



## **Official Rules and Participation Requirements**

Michigan State University College of Law Gender  
and Sexuality Moot Court Competition

2024

Updated 1/3/2024

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## **Introduction**

The purpose of the Michigan State University College of Law (MSU LAW) Gender and Sexuality Moot Court Competition (GSMCC) is to provide current law students with an opportunity to gain experience in the process of appellate advocacy and to research, write, and advocate on current issues in sexuality, gender, and the law. A secondary aim of the competition is to engage judges and members of the legal community in arguments pertaining to sexuality, gender, and the law. Competitors participate in a hypothetical appeal to the United States Supreme Court. Competitors will be assigned a team number and party. They will write a brief as either Petitioner or Respondent and then argue the case in front of the mock court. Each team is responsible for reviewing these rules and the supplemental documents, submitting a competition brief, and presenting an oral argument.

### **I. Teams**

A team consists of two law students attending the same law schools. Schools can register a team without submitting the name and contact information of the law students participating in the competition. However, the competition problem will not be released to the team until the first name, last name, and student email address has been provided for each team member. It is recommended that teams register student participants as quickly as possible to avoid delays in receiving the competition materials. Teams have up to 10 days after the release of the problem to submit the names of competition teams. Each team member will be required to write one argument and sign an affidavit attesting to their written work. Each team member will be required to present an oral argument to participate. Please contact the program director if you have a situation that requires a team member substitution after name submission.

### **II. Competition Timeline**

#### **a. Registration**

Registration for the MSU LAW GSMCC will begin in November 2023 and close on December 1, 2023. The problem will be released to registered teams on January 3, 2024. Registration will be online, and payment is accepted via credit card. The registration fee for the competition is \$350 per team. Registration fees are non-refundable. Law students who are candidates for a Juris Doctor degree and are enrolled during the semester or quarter of the national competition are eligible to participate. All law schools are eligible to enter up to two teams in the competition. Additional teams may be approved if space allows.

#### **b. Parties**

Teams will receive a confirmation email with their team number, party assignment, and competition problem on the day the problem is released. In the briefs and in oral arguments, advocates should refer to the appealing party as Petitioner and the responding party as Respondent, rather than appellant and appellee.

#### **c. Submitting Questions**

We will accept questions about the problem from January 3, 2024, through Friday, February 9, 2024, at 5:00 pm (EST).

The questioner's identity will remain anonymous. Please direct all questions about the problem to the Board at [GSMCC@law.msu.edu](mailto:GSMCC@law.msu.edu) and put "Question Regarding GSMCC Problem" in the subject line. Each week until Friday, February 10, a copy of the questions and any response given will be provided to all registered team members.

#### **d. Submitting Briefs**

Briefs must be submitted by e-mail only. The deadline for e-mailing all briefs is 5:00pm (EST) on February 16, 2024. Briefs should be e-mailed to [GSMCC@law.msu.edu](mailto:GSMCC@law.msu.edu) with “GSMCC Brief – Team “X”” and your team number in the subject line.

Briefs must be e-mailed as a single document, .pdf format is preferable.

Briefs will be accepted until 8:00pm (EST) on February 16, 2024. but briefs received after 5:00pm (EST) will be considered late briefs and will be penalized on their score. One (1) point (out of 50) off the brief score FOR EACH fifteen (15) minutes, or part thereof, that a brief is late. You are encouraged to e-mail your brief earlier than the deadline to avoid last-minute problems.

If you are experiencing technical difficulties in e-mailing your brief, please contact the competition Director, Heather Johnson, at Michigan State University College of Law at 734.678.6712.

Competition briefs will be shared anonymously by team letter and made available to all competitors approximately one week after they are submitted.

#### **e. Team Affidavit**

Each team must submit a team affidavit, signing and certifying that they have read and comply with the GSMCC Official Rules and Participation Requirements. The Team Affidavit should be completed and submitted as a separate PDF document along with the competition brief. Please See Appendix A for the Team Affidavit form.

#### **f. Competition Rounds**

Teams will be emailed information and Zoom links for competition rounds prior to the start of Competition Rounds on March 23, 2024. The competition will begin at 9:00 am (EST).

A general Competition waiting room will be set up and advocates and judges will be assigned to break-out rooms by the Competition organizers.

Competition Rounds will continue March 24, 2024, for teams that advance to elimination rounds.

