity would provide the student with a significant or unfair advantage over other students participating in the Competition (e.g., an externship at the Organization of American States or one of its constituent bodies). However, other types of activities not directly related to the nature of the Competition do not bar students from participating in the Competition. If students are unsure about the impact of their externship or apprenticeship on their ability to participate in the Competition, they may email the Technical Committee at iamoot@wcl.american.edu with any questions. The Technical Committee can determine what is an unfair advantage on a case-by-case basis.

2.7 Work Done by Team Members

All work completed with respect to the Competition, including but not limited to the research, writing and editing of the Memorial, the structure and design of the oral argument presentations, and the Oral Argument Sessions during the Competition, shall be completed solely by the two (2) registered team members. **At no point should the Coach or Researchers edit or modify the Memorial document.**

The document should be accessed solely by the two (2) Team Members, Coaches and Researchers. Any allegation of violation of this rule will be reviewed by the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee may, at its sole discretion, impose a point penalty on the Team, as it deems appropriate, or disqualify the Team from the Competition if the allegation is found to be true.

2.7.1 Outside Assistance to Team Members

Assistance from faculty, researchers and Coaches must be limited to general discussion of the issues, suggestions as to research sources, consultations regarding oral advocacy technique, Memorial organization and structure, and oral advocacy training. Advice or input on which specific issues to raise, sub-arguments, and other substantive matters is strictly prohibited.

In the case that essential case law is not available in the Team's native language; Teams may seek outside assistance to translate English, Spanish, or Portuguese documents into their native language for the purpose of research.

2.7.2 Pending Cases

Participants cannot use memoranda, briefs and other documents related to cases pending before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights or Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, or any other international adjudicatory body. Only publicly available sources are acceptable.

2.8 Team Member Substitution

Team Members cannot be substituted except in exceptional circumstances. Participant Teams must submit a written notice to the Technical Committee, explaining the exceptional circumstance and the need to replace a Team Member. If a Team Member is substituted without the required authorization of the Technical Committee, the Team may be disqualified from competing in the Competition and all Team Members converted to Observer status. Teams are responsible for registering the substituted member prior to the Competition through the online system.

RULE 3: TEAM REGISTRATION

3.1 Team Registration and Fee

Each Participant Team must complete in full the online registration forms, upload the Dean's Authorization Form which should be signed solely by the Dean, and pay the required fee to the

Technical Committee prior to the Registration Deadline as noted on the Competition Calendar. Each team member should also individually complete the Consent and Release Agreement prior to their arrival to Washington D.C. Upon registration and receipt of the Dean's Authorization Form and fee, Participant Teams will be assigned a Team Number, which will be used to identify the Team throughout the Competition. (See Rule 8.1) A Team is only considered registered once it receives its Team Number.

Initially, Teams will be able to register without providing the names of the Competitors that will participate in the Competition. Nevertheless, the deadline to submit Competitors' names shall be on the same date as the deadline to register Teams for the Competition according to the Competition Calendar.

In any case, according to Rule 7.3 of these Rules, those Teams that do not register the names of the Competitors by the deadline shall not be able to submit clarification questions concerning the hypothetical case.

3.1.1 Team Language

As part of the registration process, Teams must choose the language in which they will participate (English, Spanish or Portuguese). Teams must stay within their chosen language for all parts of the Competition, including their online registration forms, the written Memorial and all oral rounds.

3.1.2 Fee for Current Year

The Team fee for the current Competition is listed in Appendix B. This fee covers the cost of two (2) Competitors and one (1) Coach. If the Team sends a second Coach, the fee will increase by an additional amount (see Appendix B). Teams, researchers, observers, and coaches are responsible for paying the wire fees should they choose to pay by bank transfer. If their payment arrives at less than the required amount due to wire transfer fees, the individual or university will be required to pay the difference.

3.1.3 Non-Refundability of Team Registration Fee

No refunds will be issued once a school pays the Team Registration Fee, except in exceptional circumstances and as outlined in Rule 2.2.

3.2 Team Notification

Participating Teams must include valid email addresses for all participants on the Registration Form for all Team notifications. Notice to any email address in a team's registration account shall constitute notice to all Team Members.

3.3 Assignment of Team Number

Each registered Participant Team will be assigned to prepare two (2) documents of written arguments (Memorials) and present oral arguments as a representative of the VICTIMS and the STATE. Teams shall represent both roles for the purposes of the written submission. During the oral rounds, each team shall present oral arguments for the opposing side in at least two rounds of the preliminary stage. In one round, the team shall represent the VICTIMS, and in the other, the STATE (see Rule 9.3). In addition, each Participant Team will be given an official Team Number to be used for identification purposes throughout the Competition to ensure anonymity of each Participant Team.

3.4 Health Insurance

All Participant Competitors, Coaches, Researchers, Judges, Bailiffs and Observers must possess proof of adequate medical insurance to cover any emergency that may arise, as well as insurance to cover the cost of home transportation, should it become necessary. American University will not provide medical insurance to Competition Participants.

3.5 Liability Waiver

Participant Competitors, Coaches, Researchers, Judges, Bailiffs and Observers must sign and return, prior to participating in the Competition, a general release and waiver of liability. The above documentation is required and failure to submit the documents will preclude participation in the Competition. American University is not liable for the actions of contractors that provide services such as local transportation to events and activities.

3.6 Housing

Participant Competitors, Coaches, Judges, Bailiffs, and Observers who register to stay in American University dormitory housing may do so at the rate negotiated for the purpose of the Competition and will be notified as to the dates of availability. If Participant Competitors, Coaches, Judges, Bailiffs or Observers choose not to stay in American University housing, their housing accommodations will be their own responsibility. Registration for housing (payment for booking only) is managed by the Technical Committee. All other inquiries regarding housing (including accommodation, housing rules, dining services, etc.) are handled by the Housing Department, which operates independently from the Technical Committee. Participants may contact the Housing Department at the following email address: conferences@american.edu.

The Technical Committee may establish annual partnerships with hotels in Washington, D.C. to offer exclusive discounted rates to Participant Competitors, who shall be solely responsible for booking their rooms and communicating directly with hotel management. If such partnerships are in place for a given year's Competition, the Technical Committee will provide instructions on how to complete the booking.

