



## **2015 Paralegal Cup Mooting Competition Official Rules**

### **Qualification and Registration**

1. To qualify for competition, teams must:
  - a) Consist of two students from an accredited Paralegal attending same college;
  - b) Complete the registration form and submit the registration fee to the Paralegal Cup;
  - c) Be currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate Paralegal program recognized by the Law Society of Upper Canada;
  - d) Provide photo identification confirming active enrollment at the time of registration on the first day of the competition; and
  - e) Check-in no later than thirty minutes prior to the beginning of the first mooted round of the day.
2. The competition is not open to students who are currently enrolled in professional law school programs, university degree programs or the Bachelor of Applied Arts – Paralegal Studies program.
3. The moot competition and featured venue is open to the public.
4. Food and beverages are provided exclusively to the competitors, coaches, judges and sponsors.
5. Each registered participant receives a ticket to attend the dinner banquet following the first day of competition.
6. Each institution with registered teams will receive at most two complimentary tickets for team coaches to attend the dinner banquet following the first day of competition.
7. Team numbers are assigned randomly and teams are notified of their team numbers not less than one (1) week prior to the competition.

## **Competition Format and Structure**

### **Moot Court: Oral Component**

8. The preliminary rounds are held on the first day of competition. If more than one team does not qualify to compete during the preliminary rounds, the mooting round schedule shall be modified accordingly. Every effort is made to ensure that teams from the same institution do not compete against each other. However, if registered teams do not qualify, teams from the same institutions might compete against each other.
9. When an odd number of teams do not qualify for the competition, the team without an opponent shall proceed with their submissions and receive oral advocacy scores from the judges.
10. Participants shall restrict their arguments to the information contained in the provided fact scenario, factums and related case law. They are not permitted to include any other jurisprudence, legislation or arguments not contained within the fact scenario, factums and related case law.
11. Teams shall prepare submissions as counsel for both the Appellant and the Respondent. Each team should expect to argue for the Appellant twice and the Respondent twice during the preliminary rounds. Appellant teams are not given the opportunity to Reply.
12. Each team member shall make oral submissions during each round. Participants have ten minutes for their individual submissions. Only one team member speaks at a time.
13. Participants may end their arguments before their ten-minute allotment is reached, however, they may not continue beyond ten minutes unless they request and receive permission from the judge(s). Individual time extensions may be granted to a maximum of two minutes. The extensions are granted at the discretion of the judge(s).
14. No verbal communication should take place between teammates while their opposing team is speaking. Any overly distracting or inappropriate conduct on the part of a participant during the round may impact that individual's score under the *Professionalism* category. Serious and ongoing inappropriate conduct could lead to a forfeit and early termination of the round. Scoring, determination of the appropriateness of a competitor's conduct and forfeiture is made at the discretion of the presiding judge(s).
15. Judges shall be responsible for marking speaker scores and argument scores.
16. Judges deliberate while the competing teams and any spectators wait outside of the competition venue. The remaining time allows the judges to provide constructive feedback to the competitors. Judges shall not indicate who won the round. No numerical scores are revealed after individual rounds.

### **Moot Court: Written Legal Memo Component**

17. Each team completes one legal memorandum. The 2015 Paralegal Cup Mooting Competition Committee (Committee) has assigned each team to write the legal memo as the Appellant.
18. The team legal memo must consist of the following:
  - a) A cover page that includes the name of the court to which the matter is being appealed, the title of proceedings, the title of the document (e.g. Appellant's Legal Memorandum), and the team number. The team legal memorandum must not include the any competitor names or post-secondary institution name;
  - b) Part I – Overview;
  - c) Part II – Facts;
  - d) Part III – Issue(s);
  - e) Part III – Law;
  - f) Part IV – Analysis; and
  - g) Part V – Conclusion.
19. Students are expected to properly cite all sources included in their legal memorandum. Footnotes shall be formatted in accordance with the *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation, Eighth Edition*.
20. A paper copy of the legal memorandum is to be submitted to the Registration desk before 9:00 AM on Saturday, November 21, 2015.
21. The team that receives the highest score as determined by the written component judges is awarded the Written Advocacy Award.

### **Moot Court: Final Mooting Rounds**

22. If 18 or fewer teams register for the competition, the competition includes only semi-final and final rounds.
23. If more than 18 team register for the competition, the competition includes quarterfinal, semi-final and final rounds.
24. The teams proceeding to the quarterfinal rounds are determined based on highest team scores using the competition scoring criteria and are announced at the conclusion of the dinner banquet.
25. At the time of the finalist announcements, the teams proceeding to the quarterfinal rounds determine whether they are representing the Appellant or Respondent in the quarterfinal rounds (if applicable). The higher-ranking team has first choice of Appellant or Respondent. If the higher-ranking team is not present, they have forfeited their election and by default, their opposing team chooses.

26. Following the quarterfinals (if applicable), teams are assigned to argue the opposite side of the case from their previous round's arguments. Where both teams would be assigned to the same side of the case, a coin toss is used to determine assignments. The team with the higher combined scores from the preliminary rounds calls the coin toss.
27. The winning teams determined by the higher team score from the quarterfinals (if applicable) proceed to the semi-final rounds. The winning teams determined by the higher team score from the semi-final rounds proceed to the final round.
28. The team proceeding to the final round that has the higher team score from the preliminary rounds may choose to represent Appellant or Respondent.
29. The winners of the final round are the winners of the 2015 Paralegal Cup Mooting Competition.
30. The 2015 Paralegal Cup Mooting Competition speaker awards are determined by calculating the top five individual speaking scores as combined from the four preliminary rounds.
31. The 2015 Paralegal Cup Mooting Competition professionalism award is determined by calculating the top individual professionalism score as combined from the four preliminary rounds.

