

RULES



WILLIAM MINOR LILE MOOT COURT COMPETITION
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF LAW

SPRING 2010 RULES OF THE COMPETITION

I. PARTICIPATION

101. Eligibility

- (a) Each participant shall be a member of the second year class or its equivalent when he or she enters the Competition.
- (b) Each participant must be enrolled and a resident at the University of Virginia School of Law and must remain a candidate for a Virginia Law degree throughout the Competition. A participant who contemplates becoming a non-resident student should notify the Board at the earliest possible time, and where such notice has been received, the Board in its discretion may allow the participant to continue in the competition in accordance with any conditions that the Board may adopt.

102. Composition of Teams

- (a) In the First Round, participants shall compete as individuals.
- (b) For all rounds after the First Round, participants shall compete as members of teams. Each team shall be composed of two individuals who advance from the First Round, but otherwise the selection of partners is left to the discretion of the participants (except as provided for in Section 201, 202 and 203 of these Rules). The Board will post a list of participants who are eligible to advance to the Second Round. Those participants selected to advance will give the Board notice of their intention to advance and then chose a partner. Selected participants who have not specified a partner within seven (7) days of the deadline for giving notice of intent to advance will be randomly paired with a partner.

103. Advancement

- (a) Sixty-four (64) individuals shall advance from the First Round on the basis of total number of points awarded. In the First Round, points are awarded for a single brief and for two oral arguments. Each individual

will argue both sides of the case; in the second argument the individual will argue “off-brief” (the opposite side of the case that the individual briefed). Briefs will be exchanged for the on-brief and off-brief arguments. The brief score is weighted to count 50% of the total; each oral argument is weighted to count 25%.

- (b) Eight (8) teams shall advance from the Second Round on the basis of the total number of points awarded. In the Second round, points are awarded for a single brief and for two oral arguments. The brief score is weighted to count 50% of the total; each oral argument is weighted to count 25%. Each team will argue both sides of the case; in the second argument the teams will argue “off-brief” (opposite side of the case that it briefed). Briefs will be exchanged for the on-brief and off-brief arguments.
- (c) All winners shall advance from the Quarterfinal, Semi-Final and Final Rounds. For the Quarterfinal, Semi-Final and Final Rounds, the briefs and oral arguments are weighted equally. In those rounds, teams will argue only one side of the case. It is the policy of the Competition that participants be judged according to the effectiveness of their oral and written advocacy and not according to the relative merits of the case.
- (d) If both teams advancing from the Semi-Final Round argued the same side of the case in that round, a coin flip will determine which side of the case each team will argue in the Final Round.

104. Seeding

- (a) Before announcement of the pairings for the Quarterfinal Round, the Board will rank the teams by score. That score shall be calculated according to a two-part formula. That formula shall be calculated as follows: (1) the total points awarded to the team in the Second round shall be weighted 75%; and (2) the total points awarded to each individual in the first round shall be averaged and then weighted 25%.
- (b) The Board will bracket the teams on a power-protected basis in the Quarterfinal Round. Teams will not be re-bracketed in subsequent rounds of the competition.
- (c) Seeding shall remain confidential.

II. WITHDRAWALS

201. Individual Withdrawals

- (a) Any individual who withdraws from the Competition shall be permanently barred from re-entering. Any individual who withdraws from the Competition is bound by the Honor Code to give notification of withdrawal, within fourteen (14) days, to any and all employers who have received their resumes listing participation in the Moot Court Competition.
- (b) If an individual receives a score of zero (0) from any judge at oral argument or on a brief, the board will withdraw the competitor. Individuals who do not attend their scheduled oral argument or file a brief more than 96 hours late will receive scores of zero. Any student withdrawn from the competition is bound by the Honor Code to give notification of withdrawal, within fourteen (14) days, to any and all employers who have received their resumes listing participation in the Moot Court Competition.
- (c) In the Second Round, should one member of a team withdraw before the arguments in that round, the individual who had the next highest score in the First Round shall be notified by the Board and shall have the opportunity to be paired with the remaining team member and participate in the Second Round. This process will continue until a team member is selected.
- (d) In the Quarter-Final, Semi-Final, and Final Rounds, should one member of a team withdraw before the arguments in that round, the remaining member may select a replacement from persons in his or her class who have argued in the previous round but who did not advance from that round; except that, after the new Board takes office, the remaining team member may not select a replacement who is a member of the Board.

