

**TEXAS YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
STATE MOOT COURT COMPETITION**

Instructions for Judges

1. After receiving the ballots, please review the names of the competitors. If you recognize a law clerk, family friend, or someone you know and you would rather judge another team, please inform us immediately. We will place you in another competition room.
2. Please engage in a dialogue with the speakers. Competitors are graded on their ability to answer questions.
3. Each team has 30 minutes to argue their case. The Petitioner may reserve up to 5 minutes for rebuttal. Under our rules, a team does not have to reserve rebuttal time from the podium. Rebuttal time will have been reserved with the bailiff before the round.
4. Each team has provided a bailiff who will keep track of the speaker's time.
5. When the bailiff stands the speaker's time has expired. At your discretion, you may grant a speaker additional time to answer a question or conclude. This is not deducted from a team's thirty minutes allotment.
6. Please score the speaker within the minimum and maximum scores listed on the ballot.
7. The scoring should be done independently. Please do not confer with other members of the panel until all ballots are completed and signed.
8. The scoring of the oral argument should not be affected by your personal views of the merits of the case. Instead, it should be based on the speaker's advocacy skills.
9. At the end of the round, team bailiffs will excuse all competitors and observers. Please mark your ballot at this time. The bailiffs will wait outside until all judges have finished. At that point, the bailiffs will take the ballots to check for minimums/maximums and then will return the ballots to the TYLA Committee.
10. Please make sure that the two teams are not tied on your ballot. If there is a tie between the teams on your ballot please add or subtract a point from one of the teams so that the winner may be declared.
11. At the bottom of the ballot, please rank the four speakers 1st-4th. The ranking should correspond with the points given to the speakers.
12. This is a learning experience for the advocates. Please give an oral critique of the individual speaker's strengths and weaknesses after each judge has marked his or her ballot.
13. The bailiffs will bring the Presiding Judge the results. Please announce the winner after completing your critique of the competitors.
14. Please return the bench memorandum to the TYLA Committee after the round.
15. If any other questions arise, notify the bailiff and he or she will contact the TYLA Committee.
16. Thank you for giving your time and effort.