



## Moot Court 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 Tarun Bellator, vs. The State of Frankfurt. 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. 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 Circuit Court because \_\_\_\_\_.** [Start timer and proceed with argument.]

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

[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. 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 Circuit Court because \_\_\_\_\_.** [Start timer and proceed with argument.]

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

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

[Rebuttal should be limited to a rebuttal of points already brought up in the argument. The Petitioner should not bring up for the first time a subject not discussed by either the Petitioners or Respondents in their initial presentations.]

## 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.]