202. Team Withdrawals

- (a) Any team that withdraws from the Competition shall be permanently barred from re-entering. Any team that withdraws from the Competition is bound by the Honor Code to give notification of the withdrawal, within fourteen (14) days, to any and all employers who have received their resumes listing participation in that round of the Moot Court Competition.
- (b) Should one of the thirty-two (32) Second Round teams withdraw before receiving the Second Round problem, the Board will appoint a replacement team which shall be composed of the two individuals who had the next highest scores for the First Round who wish to participate in the Second Round.
- (c) Should one of the eight (8) Quarterfinal Round teams withdraw from the Competition before that team has received the Quarterfinal Round problem, the Board shall appoint a replacement team which shall be the

team which had the next highest score for the Second Round except that, after the new Board takes office, it shall not select a replacement team which includes members of the Board.

- (d) The Board may make a special exception to any of the withdrawal provisions by a two-thirds vote of the entire Board, excluding from the vote those Board members seeking reentry into the Competition.

203. Effect of Withdrawals on Remaining Participants

- (a) Should an individual withdraw between arguments in the First Round, the Board will designate a substitute for the purpose of arguing the second argument. The substitute shall be chosen from among the participants who have already completed their scheduled arguments in the First Round. All participants are eligible to have a third argument, however, some may need to argue off-brief. If a participant argues on-brief in a third argument, the three scores will be averaged together. If a participant argues off-brief in a third argument, the two (2) highest scores will be considered.
- (b) Should a team withdraw between arguments in the Second Round, the Board will designate a substitute team for the purpose of arguing the second round. The substitute team shall be chosen from among the teams that have already completed their scheduled arguments in the Second Round. The score of the team so designated will not be affected by its performance in the additional argument.
- (c) Should a team withdraw from the Competition during any of the final three rounds after that team has received the problem for the round in question, the opponent of the withdrawn team shall receive a bye.
- (d) If no replacement team is available, the Board shall award a bye to one team as follows:
 - (1) If the withdrawal occurs prior to the announcement of the pairings for the round in question the team that receives that bye shall be chosen by lot from among all teams advancing to that round.
 - (2) If the withdrawal occurs after the announcement of the pairing for a round the opponent of the withdrawn team shall receive a bye.

III. FILING OF BRIEFS

301. Numbers of Copies: Place for Filing

- (a) Each individual or team shall prepare a brief for an assigned side of a case. Briefs shall be filed with the Presiding Justice of the round at the Moot Court Board office in Room SL196B. Hardcopy briefs must be filed in-person. For all Rounds following the First Round, only one team member need be present to file hardcopy briefs.
 - (1) Six (6) copies of the brief shall be filed for the First Round.
 - (2) Eight (8) copies of the brief shall be filed for the Second Round and Quarterfinals.
 - (3) Twelve (12) copies of the brief shall be filed for the Semi-Final Round.
 - (4) All six (6), eight (8), or twelve (12) copies of the brief, as appropriate for each round, must be filed for a submission to be deemed complete.
 - (5) Failure to submit hardcopy briefs in-person will result in a 5% penalty in addition to any late penalties applied.
- (b) Briefs shall be distributed as follows: One (1) copy of the brief shall be given to each opposing counsel; three (3) copies of the brief shall be given to the panel of judges; and remaining copies will be kept in Board files. There shall be no revisions of the brief after filing except as expressly authorized by the Presiding Justice.
- (c) A single email containing only the individual's or team's brief, in Microsoft Office Word 2007 for Windows Vista format, shall be sent to the specified Moot Court Board email address by the specified time on the date or dates on which the briefs are due. This Word document shall be labeled solely with the competitor's assigned number for the First Round or team letter for the Second through Final Rounds, and shall be identical to the paper copies of the brief. Deficiencies found in either this Word document or the paper copies of the brief may be grounds for penalty assessments. We urge participants to ensure that their printed copies are identical to their Word document.
- (d) Once a participant turns in a brief to the Board, the brief is the property of the Moot Court Board and may be used for any and all Moot Court purposes.

