

# ADVOCACY CUP

*Organised by*

**MOOTING AND DEBATING CLUB**

*With the support of*

**DREW & NAPIER LLC**

## RULES OF THE COMPETITION

### **Part I: General Provisions**

1. All participants of the Advocacy Cup (the ‘Competition’) are deemed to have full knowledge of the contents of these Rules, including any amendments to these Rules as may be made from time to time by the MDC, and emailed to the email addresses provided by the respective participants at the time of application for entry to the competition.
2. The Mooting and Debating Club (‘MDC’) reserves the right to amend these Rules at any time.
3. Any participant who breaches any of these Rules may have points deducted from his/her scores or be disqualified or be subject to other penalties determined at the full discretion of the MDC.
4. MDC’s decision in the interpretation of these Rules and the administration of the Competition is final. This includes the determination of which participants advance from each round of the Competition.

### **Part II: Eligibility**

5. The Competition is open to all matriculated candidates for the NUS and SMU Faculty of Law LL.B. degree (including double degrees), SMU Faculty of Law J.D. program and students at the NUS Faculty of Law under the Student Exchange Programme (SEP) provided that no one who has already completed a law degree in any jurisdiction or its equivalent shall be eligible.
6. No person shall withdraw from the Competition at any stage without the prior approval of the MDC. Any person who breaches this rule may be barred from participating in all future competitions organised by MDC.
7. To participate in the Competition, each participant must arrange for his/her own witness. The MDC is under no obligation to provide witnesses for any participant.

8. A participant shall not act as a witness in a Mock Trial that the participant is competing in. A participant who has qualified for the Semi-Finals shall not act as a witness in any Semi-Final Mock Trial. A participant who has qualified for the Finals shall not act as a witness in any Finals Mock Trial.
9. For the preliminary rounds, a participant may not be a witness for another participant whose assigned slot is before his or her own slot.

### **Part III: Format**

10. The Competition shall consist of the Preliminary Round, the Semi-Finals and the Finals.
11. The Competition shall take the form of Mock Trials, the subject matter of which may be either civil or criminal. In each Mock Trial, two participants will compete either as Plaintiff / Prosecution or Defendant / Defence Counsel, and they shall make their respective witnesses available for cross examination by the opposing counsel.
12. The number of semi-finalists will depend on the number of participants and the standard of advocacy displayed during the Preliminary Round. MDC shall have the absolute discretion to decide how many participants will advance to the Semi-Finals. Participants with the top 4 scores from the Semi-Finals will advance to the Finals.
13. In the Preliminary Round, participants will be allocated as Plaintiff / Prosecution or Defendant / Defence Counsel by MDC through random ballot. As participants advance, random ballot will determine allocations of sides.
14. There will be two Mock Trial Problems used in this Competition, one for the Preliminary Round, and one for the Semi-Finals and the Finals.
15. The Preliminary Round is not open for viewing by other participants or members of the public. The Semi-Finals and Finals are open for viewing by the public and other participants, save that other participants may only view a Mock Trial for the Semi-Finals or Finals they are not competing in. They may view other Mock Trials if they have completed their own for the round (Semi-Finals or Finals).
16. Participants must not use any offensive language at any stage of the Competition. In particular, participants must not make offensive remarks pertaining to any race, religion, language or creed, any obscene or vulgar remarks, or any remarks that can cause offence or defame another's reputation.
17. Participants will be required to wear court attire for all three rounds of the Competition. For the avoidance of doubt, "court attire" shall mean an ordinary long-sleeved white shirt with a turn-down collar, a tie of a subdued or sober colour, a dark jacket, dark trousers and black or plain coloured shoes for male participants. For female participants, "court attire" shall mean a long-sleeved white blouse high to the neck, a dark jacket, a dark skirt or dark trousers, and black or plain coloured shoes. Conspicuous jewellery or ornaments should not be worn by

participants.

#### **Part IV: Dates and Venues**

18. The Preliminary Round will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018 (Saturday) in the classrooms at the NUS Law Faculty.
19. The Semi-Final Round will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 (Thursday) at the Seminar Rooms of the NUS Law Faculty.
20. The Final Round will take place on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018 (Thursday) at the Moot Court of the NUS Law Faculty.
21. MDC will notify all participants of the specific time and location of their Mock Trials for each round by email at the email address provided by the participants or by posting a notice or by SMS or any other reasonable means.
22. MDC reserves the right to reschedule the time, rearrange the location or change the pairings of any Mock Trial if necessary.

#### **Part V: Mock Trials**

23. Timings (in minutes) and format of the Preliminary Round is as follows –

Cross-Examination of Prosecution Witness (10)  
Re-Examination of Prosecution Witness (2)

Cross-Examination of Defence Witness (10)  
Re-Examination of Defence Witness (2)

Closing Statement by Defence Counsel (4)  
Closing Statement by Prosecution (4)

The format for the Preliminary Round **will not** include the Examination-in-Chief and Opening Statement.

24. Timings (in minutes) and format of the Semi-Finals AND Finals is as follows –

Opening Statement and Examination-in-Chief of Prosecution (5)  
Cross-Examination of Prosecution Witness (10)  
Re-examination of Prosecution Witness (2)

Opening Statement and Examination-in-Chief of Defence Witness (5)  
Cross-Examination of Defence Witness (10)

Re-Examination of Defence Witness (2)

Closing Statement by Defence (3)

Closing Statement by Prosecution (3)

Participants will have a total of 5 minutes for their opening statement and examination-in-chief. They are free to allocate time between the two segments as they see fit.

## **Part VI: Prizes**

25. The Champion will receive a cash prize of S\$1,000 and a trophy plus the registration, travel and accommodation expenses for participation at the Australian Law Students' Association (ALSA) Annual Conference in July 2018.
26. The 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up will receive a cash prize of S\$500 and a trophy plus the registration, travel and accommodation expenses for participation at the Australian Law Students' Association (ALSA) Annual Conference in July 2018.
27. There will be two 2<sup>nd</sup> Runners-Up. Each 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-Up will receive a cash prize of S\$250 and a trophy.
28. Attendance at the ALSA Competition by the Champion and 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up is for the purposes of participating in the ALSA Witness Examination Competition. Both the Champion and 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up shall commit to participating in the training and selection for the ALSA Witness Examination Competition. In the event of any failure to so participate, MDC and the Drew & Napier LLC reserve the right to withhold the prize in respect of participation in the ALSA Competition, including awarding the prize to another person.
29. In the event that any Champion or Runner-Up is ineligible to take part in the ALSA Witness Examination Competition, Drew & Napier LLC reserves the right to withhold that part of the prize, including allocation to another person. (For example, ALSA Rules bar final year students from participating in the Witness Examination Competition.)
30. All Finalists will be offered paid attachments at Drew & Napier LLC for the May-July vacation. Semi-Finalists may be offered paid attachments at the discretion of Drew & Napier LLC. Further details of the attachments will be confirmed by Drew & Napier LLC at the appropriate time.

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