RULE 4: OBSERVERS AND RESEARCHERS

4.1 General

Individuals who are registered neither as Competitors nor as Coaches may attend the Competition and participate in all the various activities associated with the Competition as Observers. Observers may not submit Memorials or present oral arguments. **Observers are not considered Official Team Members and may not assist Participating Team Members with any research. However, throughout the Competition, Observers who attend the same school as a participating Team will be treated as extensions of the Team and are subject to the same scouting rules as their school's Team Members as outlined in Rule 10.5.**

Teams may also register researchers as observers, who may assist the teams in research tasks under the direction of the Coach. Teams must notify the Technical Committee via email if any of their registered observers are researchers. **The same restrictions that apply to observers accompanying a team shall also apply to researchers.**

4.2 Eligibility

Observers: Interested people who are affiliated with a law school or other legal entity (law firm, government agency, etc.) are eligible to attend the Competition as an Observer as long as they demonstrate a legitimate interest in the Competition. The legitimacy of such interest will be evaluated by the Technical Committee on an individual basis. Proof of affiliation is required and must be submitted as part of the online registration.

Researchers: Only students enrolled in a program of study equivalent to the U.S. Juris Doctor (JD) degree are eligible to attend the Competition as researchers. Students must also be law students affiliated with the law school under which they are registering. Only law students who have not completed their studies, examinations, or apprenticeships sufficient to qualify them to practice law in their respective jurisdiction will be permitted to participate on a research basis. Students must indicate in their registration form their intent to participate as researchers and specify the University to which they are affiliated. Proof of affiliation is required and must be submitted as part of the online registration.

4.2.1 Limit to Number of Observers per Participating Institution

Participating institutions may bring the number of observers and researchers necessary for education purposes, which shall not exceed more than three (3) students. The Technical Committee reserves the right to limit or increase the number of Observers and researchers from any individual institution due to limited space in the Competition venue or other considerations in the best interest of the Competition.

4.3 Participation in Future Competitions

Students that attend the Competition as an Observer or researcher may compete as a Team Member in a future Competition so long as they fulfill the other eligibility requirements for a Team Member pursuant to Rule 2.5.

4.4 Registration

Observers and researchers must pay the registration fee (see Appendix B) for Observers by the deadline indicated in the calendar. Observers and researchers must complete the waiver form and meet the insurance requirements noted in Rules 3.4 and 3.5 before they can attend the Competition. Observers and researchers are eligible for housing at the American University dormitories as noted in Rule 3.6.

4.4.1 Registration Fee for Current Year

The Observer Registration fee for the current Competition is listed in Appendix B.

4.4.2 Non-Refundability of Observer Registration Fee

No refunds will be issued once an Observer or Researcher pays the Registration Fee. Should an Observer or Researcher that has paid the Registration Fee decide to withdraw from the Competition, the Registration Fee will not be applied to the individual's registration fee for the following year of the Competition, or the registration fee of a different individual representing the same institution. Given that obtaining any necessary visa for travel to the U.S. to participate in the Competition is the sole responsibility of the Observer or Researcher, failure to obtain a visa will not qualify for the refund of the registration fee.

RULE 5: JUDGES

5.1 Eligibility and Selection

Attorneys that are licensed in their home country to practice law may apply to be a Judge during the Competition. Judges will be selected by the Technical Committee.

Law students who have completed all coursework necessary for their degree shall be eligible, so long as they meet the criteria established in Rule 5.1.1. Only in exceptional circumstances will a non-attorney qualify to serve as a Judge in the Competition. Such a determination will be made at the sole discretion of the Technical Committee.

5.1.1. Selection Criteria

Judges must have at least one (1) year of post-graduation experience in human rights and/or legal fields to qualify as Competition Judges. This requirement may be waived for former Competition

participants or in cases where applicants have more than one (1) year of relevant experience, despite having graduated less than one (1) year prior to the Competition. All decisions and exceptions will be made at the sole discretion of the Technical Committee.

5.2 Confidentiality

Judges have a duty not to disclose confidential information about the Problem, the Bench Memorandum or other Competition documents. Judges also have a duty to keep confidential their scoring deliberations.

If a Judge is found to be sharing the Bench Memorandum with members of Participant Teams, both the Judge and the University of the Participants who saw the Bench Memorandum shall be excluded from the competition for that year. The Technical Committee will determine the appropriate penalty depending on the severity of the offense.

5.3 Disclosure of Association Outside of Competition (Conflict of Interest)

Judges have a duty to disclose any association they have with any participating university or individual at the Competition prior to grading Memorials or judging Oral Argument Sessions. Judges are not allowed to grade the Memorials or Oral Argument Sessions of their alma mater unless previously approved by the Technical Committee. Judges may be assigned to grade Teams that are from their home country.

5.3.1 Socializing with Participants

While on the American University Washington College of Law campus, judges may not socialize with any Coach, observer, or student Competitor at any time until the semi-final rounds have finished. However, Judges may socialize with Coaches, Observers, or student Competitors outside of AUWCL's campus before and after the Competition.

5.4 Scheduling

The Technical Committee will not, to the extent possible, schedule Judges to view a Team which they have already judged in a previous oral round, nor a Team with which there is an association outside the scope of the Competition.

5.4.1 Observation of Rounds

Unless expressly stated otherwise by a member of the Technical Committee, Judges should recuse themselves if they are scheduled to judge the round of a Team they have observed in a previous round. **Due to this rule, judges are discouraged from observing rounds they are not scheduled to judge.**

5.5 Number of Judges

The number of Judges assigned to evaluate each Memorial and oral round will be determined by the rules below.

5.5.1 Memorials

All Memorials shall be evaluated by a minimum of three (3) Judges. The Technical Committee may increase the number of Judges assigned to evaluate Memorials based on the total number of registered Judges and in consideration of the best interests of the Competition. To the extent possible, the Technical Committee shall ensure that an equal number of Judges are assigned to review each Memorial

5.5.2 Oral Rounds

During the Preliminary Oral Rounds, a panel of at least three (3) Judges shall evaluate the Oral Argument Sessions, whenever possible, subject to exceptions provided by these Rules or determined by the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee may increase the number of Judges assigned to evaluate a Preliminary Oral Argument Session based on the total number of registered Judges and in consideration of the best interests of the Competition. To the extent possible, the Technical Committee shall ensure that an equal number of Judges are assigned to each Preliminary Oral Argument Session. All Preliminary Oral Argument Sessions shall be composed of an odd number of Judges, who shall determine the winner of the round by consensus or by majority vote.