302. Time for Filing

- (a) All briefs must be turned in to the Moot Court Board Office, Room SL196B, and sent to the specified Moot Court Board email address by the specified time on the date or dates they are due. The Moot Court Board shall establish and inform competitors in each round of the time and date by which briefs are to be submitted. The clock in the Moot Court Board office will be used to determine all deadlines.
- (1) It is within the prerogative of the Moot Court Board to determine the specific pick-up and turn-in dates for all rounds of the Moot Court Competition. The Moot Court Board has the discretion to set fixed dates or to have a flex period for each separate round of the Competition.
- (b) In the interest of expeditiously scheduling the large number of First and Second Round arguments, a First or Second Round participant who intends to turn in his or her brief, but realizes that his or her brief will be turned in late (i.e. after the time specified by the Moot Court Board for that round), must notify a Presiding Justice of that round of his or her continuing participation. If such notification is not received within twenty-four (24) hours after the time specified by Moot Court Board for receiving briefs for that round, there is an un rebuttable presumption that the participant has withdrawn from the Competition.
- (c) A brief is late if it is filed after the time specified by the Moot Court Board. A brief is considered filed when it has both been handed in personally to a Moot Court Board member in the Moot Court Board office and emailed to the address specified in Rule 301(c). If a brief is late, it shall be subject to the following penalties:
- (1) Not more than one (1) hour late: 5% of the maximum score available in the brief.
- (2) More than one (1) hour late but not more than two (2) hours late: 10% of the maximum score available on the brief.
- (3) More than two (2) hours late but prior to 11:59 P.M. of the brief's due date: 20% of the maximum score available on the brief.
NOTE: No briefs will be collected after to two-hour cutoff until the 11:59 P.M. collection. The presiding justice(s) or members of the Moot Court Board will return to the Moot Court office for 11:59 P.M. collections.
- (4) After midnight of the next day but not more than 24 hours late: 30% of the maximum score available on the brief. After the 11:59

P.M. collections, a Moot Court Board member will be present in the office from 4:45 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. to accept collections.

- (5) More than 24 hours late but not more than 48 hours late: 40% of the maximum score available on the brief.
 - (6) More than 48 hours but not more than 72 hours late: 60% of the maximum score available on the brief.
 - (7) More than 72 hours but not more than 96 hours late: 80% of the maximum score available on the brief.
 - (8) More than 96 hours late: 100% of the maximum score available on the brief.
- (d) In the First and Second Rounds, participants are required to provide a copy of their brief to their opponents for oral arguments within the time allotted by the Presiding Justice for that round. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in a deduction of 5% of the maximum score available on the brief. Participants who do not receive a copy of their opponent's brief in their mailbox within the specified time shall inform the Chancellor.
 - (e) Time limits will be strictly enforced.
 - (f) The Moot Court Board shall notify all individual competitors or teams who are subject to a penalty in writing or by email. Such notification shall denote the imposition and amount of penalty as established under Section 302(c).
 - (g) A participant may appeal such penalty in accordance with the appeal process as established in Section X (10).

IV. FORMAT OF BRIEFS

401. Typeface, Spacing & Footnotes

- (a) All briefs shall be in Courier New twelve (12) point, Times New Roman (12) point, or Arial (12) point font. Briefs submitted in any other typeface or font will be presumed to be more than 200 words over the length limitation established in Section 402 of the Rules, and will be automatically subject to the penalty provided in Section 402(d)(2).
- (b) The body of the argument of a brief shall be double-spaced. Block quotes and footnotes may be single-spaced.

- (c) Judges may consider the misuse of footnotes when grading briefs.
- (d) Footnotes will be included in the official wordcount.

402. Length

- (a) The argument section of each First Round brief, including footnotes, shall contain not more than 3300 words.
- (b) The argument section of each Second, Quarterfinal and Semi-Final Round brief, including footnotes, shall contain no more than 7900 words.
- (c) The following sections do not count toward the word limitations: table of authorities, question(s) presented, statement of the facts, procedural history, summary of the argument, standard of review, and prayer for relief. Footnotes used in the argument section will be included in the official wordcount.
- (d) The official wordcount will be calculated using Microsoft Office Word 2007 for Windows Vista. It is the responsibility of all competitors to ensure that their brief complies with the word limits imposed under this rule using the aforementioned software. Use of a different word processing program or operating system will not protect a brief from receiving a wordcount penalty as detailed below in subsection (e).
- (e) If any brief exceeds the word limitations, it will be subject to the following penalties:
 - (1) If the brief exceeds the word limitation by 200 words or less, the penalty shall be 5% of the maximum score available on the brief.
 - (2) If the brief exceeds the word limitation by more than 200 words the total penalty shall be 10% of the maximum score available on the brief.
- (f) The Moot Court Board shall notify all individual competitors or teams who are subject to such penalty in writing or by email. Such notification shall denote the imposition and amount of penalty as established under Section 401(f).
- (g) A participant may appeal such penalty in accordance with the appeal process as established in Section X (10).