### **III. Conduct of Advocates**

#### **a. Ethical and Honest Conduct**

As aspiring members of the legal profession, law students are subject to standards of conduct relating to their character and fitness to engage in the practice of law. The GSMCC will always rest on the fundamental values of fair play with the expectation of ethical and honest conduct. Participants will be required to conduct themselves according to the competition rules and show integrity, honesty, truthfulness, and unconditional respect for opposing advocates, judges, and tournament officials during every stage of the competition process.

Teams and individual advocates cannot receive substantive advice regarding the competition problem. Do not consult with attorneys, professors, judges, or others trained in law to assess your arguments prior to submitting your brief. Advocates are encouraged to discuss the problem with teammates and other participants. Once the team has submitted their competition brief, they are able to engage in practice arguments prior to the competition.

Advocates should use the Twenty-First Edition of the Bluebook to cite the cases for the competition brief. Please note it is unethical to solicit advice regarding proper citation.

Advocates will produce an original written work. While some similarities with other participant's briefs can be expected, briefs that have unusually high similarity to another or to a published work will be subject to scrutiny and possible disqualification. Advocates are encouraged to keep drafts of your brief as it develops and to take detailed research and meetings notes that may be used to document the development of your original ideas.

All participants agree to be bound by their law school honor codes with respect to their conduct during the competition. All advocates are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner. Dress as you would for an actual appearance in a court of law.

#### **b. Disqualification**

Participants can be disqualified for unethical conduct. Examples of unethical conduct include plagiarism, foul play, misrepresentation of your work or the work of others, the use of any automated or electronic Bluebooking aids, consultation with legal professionals about your written argument prior to brief submission, and any behavior that would disadvantage or penalize other participants. The GSMCC program director can disqualify any participant for conduct deemed unethical.

### **IV. Requirements for Briefs**

#### **a. Research and Scope**

Advocates have an open universe in which to research legal issues. All facts and legislative history required for your analysis are included in the materials.

Advocates should not address the issues of standing, mootness, or ripeness, whether or not discussed in the material. Only address the issues presented by the problem.

#### **b. Structure**

The brief shall be the product of both advocates. Each advocate is responsible for writing a minimum of six (6) pages of argument. Any advocate who fails to write at least the minimum number of pages will be disqualified and will not be allowed to participate in oral arguments. The entire brief **MAY NOT EXCEED** thirty-two (32) pages of text. For every page exceeding thirty-two, we will deduct two (2) points from the brief score. Each brief should include the eleven sections listed below in the order presented. The sections below marked with an asterisk (\*) will be included in the text page count:

1. Title Page (which should contain the following information)
  - Names and phone number of each advocate
  - Team Number, including which side (assigned when problem is released)
  - Identification of which issue each advocate addressedExample:  
Issue #1 (Sex Discrimination): Jay Roe (999) 888-777  
Issue #2 (Free Speech): Jordan Doe (111) 222-3333
2. Table of Contents
3. Table of Authorities
4. Questions Presented\*
5. Opinion Below\* (joint section)

6. Constitutional Rules and Provisions\*
7. Introduction (Summary of Argument) \*
8. Statement of the Case (Summary of the Facts) \*
9. Argument\*
10. Conclusion\*
11. Signature block

The following signature block should appear at the end of the briefs. Because it is not included in the page count, it is acceptable if the signature block appears alone on a separate page:

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Partner 1

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Partner 2

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Partner 3 (optional)  
Attorneys for Petitioner/Respondent

#### **c. Format and Style**

Briefs must be formatted to 8 ½” x 11” standard pages with exact 1” margins on all sides (not justified). New Courier font and the type size must be 12-point. All text and footnotes must be double-spaced, except for the point headings and quotations that exceed fifty (50) words, which may be single spaced according to the bluebook. This applies to all components of the brief, including the page numbers and the sections that do not count toward the page limit. The Title Page should not be numbered. Numbering should start with lowercase roman numeral “ii” on the page that appears after your title page. Please use Arabic numerals starting with “1” for the sections that count toward the page count total starting with the “Question Presented” section.

#### **d. Citations**

Advocates must follow the BLUEBOOK (the Uniform Rules of Citation, 21st ed.) for all citations in their briefs.

BRIEFS MUST CITE TO THE “DECISION ON APPEAL” WHERE APPROPRIATE.

