

Official Rules and Standards
Cybercrimes Moot Court Competition at UCLA
School of Law
March 7, 2026

Table of Contents

I. TEAMS AND COACHES.....	2
II. CONDUCT OF ADVOCATES.....	2
III. SCHEDULES.....	2
A. Schedule for Registering to Participate.....	2
B. Schedule for Side and Room Assignments.....	2
C. Schedule for Submitting Briefs.....	3
D. Note on Withdrawal.....	3
IV. PAYMENT.....	3
V. RESEARCH.....	4
A. Open Universe.....	4
B. Outside Assistance.....	4
VI. REQUIREMENTS FOR BRIEFS.....	4
A. Structure.....	4
B. Style and Format Limitations.....	5
a. Font.....	5
b. Parties.....	5
c. Size of Brief, Margins, Alignment & Spacing.....	5
C. Citations.....	6
D. Affidavit.....	7
VII. ORAL ROUNDS.....	7
A. Schedule for Oral Competition.....	7
B. Structure.....	7
C. Spectators.....	8
D. Parties.....	8
E. Ghost Teams.....	8
VIII. Seeding.....	8
A. Generally.....	8
B. Semifinal and Final Rounds.....	8
IX. SCORING.....	9
A. Generally.....	9
B. Calculating Scores.....	9
C. Scoring Rubric.....	9
E. Brief Score Penalties.....	10
X. QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS.....	12

I. TEAMS AND COACHES

A team consists of two law students attending the same law school. A team member may not be substituted with an alternate except for good cause and upon the approval of the UCLA Moot Court Honors Board. The deadline to confirm individual team members is **December 31, 2025**.

Each team must have a coach or advisor. A coach or advisor may be a full-time or part-time faculty member, a student approved by the law school to coach and advise the students, or a lawyer approved by a law school to coach and advise the students. A team may have more than one coach or advisor, and one person may coach two teams from the same school. No more than two teams from a single law school may participate.

II. CONDUCT OF ADVOCATES

The ideals of fair play, sportsmanship, friendship, and honesty shall guide the conduct of all advocates throughout all Cybercrimes Moot Court Competition activities.

Advocates shall strive to exemplify the highest ideals of the legal profession, to maintain the highest standard of ethical conduct, and to strive for competence and integrity. Courtesy toward opposing advocates, judges, and competition officials is expected at all times.

All advocates shall strive to diligently undertake the study, preparation, and practice required to present their client's case with integrity and competence.

III. SCHEDULES

A. Schedule for Registering to Participate

Sign-ups for the competition will remain open until **October 29, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. PST**. Registration will be complete upon payment of the registration fee—\$800 for one team or \$1500 for two teams—by check or an electronic funds transfer (“EFT”). See the UCLA Moot Court Honors Program [webpage](#) for more details. Fees shall be due by November 14, 2025. Teams that have not paid by the deadline will be assumed to have withdrawn.

B. Schedule for Side and Room Assignments

On January 12, 2026, the problem will be released to all competitors via e-mail. At that time, all teams shall be assigned sides, Petitioner or Respondent, to advocate for in their briefs. At oral argument, each team will argue on-brief once, off-brief once, and one randomly assigned side, during the **three preliminary rounds**. Teams will be provided with their exact schedule and room assignments **for their first two preliminary rounds** in the days before the competition. The schedule and room assignment for the **third preliminary round** will be provided at lunch the day of the

competition.

C. Schedule for Submitting Briefs

The deadline for submitting all briefs is 11:59 p.m. PST on February 16, 2026. Please email briefs to Cybercrimes@lawnet.ucla.edu and include within the body of the email the name of the school and names of competitors who are submitting the brief. The files should be named with the team's Petitioner or Respondent number. For example: "P1_Cybercrimes_25" or "R2_Cybercrimes_25". Failure to submit an electronic brief by this deadline will result in penalties outlined in Section IX.

D. Note on Withdrawal

Any team that chooses to withdraw from the competition should inform the organizers of the Cybercrimes Competition as soon as possible at Cybercrimes@lawnet.ucla.edu. A team's registration will be refunded in full if the message of withdrawal is received by December 31, 2025. A team may receive a 50% refund before February 6, 2026, and no refunds under any circumstance will be given after the deadline for brief submission.