403. Paper Size and Margins

Briefs shall either be typed to or photocopied on 8 ½ x 11 inch paper. Margins shall be at least 1 inch on the left, 1 inch on the right and 1 inch on the top and bottom. If a brief fails to conform to these specifications on any page, the participant shall be assessed a penalty of 5% of the maximum score available on the brief.

404. Citation of Authority

- (a) Citation of authority shall conform to the most recent version of A Uniform System of Citation, commonly known as the “Bluebook.”
- (b) Citing to authority in contradiction of Section 701 will result in a one-time 2% penalty.

405. Covers

- (a) The covers for briefs submitted by Petitioners-Appellants shall be blue.
- (b) The covers for briefs submitted by Respondents-Appellees shall be orange.
- (c) Participants failing to comply with subsections (a) or (b) will be assessed a penalty of 5% of the maximum score available on the brief.

406. Signatures

- (a) Briefs shall be signed with participant numbers by each individual or both members of a team on the last page. This signature must include a typed signature line as well as a hand written numeric signature. Participants failing to comply with this provision will be assessed a penalty of 5% of the maximum score available on the brief.
- (b) The participants’ numbers also shall appear on the cover page. Participants failing to comply with this provision will be assessed a penalty of 5% of the maximum score available on the brief.

407. No Faxes, Mails, Electronic Mail or Other Similar Devices

The Moot Court Board shall not accept any brief via fax machine, mails, electronic mail (“e-mail”) or other similar devices except by the method specified in Section 301(c).

408. Penalties for Final Round Brief

If a Semi-Final round brief receives a penalty under Rules 302, 401, 402, or 403, the brief will receive the same penalty for the Final Round, should that team advance from the Semi-Final Round.

V. CONTENTS OF BRIEFS

501. Components

- (a) Components of the brief (table of authorities, question(s) presented, statement of the facts, procedural history, summary of the argument, standard of review, argument, and prayer for relief) shall conform to the sample brief placed on reserve in the Law Library by the Board.
- (b) The aforementioned components shall be the **only** components for the briefs.
- (c) Any section added to a brief without prior permission of the Chancellor will be included in the official wordcount. Should this mean that the brief exceeds the allowable wordcount, the appropriate penalty outlined in Rule 402(d) shall apply.

VI. JUDGING

601. Composition of Panels

- (a) A panel of three judges shall hear each argument.
- (b) For the first two rounds, the panel will be composed of third-year students.
- (c) For the final three rounds, the panel will be composed of professors, jurists, attorneys, and other legal notables invited by the Board.

602. Scoring

- (a) In the first two rounds, each judge will be provided with scoring guidelines, and he or she will complete a score sheet for each argument he or she has evaluated. These score sheets will be the sole basis for scoring oral arguments. A copy of the scoring guidelines and a sample score sheet will be included in the problem packet. Score sheets will not be available to the participants after they have been evaluated.
- (b) In the final three rounds judicial panels will be provided with scoring guidelines, but scoring is entirely up to the judges' discretion. A copy of the scoring guidelines will be included in the problem packet.

- (c) The decision of all judges is final.
- (d) Members of the Board will score briefs for the first and second rounds. Each judge will complete a score sheet for each brief he or she scores. In the final three rounds, judicial panels will be provided with scoring guidelines for briefs, but the scoring is entirely up to the judge's discretion. A copy of the scoring guidelines will be included in the problem packet for all rounds. Score sheets will not be available to the participants after they have been evaluated.
- (e) A participant may submit a statement to the Chancellor regarding the fairness of the proceedings within seventy-two (72) hours of any oral argument. If the participant disagrees with the Chancellor's course of action, he or she may make an appeal to the Board pursuant to Rule 1002.

