

# Moot Court Round Script and Clerk Instructions

## Moot Court Round Script

The Courtroom Clerk will not begin to read the script aloud until all judges for the round are present. Once all judges are present, the Courtroom Clerk will confirm the Chief Justice. When the Chief Justice confirms the judges are all ready, the Courtroom Clerk begins the script below.

### Bringing the Round to Order

**Courtroom Clerk:** **Oyez, oyez, oyez.** (O-yea). **The Supreme Court of the United States is now in session, the Honorable Chief Justice \_\_\_\_\_ presiding. All those having cause to be before this honorable Court draw nigh and pay heed. God save the United States, and God save this honorable Court.**

**Chief Justice:** **The only case on the docket today is Cobi Mendax, Petitioner vs. The State of Palidosa, Respondent. Is the Petitioner ready?**

**Petitioners:** [First advocate says:] **The Petitioner is ready, your Honor.**

**Chief Justice:** **Is the Respondent ready?**

**Respondents:** [First advocate says:] **The Respondent is ready, your Honor.**

**Chief Justice:** **You may proceed.** [First Petitioner should wait until receiving some indication, such as a nod, from the Chief Justice that the Court is ready to proceed.]

### Opening Statements for Advocate Speeches

**Petitioner 1:** **Mr./Madame Chief Justice, may it please the Court.**  
[start timer]  
**My name is \_\_\_\_\_.** **My co-Counsel, \_\_\_\_\_,**  
**and I represent \_\_\_\_\_, the Petitioner in this**  
**case. At this time, I would like to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ minutes for**  
**rebuttal. My co-Counsel will be addressing the issue of**  
**\_\_\_\_\_, and I will be addressing the \_\_\_\_\_**  
**issue.** [Give a brief introductory sentence or two about the



first issue here.] **This Court should reverse the decision of the Supreme Court of Frankfurt because**

\_\_\_\_\_. [Proceed with argument.]

Justices may interrupt after the first minute, indicated by clapping of the Clerk.

[After the first Petitioner is finished, the second advocate for the Petitioner should then wait until receiving some indication from the Chief Justice that the Court is ready to proceed.]

**Petitioner 2: Mr./Madame Chief Justice, may it please the Court.**

**[start timer]**

**My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I will address the issue of \_\_\_\_\_.** [Proceed with argument.]

Justices may interrupt after the first minute, indicated by clapping of the Clerk.

[When the second Petitioner is finished, the first Respondent should wait until receiving some indication from the Chief Justice that the Court is ready to proceed.]

**Respondent 1: Mr./Madame Chief Justice, may it please the Court.**

**[start timer]**

**My name is \_\_\_\_\_. My co-Counsel, \_\_\_\_\_, and I represent \_\_\_\_\_, the Respondent in this case. My co-Counsel will be addressing the issue of \_\_\_\_\_, but first I will be addressing the \_\_\_\_\_ issue.** [Give a brief introductory sentence or two about the first issue here.] **This Court should affirm the decision of the Supreme Court of Frankfurt because \_\_\_\_\_.** [Proceed with argument.]

Justices may interrupt after the first minute, indicated by clapping of the Clerk.

[After the first Respondent is finished, the second advocate for Respondent should wait until receiving some indication from the Chief Justice that the Court is ready to proceed.]

**Respondent 2: Mr./Madame Chief Justice, may it please the Court.**

**[start timer]**

**My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I will address the issue of \_\_\_\_\_.** [Proceed with argument.]

Justices may interrupt after the first minute, indicated by clapping of the Clerk.

[After the second Respondent is finished, whichever member of the Petitioner's team will give the rebuttal should wait for an indication from the Chief Justice that the Court is ready to proceed.]

**Petitioner 1 or 2:** [start timer]

**Your Honors,** [briefly state in one sentence the main rebuttal point(s).]

Justices may interrupt at any point during the rebuttal speech.

## Requesting Additional Time to Complete an Argument or Answer a Question

- If an advocate's time expires before completion of the argument, the advocate may request additional time from the Chief Justice with the following question:

Advocate: **Mr./Madame Chief Justice, I see that my time has expired. May I have a moment to conclude?** [BRIEFLY conclude.]

- If a question is pending or the advocate is in the middle of answering a question, the advocate may request additional time with the following question:

Advocate: **Mr./Madame Chief Justice, I see that my time has expired. May I have a moment to answer the question and briefly conclude?** [BRIEFLY finish answering and BRIEFLY conclude.]

- In either case, it is up to the Chief Justice's discretion whether to allow additional time. The advocate need not request additional time to finish his sentence, though—he can simply finish his sentence and say thank you.

## Adjourning the Round

**Courtroom Clerk:** **The Honorable Court is now adjourned.**

[The justices should exit the virtual room by clicking on the exit button in the upper right corner of the screen.]



# Clerk Instructions

## Preparation for the Round

Please enter the room as soon as rooms are opened by the Tournament Administration. Ideally, this will be about 10 minutes before the round is scheduled to begin. Please test your microphone and camera immediately upon entering. Your video will remain on throughout the round unless there is a technical issue. You will need to mute and unmute your microphone as designated below.

- Set timer (phone or timepiece) to 1:00 minute in preparation for Protected Time notification detailed below.
- Preliminary rounds will have one (1) justice and elimination rounds will have three (3) justices.

## Verify Justices are Ready

Once the expected judges are in the competition room,

- Turn on your camera and microphone. If it is an elimination round, you will need to ask who has been designated as the Chief Justice.

## Open the Round

Once the justice(s) confirm they are ready, announce:

***Oyez, oyez, oyez\*. The Supreme Court of the United States is now in session, the Honorable Chief Justice \_\_\_\_\_ presiding. All those having cause to be before this honorable Court draw nigh and pay heed. God save the United States, and God save this honorable Court. [Mute your microphone.]***

\*(Oyez is pronounced "oh-yay")

## Track Protected Time

The clerk is responsible for tracking and indicating the end of the protected speaking time at the beginning of each speaker's oral argument. The competitors will track their own total speech time, indicating to the justice(s) when their time has expired and requesting more time if appropriate.

With the exception of the rebuttal, the first minute of each speech is protected from interruption from the Justices.

- Start the one-minute countdown when each speaker begins.
- When the minute has expired, turn on your microphone and clap twice (loudly) to indicate to the judges that they may now interrupt and ask questions. [Mute your microphone.]

| Moot Court Speeches                    | Time                          |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Petitioner 1                           | Up to 10 minutes, as reserved |
| Petitioner 2                           | Up to 10 minutes, as reserved |
| Respondent 1                           | 10 minutes                    |
| Respondent 2                           | 10 minutes                    |
| Rebuttal from either Petitioner 1 or 2 | Up to 4 minutes, as reserved  |

## Adjourn the Round

At the end of the round, announce:

**The Honorable Court is now adjourned. [Turn off your camera and microphone. Exit the room.]**