

**OKLAHOMA INTERCOLLEGIATE LEGISLATURE
SUEPREME COURT**

TEST CASE
COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS

COMPETITION: GENERAL

- A. The case fact pattern and research should be prepared by a **single competitor**.
- B. The case can be either Civil or Criminal, but the Government must be one of the parties. The Government's position will usually be argued by the OIL Attorney General or his/her Assistant. The Court may appoint anyone to argue the Government's position in the event that the Attorney General is unable to perform his/her assigned task.
- C. The case should **identify the competitor and the school** he/she represents because points are awarded to the top competitors.
- D. The fact pattern should be **no longer** than 1 ½ **pages single-spaced**.
- E. The **issues** before the Court should be **numbered and identified**. There should be **1-3 issues**. The moot court case published by the Chief Justice can be used as a model.
- F. The competitor should list **4 cases** that can be used to **support the two sides** (2 cases per side). These cases should be from the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal, and State Supreme Courts. The cases should be cited in legal format in order to be located. The supporting cases should be evenly decided so that both the competitor and the Attorney General have an equal chance of providing the best argument.
- G. The scoring points are the same as that of the moot court competition with the addition of case design. Case design points are based on originality, technical difficulty, meeting the above criteria set by the Court, and the research demonstrated by the language of the case and the supporting cases.
- H. **10 copies** of the **fact pattern** must be submitted to the **OIL Chief Justice** by the designated deadline. At his/her discretion, the Chief Justice may allow late submissions, but five points will be deducted for any late case.
- I. Each competitor must submit **4 copies** of each **supporting case** to the Chief Justice with the copies of the fact pattern. No supporting cases can exceed 30 typed pages, single-spaced.
- J. The **time and place** for **arguments** on the fact pattern will be announced to both the competitor and the Attorney General. Please be on time.

II. Competition: Guidelines

Here are some general guidelines that may help as you write your case:

- A. **Start writing your case as early as you can.** Test cases can be difficult to write; but the earlier you are able to start, the more time you will have to work out the details.
- B. **Pick a topic that interests you.** Test cases are designed for students to learn; and if you pick a topic that you want to know more about, you are going to be able to write a much better case and be more articulate when you are arguing it.
- C. **Do not be intimidated.** When you first start writing a test case, you may be surprised at how much time goes into writing one; however, remember that it does not have to be perfect. It is your job to do the best that you can with the topic that you choose, and you are not required to write a 20-page masterpiece. What impresses the Justices is the fact that you attempted to do it in the first place.
- D. **Ask questions.** Remember that your delegation chair(s) and the OIL Justices are there to help you learn and to help you do the best that you can. If you have a question, please ask someone for help; it is always beneficial to get a second opinion.
- E. **Points Matter.** The test case competition is one of the easiest ways for anyone to earn points for their school because the test case competition usually has a much lower turnout than the regular Undergraduate and Graduate competitions. However, the points are just as high, with generally 3 points for the winner and 2 points for the first runner-up.
- F. **Know your research tools.** One of the best places to start when you begin researching for the test case is at the Oklahoma State Statutes. Begin by reading over the titles and choosing a title that interests you. Then, move to a section that interests you. If there is a statute that seems unconstitutional to you, go to findlaw.com and see what the Supreme Court has decided about that issue.
- G. **Be Prepared.** On the day that you present your test case, know what you are going to present. You have had more time than the Justices and the Attorney General have had to look at your case. Therefore, you should know it very well.