603. Critique

In the first two rounds, participants will receive feedback on their oral arguments from the panel of student judges assembled. In the Quarterfinal, Semi-Final and Final Rounds the panel of judges will conduct a critique of the written briefs and oral arguments for the benefit of the participants after both sides have argued.

VII. RESEARCH, PREPARATION, AND AUTHORITY

701. Research Materials

- (a) In the First Round, participants may not use any materials other than those provided by the Board, except those relating to writing style (i.e., an English language dictionary or the "Bluebook.")
- (b) In general, but subject to the more specific provisions contained in Sections 701(c)-(f), materials used in developing and preparing the brief in the Second, Quarterfinal, and Semi-Final Rounds, must be available in libraries of the University of Virginia generally open to all students. Materials may not be obtained from professors, employers, firms or other sources not available to all participants. In addition, participants are not permitted to use (1) cases that are unpublished (i.e., not available through a recognized reporting service), (2) statutes or case decisions taking effect after the date specified in the problem packet, or (3) any secondary sources or any other materials published or to be published after the date specified in the problem packet. If no date is clearly specified as such in the packet, the date of the order granting appeal or scheduling appeal shall be the specified date. It is strongly recommended to participants that any questions regarding use of specific materials be promptly directed to the Chancellor for a determination of their authorized use.

- (c) LEXIS, WESTLAW or other computer research aids may be used by all participants, except First Round participants, within the guidelines contained in Section 701 (b).
- (d) Participants may not use the libraries of student organizations.
- (e) Participants may not consult any briefs other than those placed on reserve by the Board or their own briefs drafted for previous rounds of the competition, including published briefs.
- (f) Participants may not attend any court proceeding related to their problem.

702. Treatment of Materials

- (a) Participants may not check out any research materials overnight.
- (b) Participants may not hoard materials, consciously mis-shelve them, mutilate them or otherwise attempt to make materials unavailable to other participants. The two-hour limit on reserve materials must be strictly observed. Participants are subject to penalties, including expulsion from the Competition, for violation of this rule.
- (c) Should any participant have trouble obtaining materials that should be available in the Law Library, he or she should notify the Presiding Justice(s) for that round. NOTE: The librarian will track down materials checked out by other students or professors. If certain materials are particularly in demand, the Board will place them on reserve.

703. Questions Concerning the Problem

- (a) All questions concerning substantive aspects of the record provided by the Board shall be submitted electronically as established by Rule 1001; telephone calls or e-mails to Board members other than the Chancellor will not be accepted as validly submitted questions, and any resulting oral answers to questions not officially posted are not binding on the interpretation of the Rules or the problem.
- (b) The Chancellor will promptly post the answers to all questions on the UVA Moot Court website. It is the responsibility of all competitors to regularly check the website to remain up-to-date on all Record and Rules clarifications.
- (c) Answers provided by Board members without adhering to the procedures outlined in Rules 703 and 1001 are not binding.

704. Discussion of the Problem

- (a) Participants may not discuss the problem with anyone prior to submission of their brief. After brief submission, participants may only discuss the problem pursuant to the requirements of Rule 706.
- (b) Participants are prohibited from collaborative efforts with non-partners as part of a researching and/or writing 'team.'
- (c) Until an individual or team completes all arguments for the round in question, that individual or team may not discuss the problem with law professors, members of the Board, members of the Bar, or with any non-students having particular expertise in the relevant substantive areas of law.
- (d) Until completion of the Final Round argument, Finalists may not discuss the problem with law professors, members of the Board, members of the Bar, or with any non-students having particular expertise in the relevant substantive areas of the law, or with Semi-Finalists who did not advance.

705. Written Work

- (a) The written brief must be exclusively the work of the participating individual or team. Only members of a team may proofread or edit that team's brief or drafts of the brief.
- (b) Unauthorized aid and/or plagiarism is an Honor Code violation and will result in immediate disqualification from the Competition.

706. Preparation of Oral Argument

- (a) Participants may not read the briefs of other competitors, except those provided by the Board or provided by their opponents.
- (b) Participants in the first two rounds may practice their oral arguments in front of other law students other than members of the third-year class and other participants in the competition who have not been eliminated. The scope of assistance by critiquing law students shall be limited to the scope of legal arguments in the brief and to recommendations on form and presentation. Critiquing law students shall not offer any legal analysis or argument beyond the scope of the brief.
- (c) Participants in the final three rounds may practice their oral arguments in front of any law students except members of the Board and other participants in the final three rounds that have not been eliminated. The scope of assistance by critiquing law students shall be limited to the scope

of legal arguments in the brief and to recommendations on form and presentation. Critiquing law students shall not offer any legal analysis or argument beyond the scope of the brief.

