EMORY CIVIL RIGHTS & LIBERTIES MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Fall 2021 Competition Rules
INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2021 Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Competition at Emory University School of Law. The Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Competition (CRAL) will take place remotely in light of health and safety concerns surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic. The Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Competition celebrates Emory Law’s Moot Court Society’s dedication towards academic excellence as well as civil rights and social justice. The competition embodies the pivotal values of fairness and equal opportunity for all in society. Emory Law and Emory Law’s Moot Court Society hope this competition inspires each individual to reflect upon the role civil rights and civil liberties serve in our society, and how we can use our positions as advocates to further champion civil rights and liberties.

As such, each competitor is charged with complying with the following rules with the utmost integrity and professionalism. The rules set forth below must be strictly followed throughout the competition.

The CRAL Co-Directors reserve the right to make decisions regarding any aspect of the competition. The CRAL Co-Directors also reserve the right to amend these rules at any time before or during the competition. If a change in the rules becomes necessary, teams will be notified via e-mail of such a change.

A team may make a request for clarification or interpretation of these rules by e-mail. Any such request must be e-mailed by a team member or student coach to emorymootcourt@gmail.com with the subject line stating “Rule Clarification” and the rule needing clarification.

For example, a subject line could read:

Rule Clarification for Rule (B)(1)(7).

All clarifications and interpretations will be posted on the CRAL website at http://www.law.emory.edu/cral. Furthermore, all clarification and interpretation requests must be submitted by Sunday, September 12, 2021 at 11:59 P.M.
A. Teams

1. Registration Timeline

There will be no early or late registration this year. The **deadline for registration** is **August 8, 2021**, at 11:59 P.M. EDT. Each school may register up to two teams. The registration fee is $425 for the first team, and $400 for the second. Team registration will be capped at the first 32 teams to register, with a team registration being complete upon receipt of the online form with competitor names and emails, and Emory’s confirmed receipt of the registration fee.

2. Roster

A team consists of two or three students attending the same law school. **Each team must provide the names of all team members via the electronic form provided by the CRAL Co-Directors by September 8, 2021.**

3. Registration of Two Teams

If a school registers two teams for the competition, the two teams may **not** confer with one another in any aspect of writing their briefs. The two teams may **not** share research, arguments, and/or any other knowledge pertaining to their briefs. Furthermore, if a school has two teams in the competition, then the two teams will **not** be on the same side. Therefore, if two teams from the same school enter the competition, one team will submit an Appellant’s Brief and one team will submit an Appellee’s Brief.

For purposes of CRAL, these two teams will be treated as separate and individual teams and will be scored as such.

4. Substitution of Team Members

After the submission of the brief, team members may be substituted only after receiving written permission from the CRAL Co-Directors. Email [emorymootcourt@gmail.com](mailto:emorymootcourt@gmail.com) with any substitution request.

5. Identification of Teams

Each team will be assigned by the CRAL Co-Directors to either the Appellant or Appellee brief when the problem is released. In other words, a team is assigned the party it will represent when writing its brief. Schools with two teams competing must have one team brief for the Appellant and one for the Appellee; those teams may decide which team briefs for Appellant and which team briefs for the Appellee.
Each team will be assigned a Team Letter to protect the team’s identity from judges and other teams. It is vitally important that a team uses its Team Letter throughout the competition and the brief writing process.

B. Briefs

Briefs are to be submitted electronically and formatted for 8 ½” by 11” white paper. The briefs should be typed and justified. Footnotes and argument headings must be single spaced. The Cover Page, Table of Contents, Table of Authorities, and Appendices may be single spaced. All other portions of the brief, including indented quotations and questions presented, must be double-spaced.

Briefs must be written in Times New Roman 12-point typeface. Footnotes should be 10-point. Briefs must have one inch margins on each side. All citations must be in Bluebook form. Briefs must not contain any team or other identifying information.

As stated in Section A, each team will be notified by e-mail of its Team Letter when the problem is released on August 16, 2021. The Team Letter should be printed in the top right corner of every page of the brief.