### **V. Unacceptable Briefs**

If a team brief or portion of one brief is found unacceptable, it will be disqualified. Unacceptable briefs are those of extremely inadequate quality that could not be presented in good conscience to attorneys, judges, and legal professionals and participate in the competition. If a brief is deemed unacceptable, the brief will be disqualified, and the team will not receive a score for that brief. Once a team is notified that their brief is unacceptable, the team can withdraw from the competition (no refund will be provided), or they can resubmit an acceptable brief within 24 hours. The participant will receive zero (0) points for their brief but will be allowed to participate in oral arguments and will be eligible to score full points in the oral argument portion of the competition.



## **VI. Request for Reconsideration**

A request for reconsideration of any determination by the GSMCC Program Director regarding unethical conduct or disqualification may be requested once as a matter of right. All such requests must be made in writing to the GSMCC Program Director. Written requests will be reviewed within two business days and a final determination will be made in consultation with the Michigan State University College of Law Moot Court Program.

## **VII. Oral Arguments**

All rounds of the 2024 GSMCC Competition will be held online via the Zoom platform. Competitors are responsible for their own internet and video conferencing capabilities.

All teams will argue three preliminary rounds. At least one preliminary round will be on-brief, and one preliminary round will be argued off-brief. If two petitioners or two respondents must argue against each other in the quarterfinal, semifinal, or final rounds because of an unequal number of petitioner and respondent teams have advanced, the teams to argue on-brief will be determined by a coin toss.

### **a. Pairings**

Competitors will receive their pairings for the three preliminary rounds no later than 48 hours in advance of the competition. Pairings will include Zoom meeting information for each round. On Saturday, March 23, 2024, all competitors must check-in to a Zoom meeting room (“Advocate Room”) at least 20 minutes before the first round begins. Both team members must check in to show internet connectivity and an appropriate Zoom name. You will then be instructed to connect to your first competition room.

### **b. Zoom Rooms**

Participants will have the ability to move between Zoom rooms and conference administrators can also move participants between Zoom rooms. Advocates should stay in the “Advocate Room” until dismissed by the Room host. Judges will have a separate Zoom room. The Bailiff will manage competition rooms.

### **c. Coaches and Observers: Preliminary Rounds**

One Coach or faculty advisor may observe arguments in the preliminary rounds. Coaches should display the word Coach and the Team number on the Zoom Screen. They should mute both their audio and video for the entire round. They must be present at the start of the round. If they have connectivity issues the round will proceed without them. We ask that coaches whose connectivity requires them to leave the competition round not return to that round for the potential disruption it may cause.

### **d. Video and Audio Sharing**

All participants must take all possible precautions to avoid potential disruptions to the round. Please silence all notifications and electronic devices like cell phones during the round.

Arguing team members must keep their video sharing turned on during the entire round and must be muted except when arguing. Judges will keep their video sharing turned on and remain unmuted during the entire round. Bailiffs will keep their video sharing turned on and remain muted during the round but



will unmute to make announcements at the beginning and end of the round.

Non-arguing team members, coaches, faculty advisors and invited guests must have their video sharing turned off and must remain on mute for the entire round. Please note that the displayed names for non-arguing team members, coaches, faculty advisors and invited guests must not identify the name of any law school.

**e. Timing**

Oral arguments are limited to a total of thirty (30) minutes per side, fifteen (15) minutes per issue. A maximum of (5) minutes may be reserved by the petitioners for rebuttal, during which time one or both petitioners may be present. No time may be reserved for rebuttal by respondents.

Both teams must communicate to the bailiff, prior to the start of the round, how they wish to allocate their time, including time reserved for Petitioner's rebuttal. The first Petitioner must ask the Chief Justice's permission for rebuttal, which is not reserved by communication with the bailiff. The Chief Justice has the discretion to allow additional time for the advocate's response on rebuttal. Teams do not need to designate who will give rebuttal ahead of time.

Bailiffs will provide a visual notice of time either by timecards or a running clock displayed on screen. If timecards are used, competitors will be given time warnings at 5 minutes, 3 minutes, 1 minute, and then a "Stop" or "0" card showing that time has expired. Competitors **MUST** stop their arguments immediately upon the expiration of their reserved time. The Chief Justice has discretion to permit the competitor, upon request, to finish answering a question and/or briefly conclude. Competitors may separately run their own time, so long as the timing device is set on silent mode. It is recommended that teams keep a running timer in the event the bailiff has connectivity issues or timekeeping is otherwise interrupted.