IV. PAYMENT

The registration fee is \$800 for one team, or \$1500 for two teams from the same law school. The registration fee for unaffiliated teams is \$800. Teams may pay by check to "UC Regents" at the address below. Please write "Moot Court Cybercrimes" in the memo line of the check.

Address to mail registration fees:
UCLA School of Law
Business & Finance Office
Attn: Wendy Mayotte
385 Charles E. Young Dr. East.
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1476

Teams may also submit an EFT. The remitting agency or person must provide the banking information to the sending bank:

Our Bank Address:

Bank of America
2000 Clayton Rd
CA4-704-05-41
Building D 5th Floor
Concord, CA 94520-2425
ACH Routing No.: 121000358; Wires Routing No.: 026009593; Bank Account
Name: University of California Los Angeles;

Bank Account Number: 1499650103; Swift Code (for international transfers): BOFAUS3N

The remitter MUST provide their bank with the following addendum information:

The name and phone number of the person in the Department to contact.

-Department Contact: Wendy Mayotte

- Email: mayotte@law.ucla.edu; phone number: 310-206-4632

The name of the agency that is remitting payment.

Purpose of the EFT and any identifying numbers:

-Moot Court Cybercrimes Competition

V. RESEARCH

A. Open Universe

This competition is open-universe. Competitors are free to research and cite in their briefs and during oral argument any materials they believe would be helpful including, but not limited to, any of the cases, briefs or other materials cited in the Record. Judges will be advised of this rule.

B. Outside Assistance

Competitors may not receive any assistance on the problem from anyone outside of their team, including, but not limited to, coaches, attorneys, or family members prior to the deadline for brief submission. Only student team members may conduct research for, and review or comment upon a draft of the brief. After the brief submission deadline, the coach may read the brief; work with, assist, and direct the students; and critique mock oral argument preparations.

VI. REQUIREMENTS FOR BRIEFS

A. Structure

Each brief shall be the product of a single team.

The entire brief MAY NOT EXCEED thirty (30) pages of text. For each page exceeding the thirtieth page, the UCLA Moot Court Honors Board will deduct four (4) points from a team's brief score. Only the sections below marked with an asterisk (*) will be included in the page count. The following sections, in this order, are required:

1. Title Page
 - a. Docket Number
 - b. Team Number
2. Table of Contents
3. Table of Authorities
4. Questions Presented
5. Opinion Below

6. Constitutional Provisions and Rules
7. Introduction (including summary of argument)*
8. Statement of the Case (including statement of facts)*
9. Argument*
10. Conclusion*
11. Signature Block*

Sample briefs may be found [here](#). Please note that in the event of any discrepancy between the sample briefs and the instructions stated in this Official Rules and Standards, the Official Rules and Standards shall control.

Teams must electronically sign all briefs with the signature block below:

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ [Name of Advocate 1]
/s/ [Name of Advocate 2]
Attorneys for [Petitioner/Respondent #]

NOTE REGARDING PAGE NUMBERING: The title page should not be numbered. The table of contents, table of authorities, questions presented, opinions below, and constitutional provisions and rules should be numbered starting with (i...ii...etc.). The Introduction section must begin on page one (1) of the brief.

B. Style and Format Limitations

a. Font

- i. Times New Roman
- ii. 12-point

This applies to all portions of the brief, including the page numbers and sections that may not count toward the page limit. It also applies to the footnotes.

b. Parties

In the briefs and in oral argument, advocates should refer to the appealing party as Petitioner and the responding party as Respondent, rather than as appellant and appellee.

c. Size of Brief, Margins, Alignment & Spacing

Pages shall not exceed 8 1/2" x 11" and typed matter may not exceed 6 1/2" x 9" (*i.e.*, 1" margins on all sides). 1" margins are not calculated by counting characters per line or lines per page, but are calculated by whether or not the typed matter in fact is within 1" margins (you may use the rulers available in Adobe Acrobat and Microsoft Word to examine your own margins).

Text must be aligned to the left margin (not justified). Do not use pleading paper or attempt to number your lines. All text must be **DOUBLE-SPACED**, except for point headings, footnotes, and quotes in excess of 50 words, which must be single-spaced.