1. Brief Sections

A brief must contain, under appropriate headings and in the order indicated:

1. A cover page;
2. A table of contents with page references;
3. A table of authorities – cases (alphabetically arranged), statutes, and other authorities – with references to the pages of the brief where they are cited;
4. A statement of the issues presented for review;
5. A statement of facts relevant to the issues presented for review with appropriate references to the record;
6. A summary of the argument;
7. The argument; and
8. A short conclusion stating the precise relief sought.

Briefs should omit a formal statement of jurisdiction. Appendices may be used, if necessary, to recite the text of statutes, provisions, or regulations, but are not mandatory.
2. **Page Limit and Page Numeration**

The brief may **not** exceed **30 pages**. This page count includes the Statement of Issues and all subsequent sections up to and including the Conclusion, including headings. The Cover Page, the Table of Contents, the Table of Authorities, and any appendices will not count towards the page limit. Exceeding the page limit shall result in a deduction of two points. Additionally, two more points shall be deducted for every 500 words the brief exceeds the page limit.

Begin numbering pages using Arabic numerals with the Statement of the Issues. All sections preceding the Statement of the Issues should be numbered using lower case Roman numerals.

3. **Certification**

By submitting briefs, each team member certifies that the brief has been prepared in accordance with the Competition Rules and that the brief represents the work product, proofreading, and evaluation of **only** the members of the team named on its roster.

4. **Submission**

Briefs must be submitted **both** as an electronic PDF copy and as a Word document. The electronic copy and Word document of the entire brief must be sent via email attachment to emormootcourt@gmail.com. The electronic copy and Word document must **arrive** by **5:00 p.m. EDT** on **Monday, September 20, 2021**. The e-mail’s subject line must include the Team Letter of the team submitting the brief. The e-mail’s subject line must read “Team [INSERT TEAM LETTER] CRAL 2021 Brief Submission.”

Any team whose electronic copy and Word document is received after the deadline shall be assessed a late submission penalty of five points for every day the brief is late. This penalty will be deducted from the overall score of the brief.

The CRAL Co-Directors will make available electronic copies of each team’s brief for viewing, downloading and printing no later than **Wednesday, September 22, 2021** on the CRAL website. Once the briefs are submitted, they are final and no revisions to the briefs are permitted.

5. **Scoring**

Each brief will be scored by at least five Moot Court Society members, under the supervision of two Emory Law School faculty. A team’s brief score is the average of its individual brief scores, after the highest and lowest scores are discarded.
To determine the “Best Brief” for the competition, the ten highest scored briefs will be scored by five Emory Law School Professors and practitioners in the relevant field of law. These individuals will determine the winner of the best brief award. The team brief score – not the panel’s score or ranking – is used in the equation determining a team’s round score. Brief scores will be sent to teams prior to the first round of the competition. An average brief score of all teams or ranking of the brief in comparison to other teams will not be made available to any teams. The top-ten briefs and the best brief will not be disclosed until awards are revealed.

C. Prohibitions

Team members may not receive any outside assistance in writing the brief. Coach, faculty, or practitioner assistance is strictly prohibited. Teammates may receive assistance from others, including from a second team from the same school, on their oral arguments only after the brief has been submitted. Every member of the team must contribute to the brief. Violations of this rule will result in deductions and/or exclusion from the competition.

D. Competition and Oral Arguments

We are working to revise the competition rules from last year, including clarification of how teams advance. Amended complete rules will be issued by August 27, 2021.

E. Awards

Awards will be given for the following categories:
- Top 10 Briefs (Team Award);
- Best Brief (Team Award);
- Top 10 Oralists;
- Best Oralist; and
- First Place Team.

All awards besides First Place Team will be given following the Quarter-final Round along with the announcement of Semi-finalists. The First Place Team will be announced following the final round, and all teams are encouraged to attend the final round virtually.

F. Competition Schedule

The Competition Schedule will be provided a month before the competition; however, the Co-Directors may make changes to the schedule before and during the competition.
G. **Technology**

We understand there may be concerns about a virtual competition. We would like to emphasize that Emory Moot Court Society has been working closely with Moot Court Advocacy Programs across the country to make this as seamless a transition as possible.