During the semifinal Oral Rounds, a panel of at least three (3) Judges shall score the Oral Argument Sessions. If the Judge panel for a semifinal oral round is comprised of three (3) or four (4) Judges, the scoring for that round shall be calculated by adding each score and obtaining an average. If the Judge panel for a semifinal oral round is comprised of five (5) or more Judges, the scoring of the round shall be calculated by eliminating the highest and lowest scores and averaging the remaining scores.

The Technical Committee will designate a Panel President Judge based on the Judge experience and recurrent participation in The Competition. This designation is non-negotiable among Judges.

5.6 Bench Memorandum

The author(s) of the Problem shall provide a Memorandum of Law and Authority (“Bench Memorandum”) on the legal issues addressed in the Competition's Problem for the purposes of briefing the Competition Judges. The content of the Bench Memorandum is strictly confidential and will not be made available to Participant Teams Members, Coaches or Observers during the course of the current Competition. Team Members, Coaches and Observers, if confronted with the Bench Memorandum, must refuse to examine, read, or use any information deriving from it. Violation of this rule, or the mere grounds for suspicion of violation of this rule, by any Team Member or Judge will lead to the dismissal of the respective Team or Judge from the Competition.

RULE 6: BAILIFFS

6.1 Eligibility and Registration

Any person with an interest in moot-courting or the Inter-American system may apply to be a Bailiff, including students high school age or older, educators, and legal professionals. Interested parties may apply online by the date indicated in the Competition Calendar (see Appendix A).

6.1.1. Selection Criteria

The Technical Committee will review applications as received and will choose individuals to serve as Bailiffs based on the needs of the Competition and the applicant's interest in the position. There are twenty (20) positions available, and once all positions are filled, registration will be closed. Students attending schools that are participating in the Competition may not serve as Bailiffs except in exceptional circumstances, as decided by the Technical Committee.

6.2 Responsibilities

Bailiffs must attend a training session as indicated in the Competition Calendar. They are required to oversee three (3) rounds per day and must report to headquarters thirty (30) minutes prior to their scheduled round. Specific responsibilities include preparing score sheets, setting up their assigned room, communicating any problems to the Competition staff, keeping time during the oral rounds, enforcing the rules, overseeing all documents, and returning completed score sheets to the Competition staff.

6.3 Confidentiality

Bailiffs have a duty not to disclose confidential information about the Problem, the Bench Memorandum or other Competition documents. Bailiffs also have a duty to keep confidential the oral round scores.

If a Bailiff is found to be sharing the Bench Memorandum with members of participant Teams, both the Bailiff and the Team of the Participants who saw the Memorial shall be excluded from the Competition for that year. The Technical Committee will determine the appropriate penalty depending on the severity of the offense.

RULE 7: THE MOOT COURT HYPOTHETICAL CASE (THE PROBLEM)

7.1 Case Subject Area and Author/s

The Competition's hypothetical case ("Problem") shall be drafted each year by international human rights scholars and practitioners selected by the Technical Committee. The subject area of each year's Problem shall be determined by the Technical Committee and shall attempt to reflect issues of current

concern to the Inter-American System.

7.2 Translation and Revision of the Case

The Case will be translated by professional translators into the three (3) official languages of the Competition. Following the publication of the Case, there will be a three (3) week period in which Competitors, Coaches, Judges, and Observers may submit any concerns regarding the language used in the translated text. Once the revision period is closed, the Competition will post a corrected version in each language, which will henceforth be the official text of the Case for the Competition.

7.3 Clarifications to Case

Only Participant Teams that have completed their registration (as outlined in Rule 3.1) and registered the names of its Competitors by no later than 5:00 pm EST on the day when Clarification Questions are due (see Appendix A) will be eligible to submit requests of clarifications of points of fact in the case. Each eligible Team may submit in writing up to three (3) requests for clarifications, subject to the submission procedure outlined below in Rule 7.3.2. Clarification requests by Teams that have not registered the names of their Competitors by the aforementioned deadline shall not be answered.

7.3.1 Submission Procedure for Clarification Questions

Requests for clarifications must be sent by electronic mail and must be received by the Technical Committee by 11:59 P.M. to iamoot@wcl.american.edu on the date indicated on the Competition Calendar. The Technical Committee will not issue clarifications for any requests received after the deadline.

7.3.2 Eligible Issues for Clarification

The Technical Committee has the right not to respond to compound questions, questions that are outside the facts or questions that would give rise to arguments that are outside the scope of substantive or procedural issues originally contemplated by the facts.

7.3.3 Notice

All clarifications to legitimate requests made pursuant to this section will be available to Participant Teams within the time established in the Calendar and will be posted on the Competition website. It is the responsibility of each Participant Team to ensure that it receives and adequately integrates these Problem Clarifications.

RULE 8: MEMORIAL

8.1 Number of Memorials

Each Team will prepare two (2) legal briefs representing the VICTIMS and the STATE. Teams that do not present both memorials will not be able to participate in the oral argument sessions.

8.2 Team Identification on Memorials

The Team Memorial must display the official Team Number in the upper right-hand corner. This number must appear on every page of the Memorial including the cover page. Failure to include the official Team Number on every page of the Memorial including the cover page will result in a penalty (see Rule 8.8). No names of participants, nations or schools may appear anywhere on or within the Memorials. The Technical Committee will maintain the confidentiality of the official Team Number. Signature pages are prohibited except as expressly required by the Technical Committee in Rule 8.6.

8.3 Constituent Parts

All Memorials must contain the following sections, as listed, in the following order: 1) Title Page; 2) Table of Contents; 3) Index of Authorities; 4) Statement of Facts; 5) Legal Analysis; 6) Request for Relief. Failure to include any section, to properly label any section or to submit the Memorial in the correct order will result in a penalty pursuant to Rule 8.8.