NOTE REGARDING HEADINGS: While there is no requirement that point headings

be placed in all-caps, advocates may find that using all-caps for at least their main headings looks more consistent and aesthetically pleasing than an assortment of upper and lower-case words. Furthermore, if a team chooses not to capitalize all subheadings, the team should follow Bluebook Rule 8, which provides for a consistent system of capitalization.

NOTE REGARDING TITLE OF PDF SUBMISSION: Each team must submit a brief electronically in PDF format (“electronic brief”). The electronic briefs must have document titles in the following format: [“P” or “R” for Petitioner or Respondent][Team #][Last Name of Team Member 1][Last Name of Team Member 2].

For example: “R27+Jones+Smith” or “P12+Doe+Jones”

Not: “R27JonesSmith” or “R27 Jones Smith”

Team numbers will be assigned to teams in a separate email that will be sent at least two weeks prior to the brief submission deadline.

For example: If your team is assigned team number 17, then the document title of your brief PDF will begin with “R17” if you choose to advocate for Respondent, or “P17” if you are writing for Petitioner.

These team numbers are not subject to change, even in the event that we need to make adjustments to side assignments.

NOTE REGARDING SUBMISSION: The electronic brief must be one complete PDF document that contains all of the sections of the brief. Failure to submit the electronic brief in PDF form or submission of more than one document will result in a deduction of one (1) point from the team’s brief score. Failure to correctly title the electronic brief will also result in a deduction of one (1) point from the team’s brief score.

NOTE REGARDING SIGNATURES: While the electronic brief does not need to be signed, it must contain a signature block. Each team is solely responsible for reviewing the electronic brief prior to submission to ensure that it conforms to this and all other requirements set forth in these Rules. Advocates do not need to submit printed copies of their briefs.

C. Citations

Advocates must follow either the twenty-first or the twenty-second edition of the Bluebook for all citations in their briefs. Whichever edition you choose to follow, be consistent in the application throughout the brief.

NOTE REGARDING THE RECORD: Briefs must cite to the record where appropriate. Please cite to the record in the following manner: (R. at [page number]).

NOTE REGARDING BLUEBOOKING ERRORS: If a team fails to follow the rules contained in the Bluebook, including failing to follow the Bluepages where the

Bluepages are on point, judges will deduct points when they score the brief's "Style and Professionalism." See the scoring rubric in Appendix A below, for how the judges are advised to account for Bluebooking.

D. Affidavit

All advocates must submit an affidavit with their brief to affirm that the brief is solely their own work product. Advocates should include their affidavit when they submit their brief. Advocates failing to submit their affidavit when they submit their brief will be penalized two (2) points. All advocates who fail to submit an affidavit with their brief will be sent a reminder email, and failure to submit an affidavit by the specified due date and time will result in disqualification from the competition.

To submit an affidavit, a team should first copy and paste the affidavit text below in a separate document file. Second, the team should enter advocate numbers in the body of the affidavit and electronically sign the affidavit by typing both team members' full, legal name on the signature line, preceded by "/s/". Third, the team should save the document in PDF format with the following title format: ["P" or "R" for Petitioner or Respondent][Team #]+AFFIDAVIT. Finally, **the team should attach the PDF affidavit to the same email in which the team submits their completed electronic brief.**

AFFIDAVIT

I hereby certify that the brief for team [Team #] is the product solely of the undersigned and that the undersigned has not received any faculty or other assistance in connection with the preparation of the brief. Moreover, I affirm that I have read and understood the Official Rules and Standards for the UCLA Law Cybercrimes Competition

/s/ [Name of Advocate 1]

/s/ [Name of Advocate 2]

VII. ORAL ROUNDS

A. Schedule for Oral Competition

Each team must complete three scored rounds of oral argument. The three rounds of oral argument will be on **Saturday, March 7, 2025**. Further details regarding the schedule of the oral argument will be distributed to all participants closer to the competition date.

B. Structure

For each round of oral argument, each team is limited to a total of 30 minutes, 15 minutes per advocate. One team member for the Petitioner will be allowed to reserve up to 5 minutes, out of their total 15 minutes, for rebuttal. This team member must advise the Court (through the bailiff) prior to oral argument if they wish to reserve any rebuttal time and how much rebuttal time they would like to reserve. The timekeeper will subtract

rebuttal time from the argument time. Advocates for the Respondent are unable to reserve rebuttal time.