- (d) Participants may not practice their oral arguments in front of law professors, members of the Board, members of the Bar, or any non-student having particular expertise in the relevant substantive areas of law, or in the art of oral advocacy, or in both fields.
- (e) It is the responsibility of the participant to ensure that critiquing law students comply with these rules. Any questions regarding compliance to Rule 706 shall be directed to the Chancellor prior to engaging anyone to critique your arguments.

707. Discussion of Oral Argument

- (a) Participants shall not discuss with anyone the questions asked by the judges in arguments previously held until the end of that round.
- (b) Semi-Finalists shall not discuss the problem, the oral argument, or the questions asked by their judges with the advancing Semi-Finalists because the same problem is used for both the Semi-Final and Final Rounds.

708. Promptness for Oral Arguments

- (a) Participants are expected to show up on time for their scheduled oral arguments. A participant or team who is late for their argument shall be subject to the following penalties to be assessed on the score for that oral argument:
 - (1) More than five (5) minutes late but not more than ten (10) minutes late: 10% of the maximum score available for that argument.
 - (2) More than ten (10) minutes late but not more than twenty (20) minutes late: 30% of the maximum score available for that argument.
 - (3) More than twenty (20) minutes late but not more than thirty (30) minutes late: 50% of the maximum score available for that argument.
 - (4) More than thirty (30) minutes late but not more than forty-five (45) minutes late: 70% of the maximum score available for that argument.

- (5) A participant or team that is more than forty-five minutes late for their scheduled oral argument shall be deemed to have missed their argument and shall be subject to the penalties set forth in Rule 708(b).
- (b) The minimum penalty for not participating in a scheduled oral argument shall be a score of zero for that argument. The maximum penalty may include disqualification from the Moot Court Competition.
- (c) If a participant must make a schedule change within forty-eight (48) hours of his/her argument, he/she must find a suitable replacement and must contact the presiding justice immediately. Failure to comply with this policy will result in a 5% penalty for that particular oral argument.

709. Attending Arguments

- (a) First and Second Round participants may not listen to other argument in either round until they have completed both arguments in that round. After completion of the participant's second argument in either round, he or she may listen to any argument in that round with the permission of the participating individuals or teams.
- (b) Quarterfinalists may not listen to other arguments in that round until they have completed their oral argument.
- (c) Semi-Finalists may not listen to the other argument in that round unless they are eliminated from the Competition.

710. Order and Time Limits of Arguments

- (a) In the First, Quarterfinal, Semi-Final and Final Rounds, oral arguments will proceed on a team by team basis; with both appellants arguing their position, followed by the appellees.
- (b) In the Second Round, arguments will proceed on an issue by issue basis; whereby the two participants arguing issue one go first, followed by the two participants presenting the second issue.
- (c) In First Round arguments, each side will have 15 minutes to argue its case. In subsequent Round arguments, each team will have 30 minutes to argue its case. In all rounds after the First, the teammates may divide their 30 minutes in whichever way they choose. While teams may divide their time as they wish, only one team member may argue on rebuttal. The judges may, at their discretion, ask the team member arguing rebuttal to answer questions regarding the other team member's issue.

711. Distribution of Briefs

- (a) With the exception of their oral argument opponents, participants may not give their briefs to other participants until the completion of the round in question.
- (b) All Semi-Finalists must return copies of their opponents' brief to the Clerk of the Court after the Semi-Final argument in which they participated. You are on your honor to return all copies of the brief. In the case that one team must argue off-brief in the Final Round all briefs from the Semi-final Round will be available to all Final Round participants.
- (c) All participants in the Competition are prohibited from retaining in writing or disclosing the contents of their opponents' briefs for use in future rounds.