8.3.1 Title Page

The Title Page of the Memorial should include the case name, official Team Number in the upper right-hand corner, and the Role the Team represents on that specific brief, whether VICTIMS or STATE. There should be no colored background on the page. There should be nothing else on the Title Page.

8.3.2 Table of Contents

Each Memorial shall have a Table of Contents, clearly listing the remaining sections (and subsections as is appropriate) and corresponding page numbers of the Memorial. Failure to include this section, to properly label this section or to place it out of order in accordance with Rule 8.3 will result in a penalty.

8.3.3 Index of Authorities

Each Memorial shall include an Index of Authorities. The Index of Authorities must contain two (2) parts: a) a listing of legal books and articles used in the Memorial; and b) a listing of legal cases cited in the Memorial. This index shall include a description of each authority adequate to allow the reader to identify and locate the authority in a publication and shall include the page number(s) of the Memorial on which each authority is cited. Failure to include this section, to properly label this section

or to place it out of order in accordance with Rule 8.3 will result in a penalty.

8.3.4 Statement of Facts

The Statement of Facts shall be limited to the stipulated facts and necessary inferences from the Problem and any Clarifications to the Case. The Statement of Facts cannot include unsupported facts, distortions of facts, argumentative statements, or legal conclusions. Failure to include this section, to properly label this section or to place it out of order in accordance with Rule 8.3 will result in a penalty.

8.3.5 Legal Analysis

The discussion of the legal issues presented in the case should include: a) an analysis of the preliminary admissibility issues (i.e., exhaustion of domestic remedies) if applicable; and b) an analysis of the issues of law according to the American Convention on Human Rights and other applicable international instruments cited in the Case. Failure to include this section, to properly label this section or to place it out of order in accordance with Rule 8.3 will result in a penalty.

8.3.6 Request for Relief

Each Memorial shall include a separate section for the Request for Relief. No legal arguments may be presented in this section. Failure to include this section, to properly label this section or to place it out of order in accordance with Rule 8.3 will result in a penalty.

8.4 Length of Memorial

Each Memorial shall have a total word count ranging from a minimum of ten thousand (10,000) words to a maximum of twelve thousand (12,000) words. The word count shall include all sections of the document, including the Title Page, Table of Contents, Index of Authorities, and footnotes. Teams must ensure that all required sections are included within the allotted word limit. Failure to comply with the word count requirement—defined as submitting a Memorial exceeding 12,000 words—shall result in penalties (see Rule 8.8).

8.5 Format of Memorial

All pages of the Memorials, including the Title Page, shall be in Times New Roman, size twelve (12) font, double-spaced, have one-inch margins, and be set to U.S. letter size paper (8 ½" x 11"). The character spacing should be set to normal (condensed or expanded text will not be accepted). Failure to submit the two (2) Memorials in proper format will result in a two-point deduction penalty for every formatting error pursuant to rule 8.8; additionally, Competition organizers will change the format to meet requirements. The Memorials shall not include any tables, charts, or images in any section of the document, including the Title Page and the Table of Contents. If a Memorial includes any of the aforementioned elements, they will be removed and/or edited by the Technical Committee.

8.5.1 Footnotes

Footnotes shall be single-spaced and printed in Times New Roman size ten (10) font. Footnotes should be limited to the location of the case or report cited in the text of the Memorial. Footnotes shall not contain substantive legal arguments. Footnotes that contain substantive legal arguments shall be ignored by the Judge(s). Footnotes not formatted correctly are subject to penalties (see Rules 8.5 and 8.8)

8.6 Memorials Submission

The Memorials Submission will be determined by the rules below.

8.6.1 General

Each Team is required to submit both Memorials through the Competition's designated online submission system no later than the date and time specified in the Competition Calendar. Teams must also confirm their submission by sending an email to the Technical Committee (iamoot@wcl.american.edu) with both Memorials attached. The deadline for submission is 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on the indicated date in the Competition Calendar. Memorials submitted after 11:59 PM on that date will incur penalties as outlined in Rule 8.8.

To meet the submission requirements, Teams must submit two (2) electronic copies: one copy of the VICTIMS' Memorial and one copy of the STATE's Memorial. Both copies must be uploaded to the online submission system and emailed to the Technical Committee as part of the submission process.

Failure to upload both Memorials to the online system and to send the electronic copies via email by the specified deadline will result in penalties for late submission. Additionally, submitting Memorials in an incorrect format or failing to meet the deadline will render the Memorials incomplete and may result in further penalties as described in Rule 8.8.1.

8.6.2 Confirmation email

The Memorials submission e-mail should include the Team Number, the school's name, the names of the Participant Team Members, including the name of the Coach, and any Observers that are attending from that institution, within the body of the e-mail. Teams will be penalized according to Rule 8.8.3 for not including this information in the confirmation submission e-mail.

8.6.3 Electronic Copy

The electronic copies of the Memorials must be submitted as a single Microsoft Word file containing the entire document. The file name must include the letter "V" for Victims or "S" for State, followed by the official Team Number (e.g., "V100" for the Victims' Memorial or "S100" for the State's

Memorial). Untitled or improperly titled Memorials are subject to penalties (see Rule 8.8). **The Technical Committee will not accept Memorials that are located on multiple files (i.e., one file for the Title Page and one file for the remainder of the Memorial) or files of any type other than Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx).** Failure to submit in this format will result in the Technical Committee requesting another electronic copy of the Memorial, which may result in the overall submission of the Memorial being considered late.

A total of two (2) points will be deducted for submitting Memorials in an incorrect file format. Each Team must contact the Competition staff immediately if a confirmation receipt is not received within one (1) business day after submitting the Memorials. The first two copies submitted through the Competition's designated online submission system will be deemed the official versions of the Memorials. The electronic copies attached in the confirmation email will serve as backups. **The Technical Committee will not accept revised or subsequent versions of the Memorials, whether submitted via email or through multiple uploads in the. Any multiple submissions through the online system will be subject to penalties as outlined in Rule 8.8.**

8.7 Scoring of Memorials

Each Participant Team's Memorials shall be submitted by the Technical Committee to a panel of at least three (3) Judges for grading. Each Memorial shall be scored on a scale of one (1) to one hundred (100) points; one hundred (100) being the highest possible score. Points will be allocated for the ability of the Participant Team to identify issues, to research issues, for the use of authority, and for the persuasiveness of analytical reasoning and argumentation. The scores of all the Judges grading the Memorial will be averaged. Individual Judges' scores and comments will not be published.