#### **Moot Court: Time Management**

32. Each mooting round is one hour and ten minutes. No more than twenty-five (25) minutes are reserved for Appellant submissions and no more than twenty-five (25) minutes are reserved for Respondent submissions. The judges may deliberate for no more than ten (10) minutes. The remaining ten (10) minutes are to be used for the judges to provide feedback to the competitors. The timekeepers ensure that the mooting rounds adhere to the time limits.
33. If a scheduled team does not arrive at the moot courtroom on time, the timekeeper for that round shall make note of the late arrival. The judge(s) may consider this factor when assigning scores.
34. Timekeepers shall be responsible for timing and ensuring that each round is completed and feedback is given within the allotted time.

## **Judging**

35. Judges are selected by the 2015 Paralegal Cup Mooting Committee (Committee) and are professional members of the judiciary from Canada, lawyers licensed by a Canadian law society, paralegals licensed by the Law Society of Upper Canada, professors teaching law courses at a Canadian college or university, Canadian law students or other appropriate legal professionals from Canada as determined by the Committee.
36. Judges are not paid but the Committee may convey standardized gifts of appreciation to all of the judges involved in the competition.
37. The preliminary rounds are adjudicated by at most three judges. If more judges sit on the Bench, the highest three scores are used for scoring purposes.
38. Panels consisting of three judges preside over the quarterfinals (if applicable) and semi-finals. The panels may not consist of more than one judge currently affiliated with the finalist's school.
39. In any round where two or more judges are in conflict of interest with the any member of the competitor team, only one of the judges in conflict may adjudicate that mooted round. If there is a conflict, the timekeeper will either ask one of the judges to refrain from adjudicating the mooted round or the judge will be replaced with another available judge.
40. A five-judge panel presides over the final round and shall not have more than two judges currently affiliated with the finalist post-secondary institutions.
41. During the preliminary rounds, judges score each individual speaker using the marking sheet provided by the Committee based on: argument, professionalism, and speaking scores. The individual team members are assigned the same written submission score based on the written submission provided.
42. The Committee provides judges with general instructions and all required materials including score sheets before the competition. Judges are given a brief training session prior to the preliminary rounds commencing.
43. The Committee and its delegate timekeepers are responsible for the maintenance and disclosure of the competition's Official Rules to participants and judges and for monitoring general adherence to the Official Rules.

## **Fair and Collegial Conduct**

44. Participants shall not deliberately attempt to influence the results of a competition round in any way other than through fair competition during the round itself. Any attempts to interfere with an opposing team may lead to forfeiture of the round at the discretion of the presiding judge(s) and/or disqualification from the tournament at the discretion of the Committee and the judges involved.
45. Competitor teams shall not conduct practice rounds before persons who are judges for the current year's Paralegal Cup Mooting Competition. Coaches and team members must ensure that their advisors are not judges in the current year's Paralegal Cup Mooting Competition. Failure to comply with this rule may result in disqualification from the Competition.
46. All participants of the 2015 Paralegal Cup Mooting Competition shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with general and reasonable ideas of fairness, integrity and collegiality at all times. The Committee, at its discretion, may remove any participants who disrupt the event in contravention of this rule without providing a refund of registration fees.
47. No person or persons other than the team members may participate in the preparation or presentation of any aspect of the team written or oral submissions. The team written and oral submissions of the competitors shall be the work of the individual team members only. It is permissible for team coaches, faculty and others, in general terms, to discuss the identified issues of the 2015 Paralegal Cup Mooting Competition problem; to provide instruction to develop oral advocacy or the proper issues; and to provide structure for their written submission. This outside assistance can guide the competitors but cannot script their submissions.
48. Each competitor team in the 2015 Paralegal Cup Mooting Competition is assigned a team number at random by the Committee. This number must be used on the written component submission and at all times during the 2015 Paralegal Cup Mooting Competition. The post-secondary institution name shall not appear on any official documents and shall not be used to identify a team or team member in any way. Competitors may introduce themselves to the Bench during their oral submissions. However, in an effort to limit potential biases, the Committee request that competitors refrain from mentioning their post-secondary institution. Please do not include competitor names or the city where the written component was drafted on the official written component submission.

## **General Provisions**

49. Any question that arises during the 2015 Paralegal Cup Mooting Competition concerning the interpretation or enforcement of these Official Rules is decided by a majority decision of the Committee. These decisions are referred to as Official Decisions. Official Decisions are binding and final. Administrative assistants, judges, timekeepers or any other person are not responsible for the interpretation of the Official Rules.
50. All Official Instructions provided by the Committee in the Case Materials are a component of the Official Rules for the 2015 Paralegal Cup Mooting Competition and are enforceable as part of the Official Rules.
51. These rules are subject to change at any time, with or without notice, by the Committee. The Official Rules are intended to describe the general procedure of the 2015 Paralegal Cup Mooting Competition and set a standard to which all participants shall adhere. The Committee may, at its sole discretion, make such exceptions as required to the Official Rules to ensure that the competition proceeds successfully. In any situation where an unexpected set of circumstances leads to uncertainty about how an aspect of the competition should proceed, the Committee makes the final decision.