There will be, in total, five rounds of oral arguments. There will be three preliminary rounds: one on-brief, one off-brief, and one randomly assigned round. Then, the competition will proceed to the semifinals (4 teams) and the finals (2 teams).

All advocates are expected to dress and conduct themselves in a professional manner. Advocates are advised to dress as they would for an actual appearance in a court of law.

C. Spectators

For the preliminary rounds, coaches or other individuals may only sit in on a round of oral argument with the consent of both teams prior to the round. For semifinal and final rounds, competitors and coaches are welcome to spectate.

D. Parties

In the briefs and in oral argument, advocates should refer to the appealing party as Petitioner and the responding party as Respondent, rather than as appellant and appellee.

E. Ghost Teams

In the event of a withdrawal, cancellation, or other necessary circumstances, a competitor may argue against a “Ghost Team,” which will be composed of UCLA Law Moot Court volunteers. Ghost Teams will only be used in the preliminary rounds. Judges will not be informed of Ghost Teams and will score regularly. Ghost Team scores will be discarded after the round is complete. If a Ghost Team cannot be acquired, competitors may argue without an opposing counsel. Judges will be instructed to score them equitably, disregarding the lack of opponents.

VIII. Seeding

A. Generally

Teams will be seeded into five pools (Pool A, B, C, D, and E). Over the three preliminary rounds, each team will compete against the three other teams in their respective pool. Then the top 4 teams, based on the total score of their team’s average for all three preliminary rounds, advance to the semifinals. UCLA Law Moot Court reserves the right to adjust the seeding as necessary to avoid any conflicts.

B. Semifinal and Final Rounds

The four advancing teams shall be reseeded based on the number of points received during preliminary round: the team with the most number of points from the preliminary rounds shall be the highest seed. If two or more teams received the same number of points during the preliminary rounds, the team with the higher brief score shall receive the

higher seed. In the semifinal rounds, the No. 1 seed shall face the No. 4 seed, and the No. 2 seed shall face the No. 3 seed. A winner shall be declared from each semifinal round to advance to the final rounds, based solely on the semifinal round.

The semifinal and final round competitors may agree as to who will be arguing for petitioner and for respondent. If the teams cannot agree, the sides will be chosen randomly through a coin toss.

IX. SCORING

A. Generally

Judges will give each team member a score out of 50 in the three preliminary rounds. The team argument score will be an average of the individual's total score on the team. For the first three preliminary rounds, briefs shall be 30% of each round score. In the event of a tie following the preliminary rounds, briefs will also determine the advancing team.

Once the three preliminary rounds are complete, the top four scoring teams from the preliminary rounds will move onto the semifinals. The semifinal and final rounds shall be decided on a head-to-head basis.

B. Calculating Scores

Every effort will be made to have at least three (3) judges present in each round of the competition so that, at the end of the competition, each team will have been judged on their oral presentation by at least nine (9) judges. Each judge may assign a team a maximum brief score of 50 and a maximum oral argument performance score of 50. Scoring is calculated as follows, regardless of the number of judges who participate in scoring each round and each brief:

To calculate a team's oral round score, each judge will score the competitors individually. The individual scores will then be averaged to create an overall team score.

To calculate a team's brief score, the individual judges' brief scores are averaged to obtain an overall raw brief score. Any penalties imposed by the Competition Committee are deducted from the raw brief score to obtain a final brief score (see Section IX.E for an explanation of penalties).

NOTE REGARDING ROUNDING: For ease, all scores, including raw brief scores, final brief scores, and final oral performance scores, will be rounded to the nearest hundredth decimal. Thus, a raw brief score of 39.758 is rounded to a raw brief score of 39.76.

C. Scoring Rubric

Each judge is asked to score a team's brief on a scale of one (1) to ten (10) in each of five

categories:

1. Legal Analysis
2. Persuasiveness
3. Organization
4. Mechanics & Prose
5. Bluebooking

Each category is weighed equally.