**f. Name Display**

Competitors should keep their full names and team number on the Zoom window and introduce themselves to the Court by their names. Example: "Roe, Resp.2 Team 10" Competitors should check their Zoom names prior to each round.

**g. Law School Affiliation**

Team members arguing the case shall introduce themselves by name to the Court and **NOT** identify the name of their law school. **Nobody appearing on the videoconference may wear or otherwise display anything which identifies the name of any team's law school.**

**h. Judge Identification**

The judges will be instructed to have "Honorable," "Hon." or "Chief Justice" before their name.

**i. Judges**

It is expected that all rounds will have three judges, who will be volunteer attorneys. However, it is possible that a preliminary round may have two or four judges, and elimination rounds may have up to five judges.

#### **j. Judge Conflicts**

If a competitor happens to personally know a judge, the competitor must notify the bailiff and/or Competition Director immediately so arrangements can be made to recuse the judge and assign a new judge. Failure to notify the Competition Director or a bailiff of a competitor's personal acquaintance or familiarity with a judge may result in disqualification.

#### **k. Protests**

Any protests arising out of oral arguments, such as rule violations or unethical conduct, are considered waived unless the protest is brought to the attention of the GSMCC Board before the judges' critiques of that round are over. The protest must be specific as to the complaint being lodged and the particular rule that was allegedly violated during the oral argument round.

All protests will be resolved at the sole discretion of the GSMCC Board. The GSMCC Board will promptly notify the team/competitor being complained about and the nature of the protest. The GSMCC Board will not reveal the identity of the source of the protest. After consideration of the protest, the GSMCC Board will implement appropriate remedies/penalties to address the protest, but only if it is determined that the outcome of the oral argument round has been materially affected.

In accordance with the above, please send any protests to [GSMCC@law.msu.edu](mailto:GSMCC@law.msu.edu).

#### **l. Attire**

Each competitor is expected to be dressed in full business-formal courtroom attire for each argument.

#### **m. Equipment**

Competitors may choose whether to sit or stand while arguing. Headsets, earbuds, speakers, and microphones are permitted and encouraged to enhance sound quality. The use of appropriate lighting so that advocates facial features and gestures can be easily seen is recommended. Please avoid backlighting or light placed behind or above the advocate's head. The Justices will be informed about these options and instructed not to factor them into the score.

#### **n. Virtual Backgrounds**

The use of virtual backgrounds will not be permitted. Justices will be instructed not to consider the room or background used by a competitor. Nonetheless, competitors should take care to ensure their background looks uncluttered and professional.

#### **o. Competition Location**

Teammates may compete from the same room or from separate rooms. Teammates competing from separate locations may communicate in writing or by electronic devices, excluding the computer on which the Zoom round is taking place, during the round at times when neither team member is speaking. The Justices will be informed of this policy, so they do not downgrade competitors for communicating during the round. Competitors otherwise may not communicate with anyone else other than judges and the bailiff during a round.

**p. Connectivity**

Competitors will connect to virtual rounds by the internet. Each competitor must be prepared to connect by the call-in function as a backup in the event of an internet service disruption. A competitor must not be connected by more than one device at a time, absent extenuating circumstances in which case different devices may be used for audio and video.

For each argument, competitors will be provided a cell number to call to contact the bailiff in case of disconnection. If a competitor who is arguing is disconnected, time will be paused. If the competitor cannot reconnect to the internet within two minutes, the competitor will need to connect by phone and finish the argument by audio only. Time will resume when the competitor reconnects and resumes the argument. If a competitor who is not arguing is disconnected, the argument will proceed, and the competitor must reconnect as soon as possible.

The round will not be stopped if a judge's internet connection falters. The judge will be instructed to attempt to fix the problem, and if the judge cannot do so quickly, the judge will call in. The judge will continue listening and asking questions over a phone used to call in for audio.

If the Zoom room itself crashes, the bailiff will immediately stop the timer. The competitors and judges should wait a minute or so and attempt to reconnect. If the bailiff is not able to reconnect the Zoom room after 5 minutes, competitors and judges should return to the MAIN ROOM to receive further instruction. It is likely that the round will continue in a breakout room connected to MAIN ROOM. The competitor who was disrupted by the crash will gain an additional 30 seconds to ramp their argument back up in either situation.