8.7.1 Final Memorial Scores for purposes of the Oral Rounds

The final Memorials score for each Team, for purposes of the Oral Rounds scoring ranking, will be calculated by averaging the scores of both of the Team's Memorials, in accordance with Rule 9.3. The final score for each Memorial will be the average of the Judges' evaluations, minus any penalties adjudicated by the Technical Committee, if applicable.

8.8 Penalties

Penalties will be assessed separately for each Memorial submitted by a Team.

The following penalties will be deducted after the Memorial has been graded and the average score has been determined:

8.8.1 Late Submission of Memorials

Any Memorial received after the submission deadline on the Competition Calendar will be subject to a deduction of points for lateness. Memorials received at any point within twenty-four (24) hours after

the submission deadline will receive a five (5) point deduction from the Team's total average Memorial score. One (1) additional point will be deducted from the Team's total average Memorial score for each additional twenty-four (24) hour period (or portion thereof) until the final deadline. No Memorial will be accepted after the final deadline (please see Appendix A). Failure to submit a Memorial by the final deadline converts the Team registration to Observers, and the original Team participants will not be allowed to present oral arguments, except in exceptional circumstances. For a submission to be considered complete, the electronic version must be received by the deadline on the Competition Calendar. Failure to send the electronic version of the Memorial by the deadline will result in the Memorial being considered incomplete and may result in penalties for lateness (See Rule 8.6).

8.8.2 Length

Memorials that exceed twelve thousand (12,000) words in length will be penalized ten (10) points. All sections, including footnotes are included in the twelve thousand (12,000) word limitation. (See Rule 8.4).

8.8.3 Format, Organization, and Penalties

A total of two (2) points will be deducted for Memorials submitted on paper size other than that stipulated in Rule 8.5. A total of two (2) points will be deducted for Memorials submitted with margins other than that stipulated in Rule 8.5. A total of two (2) points will be deducted for Memorials written in the wrong font and format, including the footnotes. A total of two (2) points will be deducted if the official Team Number is not located on every page of the Memorial, including the Title Page. A total of two (2) points will be deducted if the Team submits multiple uploads of the same Memorial document in the designated online submission system. One (1) point will be deducted for every section omitted, including the Signature Page, or for each section that is out of order according to Rule 8.3 (for a total possible deduction of six (6) points). One (1) point will be deducted if the file is not titled correctly (the Team Number). Two (2) points will be deducted if the character spacing is anything but normal (expanded or condensed).

8.8.4 Importance of Team Number

If the incorrect Team Number is placed on a Memorial and submitted as such to the Technical Committee, a five (5) point penalty will be imposed.

8.8.5 Plagiarism

No Participant Team shall incorporate any passage taken either word for word or in substance from any work of another unless the Participant Team credits the original author's work by quotation marks and footnotes or other appropriate explanation. Failure to give credit to the original author will result in a twenty (20) point deduction, at minimum, and a one hundred (100) point deduction at maximum, and possible expulsion from the Competition. Judges are asked to report any suspicion of plagiarism to the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee will review accusations of plagiarism on a

case-by-case basis and take whatever action it deems appropriate and necessary.

8.8.6 Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

No Participant Team shall use artificial intelligence (AI) in the drafting of Memorials, preparation of oral arguments, or in any other manner deemed relevant to the Competition. Judges are asked to report any suspicion of AI usage to the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee will conduct periodic checks to detect AI usage. Penalties will be imposed in accordance with the procedure for plagiarism accusations, as outlined in Rule 8.8.5.

8.8.7 Publishing of Penalties

The penalties assessed will be emailed to each team approximately two (2) weeks after the submission of the memorial. One (1) week after the team has been notified, the penalties will be considered final.

RULE 9: STRUCTURE OF ORAL ARGUMENT ROUNDS

9.1 General Information

Prior to the start of Oral Rounds each year, the Competition organizers will hold an Opening Ceremony. This Opening Ceremony is mandatory for Teams, and Judges are encouraged to attend. At this Opening Ceremony, the Competition organizers will convey final instructions to participants and important announcements. If a Team realizes they will be unable to attend the Opening Ceremony for unexpected reasons, they need to immediately alert the Competition organizers. Any Team that fails to attend the Opening Ceremony and does not contact the Competition organizers in advance may receive substantial penalties, may not be ensured participation in one or both of their preliminary rounds, and may be disqualified from semifinals.

9.2 Basic Structure

The oral phase of the Competition shall consist of a Preliminary Round, a Semi-Final Round, and a Final Round.

9.3 Preliminary Round

The Preliminary Round of the Competition shall consist of two (2) Oral Argument Sessions for each Team. In each session, the Participating Team shall present different Roles: STATE or VICTIM, not necessarily in that order. In exceptional circumstances, certain Participant Teams may be scheduled to argue a third time, as specified in Rule 9.3.3. Teams that win two (2) rounds shall qualify directly for the Semi-Finals. Teams that lose two (2) rounds shall be automatically disqualified. Teams that win one (1) round and lose one (1) round shall be considered eligible for the Semi-Final Rounds, contingent upon their final Memorial Score (Rule 8.7.1). Only a limited number of candidates in this category shall qualify, according to the procedure set forth in Rule 9.4.

9.3.1 Pairings for the Preliminary Rounds

The pairing of Participant Teams for the Preliminary Round of the Competition shall be performed by a random draw. Pairings will be posted on the designated online system, one (1) day prior to the start of the Competition. Official pairings of Teams shall be final, except as may be modified by the Technical Committee to account for Teams which do not appear at the start of the Preliminary Round. The Technical Committee shall have the power in such circumstances to adjust the pairings or to require a Participant Team to compete in a third Oral Argument Session during the Preliminary Round. All Teams should check the bulletin board in front of the Competition headquarters or the Competition designated online system the morning of each day of Oral Rounds to see if there are any changes to the scheduled sessions.