Each judge is asked to score a team's oral performance on a scale of one (1) to ten (10) in each of the following five categories:

1. Clarity
2. Responsiveness
3. Knowledge and Use of Case Law
4. Knowledge and Use of Facts
5. General Evaluation

Each category is weighed equally.

E. Brief Score Penalties

The UCLA Moot Court Honors Board may assess penalties as it deems reasonable and appropriate. The decision of the UCLA Moot Court Honors Board shall be final.

Each team member must familiarize himself or herself with the requirements for briefs and with the penalties, listed below, that will be assessed for violation of these Rules.

While many violations will result in deductions of what may seem a small number of points, any deduction has the potential to be significant. In the past, the differential between the top teams' raw brief scores have been as small as one or two points. The deduction of even one penalty point from a team's raw brief score can mean the difference between the team winning an award and having that honor pass to the next highest-scoring participant. Therefore, we urge all teams to allow sufficient time to ensure full compliance with all style and formatting requirements.

The following penalties may be assessed. All penalties will be deducted from a team's raw brief score.

Penalties Relating to Submission of Briefs

• **Two (2) point** penalties for every 15 minutes (or part thereof) that a team's electronic brief is submitted late (according to the time stamp on the submitting email). **One (1) point** penalty for failing to submit the electronic brief in PDF format. **One (1) point** penalty for failing to submit the electronic brief as one PDF document.

- **One (1) point** penalty for failure to properly format the title of the submitted electronic brief: [“P” or “R” for Petitioner or Respondent][Team #]+[Last Name of Advocate 1] + [Last Name of Advocate 2]. For example: P1+Jones+Smith. **Two (2) point** penalty for failing to submit a copy of the team’s affidavit (see Rule V.D) with the electronic brief submission. **One (1) point** penalty for failing to submit the affidavit in PDF format. **One (1) point** penalty for failure to properly format the title of the submitted electronic affidavit: [“P” or “R” for Petitioner or Respondent][Team #]+AFFIDAVIT. For example: R1+AFFIDAVIT.

- **A two (2) point** penalty for failure to include a completed signature block.

- **A four (4) point** penalty for failure to include any of the following elements: title page, table of contents, table of authorities, questions presented, opinion below, constitutional provisions & rules, introduction, statement of the case, argument, conclusion.

- **A four (4) point** penalty for the first and each subsequent page (or part thereof) that exceeds the page limit. For example, a brief that exceeds the 30 page limit by one and a half pages will incur an 8 point penalty.

- **A two (2) point** penalty for failing to place the Introduction on page one (1) of the brief.

- **A three (3) point** penalty for failing to adhere to the 1” margin requirement on any page.

- **A one-time three (3) point** penalty for failing to adhere to the 12 pt. font size requirement on any page.

- **A one-time three (3) point** penalty for failing to adhere to the font requirement of Times New Roman on any page *except* the title page.

- **A one-time three (3) point** penalty of non-double-spaced text on any page included in the page count, except for point headings, footnotes, and quotes of more than 50 words.

- **A one-time one (1) point**, penalty for double-spaced point headings, footnotes, or quotes of more than 50 word.

- **A one-time one (1) point** penalty for errors in numbering the brief pages.

F. Awards

There will be six awards given at the UCLA Cybercrimes Moot Court Competition, including:

1. First Place, Overall
2. Second Place, Overall
3. Best Brief

4. Best Brief, Runner-Up
5. Best Oral Advocate (Individual). To be determined based on performance in the three preliminary rounds.
6. Best Oral Advocate, Runner-Up (Individual). To be determined based on performance in the three preliminary rounds.

X. QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Students may email Cybercrimes@lawnet.ucla.edu with general questions regarding the competition. Responses to any questions shall apply to all participants, and to the extent a question or inquiry affects other teams, a copy of each written question and answer will be distributed to all participants.

The deadline for questions regarding the competition problem is **5:00 p.m. PST on Friday, January 23, 2026**, so that responses may be given within a reasonable period before the brief is due. Please note, however, that advocates may only ask questions about the facts or any assumptions that can be made about the problem. Substantive legal questions will not be answered. No student questions will be answered after January 23, 2026, although the problem developers and the UCLA Moot Court Honors Board reserve the right to provide further guidance or clarifications as they see fit.