



2021 Julius Alexander Isaac Moot - Clarification

December 4, 2020

1. What date is the factum due? What is the length of the factum?

The factum is due on Monday, January 4, 2021. It should be no longer than 20 pages, with a 1½ line spacing.

The 2021 Official Moot Rules have been updated for consistency purposes.

2. Do we need to mail physical copies of the facta?

No. Due to the changes in format, no physical copies will be required.

3. Will respondents and appellants of the same university be competing against one another in the will they be pleading against other universities?

To the best of our ability, we ensure teams compete against other universities.

4. Regarding the two preliminary rounds, will teams be presenting the same presentation twice before different panels?

Yes. Teams will present their oral arguments to two different panels. This will provide an opportunity to make adjustments between rounds. Additionally, a different panel of judges may interject at different moments, making the presentation slightly different in each round.

5. How much time is allotted for each team? Will the panels be challenging them on their factum and presentation?

Each team will have forty-five (45) minutes per round for oral argument. This may be extended by the Judges in their discretion to a maximum of ten (10) minutes per round. No single oralist may argue longer than twenty-five (25) minutes of the forty-five (45) minutes given to each team.



Included in the forty-five (45) minutes is a reply for the Appellant. Prior to the beginning of each round, the Appellant may reserve time for reply; no more than ten (10) minutes may be reserved. Respondents are not entitled to make a sur-reply and shall not reserve time for a sur-reply. If the Judges in their discretion extend total team time beyond forty-five (45) minutes, then and only then may an oralist argue longer than twenty-five (25) minutes.

6. We were a little confused by the distribution of “opposing teams’ facta” as one of the important dates.

Facta will be distributed to opposing counsel in preparation for the Moot. This material may be relied upon when constructing oral arguments.

7. Can a single argument be both doctrinal and theory or do we need to label all arguments as either doctrinal or theory?

Yes. An argument may be both doctrinal and theoretical, and labelled as such—indeed, persuasive advocacy often incorporates elements of both doctrine and theory.

However—with a view to challenging students’ comfort with distinct forms of argument—the Rules still require that parties to the appeal include “at least one argument based in doctrine ... and one argument based in theory” (Moot Problem, pg. 1). With the spirit of “based in” in mind, while any particular argument may be both doctrinal and theoretical, it is nevertheless required that teams include at least one “principally” doctrinal argument and one “principally” theoretical argument (Moot Problem, pg. 2).

So, to be clear: a team presenting 4 arguments all of which they characterize as hybrid doctrinal/theoretical in form, is not complying with the Rules. That said, once a team has at least one principally doctrinal argument and one principally theoretical argument, the remaining arguments—in terms of style, e.g., doctrinal, theoretical, or hybrid—can be whatever distribution teams consider most appropriate/persuasive.

On behalf of the Black Law Students’ Association of Canada, I wish you good luck in your preparation.

All the best,

Keihgan Blackmore
National Moot Director, 2020-2021
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