9.3.2 Scheduling of Preliminary Round

The Preliminary Round shall be scheduled over as many days as are necessary to arrange all Oral Argument Sessions.

9.3.3 Extra Oral Argument Sessions

In exceptional circumstances, the Technical Committee may schedule a Participating Team to argue a third time during the Preliminary Round. The result of the third Oral Argument Session will only be considered if it benefits the Team, as follows: if a Team has two (2) losses and wins the third session, their record will be adjusted to one (1) Win and one (1) Loss; if a Team has two (2) Wins and loses the third session, their record will remain two (2) Wins; if a Team has one (1) Win and one (1) Loss and loses the third session, their record for the Oral Rounds will remain unchanged.

9.4 Semi-Final Round of Competition

Teams that win one (1) round and lose one (1) round shall be considered eligible for the Semi-Final Rounds based on their final Memorial Score, in accordance with Rule 8.7.1. The first two (2) to eight (8) Teams, as ranked by their final Memorial Score, will qualify for the Semi-Finals. The Technical Committee reserves the right to make adjustments to the number of Teams advancing to the Semi-Finals, taking into account the total number of Teams participating in the Competition and in the best interests of the Competition.

The total number of Teams and matchups for the Semi-Finals will include Teams that have won two (2) rounds, as well as those selected based on their final Memorial Score ranking, having won one (1) round and lost one (1) round.

If the number of Teams that have won one (1) round and lost one (1) round is more than 90% of the registered Teams in the Competition, then all Teams qualifying to the semifinals will be determined

based on the final Memorial Score Ranking. The Technical Committee enjoys full discretion to set a fix number of Teams in such circumstances based on the best interest of the Competition.

9.4.1 Pairings and Assignment of Roles for the Semi-Final Round of Competition

The Semi-Final Round shall consist of a single session. The designated online system will generate the matchups and determine the roles assigned to each Team.

9.4.2 Scheduling of the Semi-Final Round

The Semi-Final Round of Competition shall be scheduled over as many days as are necessary to administer all Oral Argument Sessions.

9.4.3 Observation of Semi-Final Rounds

No Team Member, Observer or Researcher from the same University as a Team that will compete in the Semi-Final Rounds may watch other Teams compete during the Semi-Final rounds. Team Members must report to Competition headquarters by 8:30 AM the day of the Semi-Final Rounds to receive sequestration instructions from Competition staff. Violation of this rule will be considered illegal scouting, and subject to the same consequences (see Rule 10.5.3). Teams must remain in sequestration until the last semifinal round has been completed. Teams are allowed to leave the sequestration rooms for meals, bathroom breaks, and medical emergencies. The Technical Committee will decide if other exceptions are to be made.

9.4.4 Qualification of previous meeting in Competition

The fact that two (2) teams may have met previously in the Preliminary Round shall be irrelevant in determining the pairings for the Semi-Final Round of Competition.

9.5 Final Round

Qualifying Teams for the Final Round will be determined solely by the of the Semi-Final Round. The Final Round shall consist of a championship match between the highest-ranking Participant Team representing the VICTIMS and the highest-ranking Participant Team representing the STATE.

9.6 Sharing of Memorials

The Memorials of all Teams shall be made publicly available in the designated online system one (1) week prior to the Competition. It is the responsibility of each Team to monitor the system regularly. All Memorials shall be provided in the language in which they are submitted and will not be subject to translation. The failure to receive a Memorial from an opposing Team shall not constitute grounds for the postponement of an Oral Argument Session.

RULE 10: ORAL ARGUMENT PROCEDURES

10.1 General Procedures for Preliminary and Semi-Final Oral Rounds

Each Oral Argument Session of the Preliminary and Semi-Final Rounds shall consist of ninety (90) minutes of pleadings, each side being allotted forty-five (45) minutes. The forty-five (45) minute allotted time shall include the pleadings of both orators from a Participating Team, as well as their rebuttal or surrebuttal. Both Participating Team Members must make a substantial oral presentation of approximately equal length of time. The Panel President may, at his/her discretion, extend the total Team oral time by up to five (5) additional minutes per Team.

Interpreted rounds last 50 minutes. In those sessions where interpretation is required, the Judges may also add an additional five (5) minutes per Team at the outset of the session, allowing for a total of 55 minutes. If time is extended for one Team it must also be extended for the other Team. Judges may, in the interest of fairness, make decisions necessary to ensure that both Teams have equal time to argue their case.

Further procedures may be promulgated by the Technical Committee to ensure fairness in the pleadings. A Bailiff will be appointed to each Oral Argument Session to serve as timekeeper.

10.2 General Procedures for Final Round

As a general principle, Judges will be instructed to treat the Final Round as a formal courtroom proceeding. The performance of each Participating Team will be evaluated on its oral pleadings as a whole. Each Judge will receive the Memorial of the two (2) Participating Teams, and may refer to the substance of the Memorial, but they will not evaluate the Memorials as part of the Final Round scoring. Each side will have up to one (1) hour to make their pleadings. As in the other Rounds, both Participating Team Members must make a substantial oral presentation of approximately equal length of time. Judges may, at their discretion, extend the total Team oral time by up to five (5) additional minutes per Team and if interpretation is required, the Judges may also add an additional five (5) minutes per Participating Team at the outset of the session. If time is extended for one (1) Participating Team, it must also be extended for the other Participating Team. Scoring will be based on the same criteria as earlier Rounds.

10.3 Order of Pleadings

The order of the pleadings in each round of the Competition shall be:

1. VICTIMS 1
2. VICTIMS 2
3. STATE 1
4. STATE 2
5. VICTIMS Rebuttal

6. STATE Surrebuttal

10.3.1 Rebuttal and Surrebuttal

Each Participating Team shall be allowed to reserve up to ten (10) minutes at the start of the Oral Argument Session for rebuttal or surrebuttal, which is to be announced by each Participant Team to the Judges at the beginning of the oral pleadings of the session. Only one (1) Participating Team Member may deliver the rebuttal or surrebuttal. If the VICTIMS do not reserve time for rebuttal, the STATE may not reserve time for surrebuttal. If the VICTIMS reserve time for rebuttal but then declines to present rebuttal arguments, the STATE may use their reserved time without restriction as to the scope of the surrebuttal.