712. Violations of Rules 704, 705, 706, 707, and 711

- (a) Any person that has reason to believe a violation of the provisions of Rules 704, 705, 706, 707, and 711 has occurred – may submit a signed, written statement describing the perceived infraction in great detail and providing any evidence. This statement shall be submitted to the Chancellor in person or to the Moot Court office. This must be done prior to the completion of the round the participant in question is completing or within fourteen days (14) days thereafter.
- (b) Violation of any portion of Rules 704, 705, 706, 707, and 711 is deemed to be a serious violation. This procedure is distinct from those outlined in Rule 803. Pursuant to Rule 803(a), the Chancellor should investigate the merits of a claim that a violation has occurred. If basis for such a claim exists, the Chancellor shall notify the participant in question that a claim has been brought against him or her. The Chancellor shall submit his or her findings and recommendations to the Moot Court Board pursuant to Rule 804 and the participant in question will be afforded an opportunity to explain or refute said findings to the Moot Court Board in person. A participant who violates or is deemed to have violated any provisions of Rule 704, 705, 706, 707, and 711 shall be subject to the full disciplinary discretion of the Moot Court Board. All decisions of the Moot Court Board are final.

VIII. INTERPRETATION AND ENFORCEMENT

801. Responsibility for Understanding the Rules

- (a) A participant's numeric signature on the brief signifies that he or she has read, understood and complied with these Rules of this Competition and agrees to abide by them so long as he or she is a participant of the Competition.
- (b) Printed schedules, guidelines, rule interpretations, and other written communications published by the Moot Court Board shall control over any contradictory oral representations from a member of the Moot Court Board.

802. Interpretation

- (a) These Rules are designed to balance the benefits of a group learning experience against the necessity of maintaining a competitive spirit in the Competition. A basic premise of these Rules is that all participants should have equal access to sources and materials.
- (b) The Chancellor is responsible for interpretation of these Rules and shall interpret them in light of their purpose.
- (c) If a participant is in doubt about a situation that may violate either the letter or spirit of these Rules, he or she should contact the Chancellor via email.

803. Violations

- (a) The Chancellor will investigate alleged violations as they are brought to his or her attention. A participant should report an alleged violation to the Chancellor via email and by providing a signed, written description of the alleged violation. Initial investigations will be completely confidential.
- (b) The Chancellor will consider alleged violations of the spirit and letter of these Rules, make a determination, and notify the Board of his or her determination.

804. Sanctions

Once it has been determined that a violation has occurred, the Chancellor will levy the sanctions he or she deems appropriate except that the Chancellor shall have no authority to expel a participant from the Competition.

An appeal to the Chancellor's decision may be made in accord with Section X (10).

Upon recommendation of the Chancellor, and a two-thirds vote of the entire Board, the Board may expel a participant from the Competition.

Section 804 does not apply to participants subject to Rule 201(b).

805. Honor Code

The University of Virginia Honor Code is in full force and effect for the William Minor Lile Moot Court Competition. It is the responsibility of the participants to abide by the Honor Code's provision at all times.

IX. EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

901. Situations Not Covered by the Rules

In the event that a situation arises that is not explicitly contemplated by these Rules, the board may take action it deems appropriate by a two-thirds vote of the entire Moot Court Board.

902. Extenuating Circumstances

- (a) A participant may petition the Board for an exception to these Rules in accordance with the appeal process as established in Section X (10).
- (b) Disability accommodations will be made in accord with the policies of the Office of Student Affairs of the Law School. Need for any such accommodations should be brought to the attention of the Chief Justice who will keep all requests and accommodations confidential.

X. COMMUNICATION WITH THE BOARD AND APPEALS

1001. Communications With the Board

- (a) Any substantive, procedural or rule-based questions should be submitted via email to the Chancellor.
- (b) Any purely scheduling question should be submitted electronically to the appropriate Presiding Round Justice via email.
- (c) The Chancellor has the discretion to present an issue to the Board or to solely interpret the rules (except in cases involving eligibility as noted in Sections 101(b) and 804(c)).

1002. Appeal of a Decision

- (a) A decision issued by the Chancellor may be appealed by a participant or two Board members. Within five days of the decision to be appealed the request for an appeal should be given to the Chancellor who will turn the matter over to the Board.
- (b) In the First and Second Rounds, participants should submit a one-paragraph statement per issue in support of their arguments for appeal.
- (c) In the Quarterfinal Round and beyond, any appeals will be heard in-person before the Board.
- (d) A two-thirds majority of the entire Board is required to overturn the Chancellor or to impose an alternative action or penalty.
- (e) All decisions made by the Board pursuant to an appeal are final.