1. **Communication**

Communications will be sent to each team through email. This information will include information such as the competition schedule, Zoom links and passwords, and requested score sheets. Communications will only be sent to email addresses provided by the teams before the competition. The Co-Directors will not respond to emails that have not been pre-registered before the competition to avoid fraudulent communication.

   Additionally, each day there will be a Competitor’s Zoom Lobby where the Co-Directors will be located virtually for teams to come at any time to ask questions or raise concerns. If teams have a private question, the Co-Directors will create a private breakout room for the team to speak to the Co-Directors privately.

2. **Presentation and Round Attendees**

Competitors should, to the extent possible, compete from a quiet place with limited distractions and where the background is clear and organized. Competitors are expected to present in professional attire. If possible, teams are encouraged to compete from their law school on a single Zoom account rather than each competitor or coach logging on to the Zoom meeting. However, Competitors will not be penalized for competing at their homes. Competitors may sit or stand during rounds. Competitors are encouraged to wear headphones with a built-in microphone in order to reduce background noises.

   Each round, only the team members and one coach may log in to the Zoom meeting.

3. **Honor Code**

Teams must certify at the beginning of each round that there will be no cheating. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (i) reading off of any notes that are not printed and in-front of the competitor (i.e. competitors may not read from a computer or tape notes to the wall), (ii) any person not competing communicating in any way with competitors during the round, and (iii) feigning technological difficulties to gain time. Teammates who are both competing in the round may communicate with each other through text, handwritten notes, or any other non-distracting method while the other team argues. Teammates may not communicate with each other in any way while either of the teammates is arguing.
6. **Technological Difficulties**

6.1 **Competitors:** Competitors will connect to the Zoom room for both video and audio. Competitors will not call in on a phone unless audio problems occur over Zoom. Each competitor must keep their video on for the duration of the round. However, each competitor not arguing must keep their audio on mute. If a period of 10 or more seconds of audio problems occurs, the bailiff will stop the clock and allow the competitor to attempt refreshing Zoom to fix the audio. Similarly, in the case that the video fails or freezes, the bailiff will stop the time so the competitor may attempt to refresh or reconnect their Zoom to fix the video. Once the bailiff has paused the time, the competitor will have up to 15 minutes (with the bailiff timing) to get their video or audio up and running again.

Each team may have two technical difficulty “pauses,” but will only receive the one 15-minute cure period. If the internet connection goes out a second time, teams receive what is left-over of the previous 15-minute period to cure (i.e. a single pool of time). If the connection fails a third time, or if the team is unable to cure within 15 minutes, then the team must continue the oral argument over the phone. For this reason, competitors should write down the phone number for the room before the round starts. Judges will be instructed not to reduce points for technology failures. Competitors will receive training on how to operate Zoom prior to the start of the competition.

6.2 **Judges:** Judges will receive training on Zoom before the competition. There will be a minimum of three judges per round. The judges will connect to the Zoom room with their computer for both audio and video. If a judge’s internet connection falters, the round will not be stopped. The judge will be instructed to attempt to fix, and if the judge cannot do so quickly, the judge will call in. The judge will continue listening and asking questions over the phone used to call in for audio.

6.3 **Bailiffs:** Bailiffs will visually indicate to competitors their remaining time. If the bailiff’s internet connection falters, a second bailiff will turn on their video and continue providing the time indicators.

If the Zoom room itself crashes, the bailiff will immediately stop the timer. The competitors will immediately return to the Competitor’s Zoom Lobby. If the host is able to repair the connection within 15 minutes, the host will do so. After the room is reinstated, the host will inform the Co-Directors to send the competitors back to the original Zoom link (the judges will likewise be informed in their Zoom Lobby). If the host is unable to repair the connection within 15 minutes, then one of the bailiffs assigned to that room will set up a new Zoom room and will act as the host for the remainder of the round.
Co-Directors will instruct the competitors and judges to join the new link hosted by the bailiff. The competitor who was disrupted by the crash will gain an additional 30 seconds to ramp their argument back up in either situation.

ON BEHALF OF THE EMBRY LAW MOOT COURT SOCIETY, WE WISH YOU GOOD LUCK!