A competitor who experiences a distracting pause while arguing may request that the Chief Justice pause the round so that the technical problem can be addressed. The Chief Justice shall, in consultation with the bailiff, have discretion to pause the round and have the oralist call in, or allow the round to continue.

**q. Feedback**

At the conclusion of each round, judges will be asked to turn off their cameras and microphones while entering scores. Students should keep their cameras on during this time but should be on mute. After entering scores, judges will provide brief feedback to competitors, after which competitors will be dismissed from the Zoom room.

**r. Order of Proceedings**

Teams will be randomly paired in preliminary rounds. Each team will argue on-brief and once off-brief during the first two rounds. In the third preliminary round, teams may be required to argue on-brief or off-brief.

The top eight teams after preliminary rounds will advance to quarterfinals. Advancement shall be determined by adding the team's total oral scores from the three rounds and weighing the oral argument scores 75% and the team's brief score 25%. If a tie exists after the oral argument and brief scores are considered, the team with the higher oral score will advance.

The top eight teams will be seeded and placed in a bracket. The highest seeded team will be paired against the lowest seeded team, the second highest team will be paired against the second lowest seeded team, etc. The coin toss for purposes of determining on-brief or off-brief arguments will be held the night before (Saturday, March 23, 2024) the elimination rounds.

In the elimination rounds, the team will win the round based on judge vote. Each judge will score the round and the team winning the majority of ballots will be the winning team. The winner of the final round will be determined by a judge vote, with the winning team receiving a majority of judge ballots.

**s. Video and Audio Recording**

The recording of any part of the virtual competition by any team member or anyone affiliated with any team (e.g., coach, faculty advisor or any other guest) is strictly prohibited. For the avoidance of doubt, this also means that nobody may take photos of the videoconference screen. Failure to comply shall automatically disqualify a team from the competition. Each round will be recorded by the competition and the Semi, and Final Rounds will be available for observers to view.

**t. Awards**

At the conclusion of the final round of arguments, the scores will be tallied and there will be a virtual Awards Ceremony for all participants and guests to attend. A separate videoconference link will be provided for the Awards Ceremony. All participants and guests may share their video with one another during the Awards Ceremony. The Competition Coordinator will direct everyone as to when to place themselves on mute during the Awards Ceremony.

**u. Anticipated Competition Schedule**

<b>Saturday, March 23, 2024</b>	<b>Sunday, March 24, 2024</b>
8:30 Zoom Rooms Open 8:30 – 8:50 a.m. CHECK IN (Zoom Room)	8:45 a.m. CHECK IN (Zoom Meeting Room)
<b>Preliminary Rounds</b> 9:15 a.m. Round A 11:00 a.m. Round B 1:00 p.m. Round C 2:45 p.m. Round D	<b>Elimination Rounds</b> 9:15-10:30 a.m. Quarterfinals 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Semifinals 1:00-2:00 p.m. Finals
4:15-5:00 p.m. Announcement of Teams that qualify for elimination rounds.	2:30 p.m. Zoom Award ceremony
5:30 p.m. Coin Toss (if needed)	

**This schedule is subject to change. All times are EASTERN STANDARD TIME (EST).**

**VIII. Scoring**

**a. Overview**

Each team is scored on its brief and its oral performance in each round. Individual advocates are based on their oral advocacy scores from each round. Team scores will be calculated based on the brief and preliminary rounds to determine advancement in the competition. Scores will be weighted ¼ brief writing, and ¾ oral performance. Only oral argument performance will determine advancement past the quarterfinal round.

## **b. Brief Scoring Guidelines**

Each brief will be evaluated and scored based on a one hundred (100) point Scale. Please see Appendix B: Sample Brief Scoring Form. Grading will be anonymous, with each brief only identified by its team number. Points are awarded for all brief components with the bulk of points being awarded for the persuasiveness and structure of the argument and the analysis and appropriate use of authority.

## **c. Oral Arguments Scoring Guidelines**

Each advocate will be evaluated by a panel of judges. Each judge will evaluate an advocate upon a 100-point scale, considering the substantive content of argument (20-40 points), knowledge of the record (10-20), extemporaneous ability (10-20), courtroom demeanor and professionalism (10-20 points). The oral argument rubric used has been adopted from the American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Competition rubric. Please see Appendix C for a Sample Oral Argument Ballot.