10.3.2 Scope of Pleadings

The scope of the oral pleadings for each Team is not limited to the scope of their written Memorials. The scope of the VICTIMS rebuttal is limited to the scope of the STATE's oral pleading, and the scope of the STATE's surrebuttal is limited to the scope of the VICTIMS rebuttal, except as stated in Rule 9.3.1.

10.4 Ex Parte Procedure

In the case of extreme circumstances, where one Team fails to arrive to a scheduled Oral Argument Session, the Technical Committee, after waiting thirty (30) minutes, may allow the Oral Argument Session to proceed *ex parte*. In an *ex parte* proceeding, the attending Participating Team presents its oral pleading, which is scored by the Judges as if they had appeared against the opposing Participating Team. The Judges shall determine whether the performance of the attending Participating Team is sufficient to constitute a win or if a loss shall be adjudicated. The Technical Committee may arrange an *ex parte* proceeding for the absent Team if it considers it appropriate at its discretion.

10.4.1 Rescheduling of Oral Rounds

If the Technical Committee determines that the absent Team missed its scheduled oral round through no fault of its own and that the absence could not have been avoided by the Team Members, the Technical Committee may allow the *ex parte* proceeding to be judged and decided by the Judges as if they had appeared against the opposing Participating Team, with no penalties following the regular *ex parte* oral round procedure.

In cases where the Technical Committee feels the absence could have been avoided through reasonable precautions on behalf of the Team Members, the team will not have the opportunity to argue in an *ex parte* procedure and will receive a "Loss" in their record for the session in question.

The Technical Committee will decide on a case-by-case basis which situations could have been avoided and any schedule modifications stemming from this event. The Technical Committee reserves the

right of offering a third round if available to the Team that failed to appear, yet the Team has to perform either as STATE or VICTIM according to the necessities of the Competition, regardless of their assigned roles in other rounds.

For Semi-Final or Final Rounds, if the Technical Committee determines the Team Members could have avoided the absence, there will be no rescheduling. If the Technical Committee determines it to be in the best interest of the Competition, this rule may be revised at any time.

10.5 Spectators and Scouting

10.5.1 General

Except for Rule 10.5.3, individuals wishing to attend more than one round (who are not participating as a Judge or member of a Team) must be registered as observers. At any session, there may be other participating Team Members, Observers or others witnessing the oral round session. Individuals who are not registered for the Competition as a Judge, Observers, Bailiff, Coach, or Team Member will not be allowed to participate in the Competition's activities. In exceptional circumstances, the Technical Committee may, at its sole discretion, allow individuals who were not previously registered for the Competition to observe the Competition's activities. In such a case, these individuals will be required to pay the corresponding registration fee for Observers (see Appendix B) before they are allowed to participate. No one will be allowed inside of a courtroom without credentials.

10.5.2 Recording and Taking Notes (Generally)

While Participating Competitors, Coaches and Observers may observe other Participating Teams' Oral Argument Sessions, only the four (4) student Team Members (2 for the VICTIMS and 2 for the STATE) giving their oral argument presentations, as well as one of the team's coaches and the Judges on the Bench, may take notes during the Oral Argument Session. **No other individual in attendance may record (either in video or audio) or take notes of the proceedings. Anyone caught taking notes will be expelled from the courtroom and penalties may be awarded to Teams found violating this rule.** The Coach that wishes to take notes must identify themselves at the beginning of the session, when prompted by the Bailiff. These notes may not be shared or discussed with members of other Teams.

10.5.3 Scouting

Participant Team Members and Observers who attend universities that are participating may not observe the pleadings of their scheduled opponents in order to prevent an unfair advantage. Any claim that this Rule has been violated will be investigated immediately by the Technical Committee.

If, after the ensuing investigation, the Technical Committee finds that a Team was scouting an opponent, that Team may be penalized with at least 10% of its score in the round where the event

took place. The Technical Committee may impose additional penalties depending on the severity of the offense.

10.5.4 Coaches as Spectators

Coaches are not allowed to either sit with their Team Members at the Team table or pass Team Members notes during any of the Oral Argument Sessions. Coaches will be removed from attending any future oral round sessions of their Team if they are found to have violated these Rules.

10.6 Video Taping, Recording and Photographs by Participants

Those Teams that wish to photograph, record by video or any other recording device or their own session must submit a request in writing prior to the beginning of the Competition to the Technical Committee. Permission will be granted at the discretion of the Technical Committee and only with the agreement of the opposing Team(s). Individuals that violate this Rule will be asked to leave the oral round session.

10.6.1. Prohibition of Electronic Devices

Cellphones, Smartphones, laptops, smart tablets, and other electronic devices are not allowed during the oral rounds for anyone present, including Judges, Team Members, Observers or the general audience. All devices must be turned off prior to the round. Use of devices during the round could lead to disqualification of Team, loss of certificate, or other action deemed appropriate by the Technical Committee. Penalties are extensive to Judges, and the Technical Committee might not consider the Judge for further rounds or future Competitions.

10.7 Languages and Interpretation

Oral Argument Sessions are to be delivered in English, Spanish, or Portuguese. In the event that opposing Participant Teams plead in different languages, interpretation will be arranged by the Technical Committee. Adequacy of and/or quality of interpretation cannot be a basis for questions, clarifications and complaints to the Technical Committee.

10.8 Presenting Materials

No physical items may be presented to the Judges' Bench during an Oral Argument Session. In addition, no electronic device or program may be used as part of the oral argument presentation.

RULE 11: ORAL ARGUMENT SESSION SCORING

11.1 General

Judging of the Oral Argument Sessions will be based on the organization of the presentation, quality

and clarity of legal arguments and the ability to respond to opponent's arguments and questions from the Judges. Judges should evaluate the speakers individually in the evaluation form at the conclusion of each round before deliberating with each other for purposes of individual speaker awards. Subsequently, the judges will deliberate and decide which team won the session. **Deliberation shall not be longer than five (5) minutes.** The Technical Committee will ensure that every oral round bench is composed by an odd number of judges. Judges will decide who won the round by consensus, and if unreachable, then through majority vote. Immediately after, the Panel President Judge will announce the winner to the participant Teams.

