

GENERAL INFORMATION

THE RODYK MOOTS

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I. SELECTION OF COMPETITORS

1. Selections

- (a) The Rodyk Moots (the “Moots”) are organised by Rodyk & Davidson LLP (the “Organiser”) and are intended to be a showcase of the top mooters from the LAWR programme at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore (“NUS”).
- (b) 10 students in the LAWR programme will be selected according to these provisions to compete in the Moots (the “Competitors”).
- (c) The LAWR instructors for each LAWR research project shall select the Competitors from the top performing students in their research groups. Selections will be made, at the discretion of LAWR instructors, based on some or all of the following factors:-
 - i. the quality of a student’s performance in the LAWR moots;
 - ii. the quality and consistency of a student’s moots performance during practice sessions; and
 - iii. the availability of a student to participate in the Moots.
- (d) The Organiser will formally notify the Competitors of their place in the Moots and the issue the Competitor will argue.

II. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

2. Moot Format

- (a) The Moots will consist of 5 sets of appellate oral arguments.
- (b) Each set of appellate oral arguments will focus on any one of the two issues in each LAWR research project and will be argued by either an appellant or a respondent.
- (c) The Moots will be heard as if before the Singapore Court of Appeal and the issues will be adjudicated in accordance with Singapore law.
- (d) Each Competitor will have 10 minutes for oral argument.
- (e) There will be a timekeeper assigned to hold up signs to signal the following:-
 - i. 5 minutes remaining (5);
 - ii. 2 minutes remaining (2);
 - iii. 1 minute remaining (1); and
 - iv. time elapsed (0).

- (f) When the time elapsed notice is given, Competitors must complete their last sentence and stop.
- (g) Judges may extend the time allotted to any Competitor at their discretion.
- (h) There will be no right of reply.

3. Preparation

- (a) Competitors shall not discuss their Moots issue with their fellow Competitors.
- (b) Competitors are permitted to work with their classmates and LAWR instructors to practise and prepare for the Moots, provided that such preparation is limited only to oral argument.
- (c) Competitors are not permitted to receive assistance from their classmates or LAWR instructors or any person with regard to further research or the crafting of new arguments.
- (d) Competitors are not required to do additional research or preparation for the Moots, and may not submit additional written arguments.
- (e) Competitors may, however, undertake additional preparation or research to improve their oral arguments.

4. Additional Authorities

- (a) Competitors who wish to cite additional authority must bring 4 copies of the said authority to the Moots and tender them to the Judges prior to commencing their oral argument.
- (b) The Competitor should be prepared to justify the citation of such additional authority.

5. Oral Argument

- (a) A Competitor is entitled to make their arguments on the basis that the Judges have read the Competitor's Case beforehand. There is no requirement for a Competitor to present or complete every argument in their Case.
- (b) These rules are without prejudice to a Competitor's right to refer to new authorities or make new arguments in response to queries made by the Judges.

6. Judges

- (a) The Moots will be assessed by a panel of 3 Judges.
- (b) Judges will assess a Competitor's performance and determine the top three Competitors (the "Winners") on the basis of the criteria set out below.

7. Judging Criteria

- (a) Judges will consider whether a Competitor has adhered to the rules of moot presentation, including:-
 - i. proper introduction of counsel;
 - ii. propriety of attire and speech/language; and
 - iii. adherence to time limitations.
- (b) Judges will evaluate the organisation of a Competitor's oral argument, including:-
 - i. emphasis on strongest arguments;
 - ii. ease of transition between introduction and arguments;
 - iii. Competitor's use of signposting;
 - iv. ability to modify structure in response to directions or questions from the bench; and
 - v. time management.
- (c) Judges will consider a Competitor's use of supporting authorities as well as the Competitor's ability to anticipate and address adverse authorities and/or arguments. In particular, the Judges will assess a Competitor's:-
 - i. choice of authorities and explanation of its significance;
 - ii. clarity of introduction of those authorities; and
 - iii. understanding of authorities (including knowledge of material facts).
- (d) Judges will assess the development of a Competitor's oral argument, including the Competitor's techniques of reasoning and argument (e.g. applying general principles or logic and/or running practical or policy arguments).
- (e) Judges will take into account a Competitor's style of presentation and the ability of a Competitor to engage the Court.
- (f) Judges will consider a Competitor's responses to the Judges' questions, including assessment of:-

- i. a Competitor's understanding of the Judges' questions (including their significance and implication); and
- ii. a Competitor's ability to manage the Judges' response to their answers (including concession of non-essential points, defending essential points and moving on with arguments after questions have been answered).

III. PRIZES

8. Prizes

- (a) The following cash prizes will be awarded to the Winners:-
 - i. S\$ 1,000.00 to the best Competitor;
 - ii. S\$ 500.00 to the first runner-up; and
 - iii. S\$ 300.00 to the second runner-up.
- (b) The Winners will also receive sponsorship and training support from the Organiser to compete in the mooting competition of the Australian Law Students' Association Conference (the "ALSA Competition") in July, 2010. This is subject to the Winners qualifying to participate in the ALSA Competition and satisfying any requirements which may be imposed by ALSA and the Organiser. If for whatever reason a Winner does not compete in the ALSA Competition, the Winner is not entitled to any sponsorship or training support or any other prize in lieu, cash or otherwise.
- (c) The Winners will be offered an internship at Rodyk & Davidson LLP (subject to Rodyk & Davidson LLP's terms and conditions).
- (d) All Competitors will be presented with a Certificate of Participation in recognition of their successful selection for and participation in the Rodyk Moots.