## **d. Calculating Scores**

Competition Briefs will be scored by attorney's, judges, and Michigan State University College of Law professors with expertise in the field of sexuality, gender, and law. Each brief will be scored by five readers. The high and low score will be dropped, and the three remaining scores will be averaged to receive the final team brief score.

For each round, advocates will be scored by a panel of judges using electronic score sheets. The electronic score sheets allow the quick and efficient calculation of advocate performance scores. The electronic score sheets also do not allow the judges to submit the score sheet unless it is complete, every score value has been entered, and the advocates have not achieved a score that would result in a tie. The goal is to have each preliminary round judged by three (3) judges. If oral performance scores are given by only two judges, the scores will be combined and averaged for a third score.

To determine which teams advance to the quarterfinal round, the GSMCC will calculate a total score for each team after the three preliminary rounds. This score will be weighted  $\frac{1}{4}$  brief score and  $\frac{3}{4}$  oral argument performance score.

## **e. Penalties**

Penalties will be deducted from each team's composite brief scored for rule violations.

- **Late Brief** (1 point deduction for every 15 minutes, or part thereof that a brief is submitted late by email according to the electronic timestamp up to 12 points)
- **Page Limit Violation** (2-point penalty for the first and each subsequent page (or partial page) that exceeds the page limit)
- **1" Margin Violation** (5-point penalty)
- **12-point Font Size Requirement** (5-point penalty)
- **Courier New Font Requirement** (5-point penalty)
- **Failure to Submit the Team Affidavit** (5-point penalty)
- **Briefing the wrong party** (writing the brief for the non-assigned party) (5-point penalty)

The maximum penalty for any combination of violations will be thirty (30) points.

## **IX. Awards**

### **a. Award for Outstanding Brief**

The top three teams that write the best overall brief will receive recognition.

### **b. Award for Outstanding Oral Advocacy**

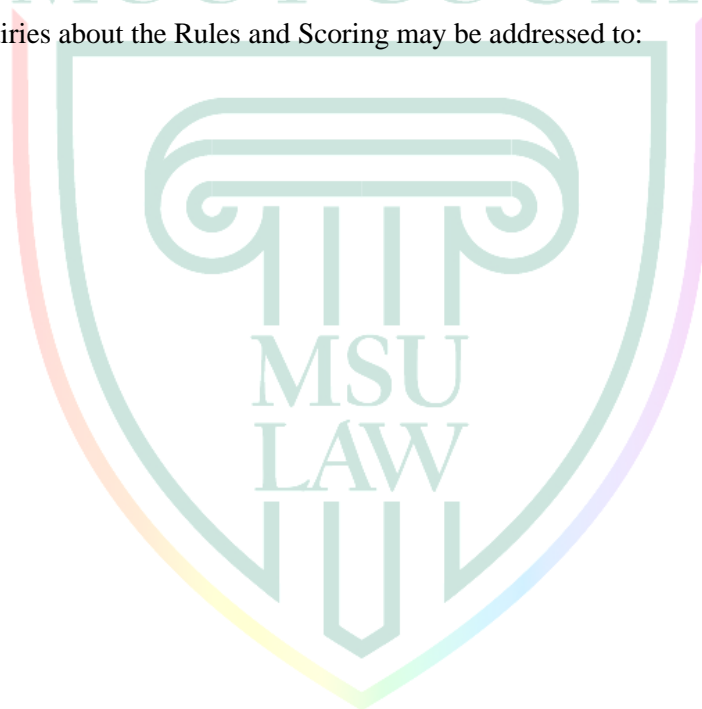
The top three oralists will receive recognition.

## **X. Questions and Concerns**

Students may contact the GSMCC with any questions or concerns via email. Questions will be answered as time permits. However, all questions regarding these Rules or substantive questions about the problem should be submitted IN WRITING. Only written responses to written inquiries will be binding.

Any questions or inquiries about the competition should be directed to the program director via e-mail. To the extent a question or inquiry affects other advocates, a copy of each written question and answer will be posted (anonymously) online to all participants.