After all evaluation forms have been delivered to the Bailiff or uploaded to the designated online system, and the winner announcement is concluded, the Oral Argument Session will be over, and judges should leave the room.

11.2 Point Scale for Speakers

Each Judge will score each orator on a scale of one (1) to one hundred points (100), one hundred (100) being the highest possible score. Individual Scores will be relevant only for the purpose of determining individual awards.

11.3 Preliminary Round Evaluation

The Preliminary Rounds evaluation will follow the procedure outlined in Rules 5.5.2, 9.3 and 11.1.

11.4 Selection for the Semi-Final Round

The selection process for the Semi-Final Rounds will be made following Rule 9.4

11.5 Scoring of the Semi-Final Round

The score of the Semi-Final Round will be based solely on the scores obtained during the Participating Team's single Oral Argument Session in the semifinal rounds stage. The individual scores of each Team member will be averaged and the result will be use for the final semifinal ranking score. Memorial scores are irrelevant for this stage, unless a tie braking procedure is necessary (Rule 11.4.1)

11.5.1 Tie-Breaking Procedures for Semi-Final Round

In the event of a tie, the Team with the highest individual orator argument score for the Semi-Final Round shall advance. If there is still a tie, the Participant Team with the highest Memorials score shall advance. In the event that further tiebreakers are needed, the Technical Committee will determine an adequate process.

11.5.2 Selection for the Final Round

The highest-ranking Semi-Finalist representing the VICTIMS and the highest-ranking Semi-Finalist

representing the STATE will advance to the Final Round. Teams will preserve the same roles they had during the Semi-final role for the final match.

11.6 Final Round

Judges must deliver their decision at the conclusion of the Round. Ties are not allowed.

11.7 Scoring of Individual Orators and Selection of Best Individual Orator

Best Individual Orators will be awarded in two categories: Best Preliminary Round Orators and Best Semifinalist Orators. The first category will be obtained by averaging the individual oral scores from the Preliminary Oral Round sessions, while the second category will be obtained by averaging the individual oral scores from the Semi-Final Scores. The highest-ranking individual orator in English, in Spanish and in Portuguese will each receive the Best Individual Orator Award for the Competition. There will also be an award for the Highest Orator Overall. The highest-ranking individual and highest orator overall awards will be based exclusively on the Preliminary Oral Round sessions scores.

RULE 12: REPORTING OF RESULTS

12.1 Published Results

The Technical Committee shall, as soon as possible after the completion of the Competition, post the following information on the Competition Website:

- a) Team Memorial Rankings and Scores for the top 50%.
- b) Overall Team Rankings, including a detailed list of the teams that won both Preliminary Oral Rounds and Teams that won One (1) round and lose one (1). The list of Team that lost both round will not be published
- c) Individual Orators Scores for the Preliminary Round of the Competition for the top 50%.
- d) Overall Team Rankings and Scores for the Semi-Final Round.
- e) Team Rankings for the Final Round of the Competition.

12.2 Unpublished Results

Those Teams who do not find their Memorial, overall, or individual scores published on the Competition Website may e-mail the Competition staff at iamoot@wcl.american.edu and their scores will be sent in a response e-mail. Teams will have ninety (90) days after the Competition to request their results. After this, the scores will no longer be available.

RULE 13: AWARDS

All Participating Teams, Coaches, Observers, and Judges will receive a Certificate of Participation. All semifinalists will receive a Certificate of Advancement. The Team that has obtained first, second, and

third place in the written Memorials in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, both for the VICTIMS and for the STATE, will receive an award from the Competition. The speaker who has achieved the first, second, and third highest scores in their oral arguments in English, Spanish, and Portuguese will be categorized in two groups: one for the best speakers in the Preliminary Rounds and another for the best speakers in the Semifinal Rounds. The Team in First Place and the Team in Second Place will receive awards from the Competition. The best-performing rookie team will receive the Best Rookie Team Award. Additional awards may be given at the discretion of the Technical Committee.

RULE 14: INTERPRETATION OF RULES

The Technical Committee will interpret the Official Rules and will settle any questions and complaints that arise in the Competition. The Technical Committee may appoint, as necessary, an individual or group to resolve disputes. The Technical Committee, in interpreting these Official Rules, may promulgate and post during the Competition such other measures as deemed advisable for the orderly conduct of the Competition or to correct deficiencies in the Competition, provided that these measures do not violate the spirit of these Official Rules or the best interests of the Competition.

Drafted by the 2025 Technical Committee:

Prof. Claudia Martin, Academy Co-Director
Prof. Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón, Academy Co-Director
Gabriel J. Ortiz Crespo, Competition Coordinator

APPENDIX A: 2025 COMPETITION CALENDAR

Registration Opens, Official Rules Available	November 15, 2024 (on Competition website)
Hypothetical Case Available	December 10, 2024 (projected date)
Period of Review for Hypothetical Case Translation	December 10, 2024 – January 3, 2025
Publication of Official Version of Hypothetical Case	January 10, 2025
Clarification Questions on Hypothetical Case due	January 19, 2025, 11:59 pm EST
Answers to Clarification Questions on Hypothetical Case Available	February 27, 2025 (on Competition website)
Opening housing registration	January 13, 2025
Team Registration Deadline	March 12, 2025, 11:59 pm EST
Team Memorial Due (without late submission penalties)	March 25, 2025, 11:59 pm EST
Bailiff Registration Deadline	April 11, 2025, 11:59 pm EST
Observer Registration Deadline	April 11, 2025, 11:59 pm EST
Observer Payment Deadline	April 11, 2025, 11:59 pm EST
Last day to submit a Memorial (with penalties for late submission)	April 10, 2025, 11:59 pm EST
Judge Registration	April 11, 2025, 11:59 pm EST
Housing Registration Deadline	April 29, 2025, 11:59 pm EST
Check-in, Bailiff Training and Opening Ceremony at American University Washington College of Law	May 18, 2025 (Mandatory Attendance for Teams)
Oral Rounds at American University Washington College of Law	May 19 – May 23, 2025

APPENDIX B: 2025 COMPETITION FEES

Team	\$1275
Second Coach	\$460
Observer	\$460
Bailiff	\$0
Judges	\$0