Questions or inquiries about the Rules and Scoring may be addressed to:  
[GSMCC@msu.edu](mailto:GSMCC@msu.edu)



**Appendix A: Team Affidavit**

**Michigan State University College of Law  
Gender and Sexuality Moot Court Competition**

**Team Affidavit**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Team #:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. We affirm that each team member has read, understood, complied with, and accepts the conditions of the Official Rules and Participation Requirements of the Michigan State University College of Law Gender and Sexuality Moot Court Competition.
2. We certify that we have not consulted with attorneys, professors, judges, or others trained in law or received any assistance in connection with the preparation of the team brief.
3. We certify that the brief submitted for our team is the original product solely of the undersigned.

**Team Member Issue #1**

**Team Member Issue #2**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature



## Appendix B: Sample Brief Scoring Form

<b>Team Number:</b>		<b>Judge's Name:</b>	
Category		Possible	Given
1.	Title Page	3	
2.	Table of Contents	1	
3.	Table of Authorities	1	
4.	Questions Presented	1	
5.	Opinion Below	1	
6.	Constitutional Rules and Provisions	1	
7.	Introduction (Summary of Argument)	10	
8.	Statement of the Case (Summary of the Facts)	10	
9.	Argument <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persuasiveness of Headings and Text</li> <li>• Argument Structure</li> <li>• Analysis and Appropriate Use of Authority</li> </ul>	50 (~10) (~10) (~30)	
10.	Conclusion	2	
11.	Grammar and Punctuation	10	
12.	Citation	10	
<b>Brief Score</b>		100	

NOTES:

Penalties	Possible	Deducted
Late Brief (1 point deduction for every 15 minutes, or part thereof that a brief is submitted late by email according to the electronic timestamp)	-12	
Page Limit Violation (2-point penalty for the first and each subsequent page (or partial page) that exceeds the page limit).	-2 x #	
1" Margin Requirement	-5	
12-point Font Size Requirement	-5	
Courier New Font Requirement	-5	
Team Affidavit (Failure to turn in Team Affidavit)	-5	
Briefing the wrong party (writing the brief for the wrong side)	-5	
<b>Total Deductions</b> (Maximum penalty for any combination of violations: 30 points)	-30*	

Item	Points
Brief Score	
Total Deductions	
<b>FINAL SCORE</b>	

## Appendix C: Sample Oral Argument Ballot

### Gender and Sexuality Moot Court Competition Oral Argument Ballot

**Thank you for judging the competition.** Here's how to complete your ballot:

1. Fill in your name.
2. The names and team letters of the advocates have been completed in advance. Before the arguments begin, confirm that this information is correct.
3. After the round, enter scores for each advocate in the appropriate column.
4. When you're done scoring, click the submit button.

Petitioner Team:

Judge's Name

Respondent Team:

Issue #1    Issue #2

Round:

Issue #1    Issue #2

#### Substantive Content of Argument

Overall effectiveness of argument irrespective of merits. Reasoning and logic. Knowledge of and ability to incorporate applicable legal authority. Judicious use of time.

Poor	Marginal	Average	Good	Excellent	Superior
20-23	24-26	27-31	32-35	36-38	39-40

#### Knowledge of the Record

Knowledge of the content of the record: familiarity with authorities, facts, issues, and arguments addressed by the lower courts.

Poor	Marginal	Average	Good	Excellent	Superior
10-11	12-13	14-15	16-17	18-19	20

#### Extemporaneous Ability

Ability to answer questions, to think on feet, and to resume argument after interruption.

Poor	Marginal	Average	Good	Excellent	Superior
10-11	12-13	14-15	16-17	18-19	20

#### Courtroom Demeanor and Professionalism

Proper deference to judges and counsel. Appellate courtroom etiquette. Use of speaking voice, poise, gestures, mannerisms.

Poor	Marginal	Average	Good	Excellent	Superior
10-11	12-13	14-15	16-17	18-19	20

Advocate Total    Advocate Total  
**0**    **0**  
Petitioner Team Total  
**0**

Advocate Total    Advocate Total  
**0**    **0**  
Respondent Team Total  
**0**

Submit Scores

\*Please note that this ballot is based on the American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Competition and has been adapted for online use in the GSMCC competition by Kent Streseman, Associate Clinical Professor of Law at the Santa Clara University School of Law and Member of the American Bar Association Student Competitions Committee and National Appellate Advocacy Subcommittee.