

Kate O'Regan Intervarsity Moot Competition Rules

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(Faculty of Law)



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Kate O'Regan Intervarsity Moot Competition Rules

1. General

- 1.1. The Kate O'Regan Intervarsity Moot Competition (the 'Competition') is an annual event organised by the UCT Law Faculty's Moot Committee ('the organisers') in collaboration with the UCT Moot Society and the Centre for Law and Society.
- 1.2. In 2026 the Competition will be held in person on Saturday, 5 September at the Wilfred and Jules Kramer Law Building at the University of Cape Town, or such other locations indicated by the event organisers.
- 1.3. The University of Cape Town's Law Faculty is the host of the Competition and will indicate, in an annual notice to other Law Faculties, any specific conditions relating to the Competition.
- 1.4. In addition to any specific conditions set out in the annual notice, the following general rules will apply to the Competition.

2. Eligibility

- 2.1. All South African law schools, faculties and departments based at public higher education institutions (a 'Law Faculty') are eligible to participate in this competition. Each eligible Law Faculty may enter up to two teams in the Competition.
- 2.2. A team must comprise of no more than two students registered at the relevant Law Faculty, and currently reading a degree in one of the following (or equivalent): a Bachelor of Laws (LLB); a Bachelor of Arts or Social Science in Law (BA/BSocSci Law); or a Bachelor of Commerce in Law (BCom Law).
- 2.3. The following persons are not entitled to participate in the Competition: any graduate with a Bachelor of Laws degree (LLB or similar accredited degree such as a B Juris), any qualified legal practitioner, or any student who has previously participated in this Competition.



- 2.4. Each Law Faculty shall determine its own method, or process, of identifying the individuals to represent the relevant Law Faculty in the Competition.

3. Participation in the Competition

- 3.1. Participating universities must register their intention to participate in the competition by 24 April 2026. The registration form can be accessed [HERE](#).
- 3.2. The names of the individuals selected to represent their Law Faculty must be sent by the relevant Law Faculty on or before 30 June 2026 to Jemima.Thomas@uct.ac.za.
- 3.3. When submitting the names of the individuals to participate on behalf of a Law Faculty the following information must be included:
 - 3.3.1. the full names and student numbers of the participants;
 - 3.3.2. the full names and occupations of any person advising, coaching or assisting that will accompany the team(s); and
 - 3.3.3. the email addresses of the above-named individuals.
- 3.4. Each team, after registering with the organisers of the Competition, will be issued with an anonymised team number which must be reflected on each set of the team's heads of argument and any other correspondence with the organisers.

4. Written Heads of Argument

- 4.1. The Competition is built around a single fact set which will be provided by the organisers. All moots, at all stages of the competition held at the University of Cape Town, will be based on this fact set.
- 4.2. Any questions or queries regarding the fact set must be sent to Jemima Thomas (pbl-cla@uct.ac.za) by 15 July 2026. Responses to queries raised will be issued by the organisers by 30 July 2026 to all participants to ensure all parties are on the same footing.
- 4.3. Each team must prepare a set of written heads of argument for both the position of the applicants and respondents in the Competition.



- 4.4. The two sets of heads of argument, in Microsoft word, must be emailed to Jemima Thomas (pbl-clis@uct.ac.za) on or before 3 August 2026.
- 4.5. Heads of argument may not be more than 4,000 (four thousand) words in total length (excluding the cover page, contents page and footnotes).
- 4.6. The heads of argument must not contain the names of the participants, the Law Faculty they represent or any other signifier of the identity of the team members. The heads of argument, as with all other correspondence, should include the anonymised team number.
- 4.7. The heads of argument must comply with the following specifications:
 - 4.7.1. arial font size 12;
 - 4.7.2. normal margins and 1.5 line spacing to be applied;
 - 4.7.3. all text must be justified; and
 - 4.7.4. paragraphs are to be numbered.
- 4.8. The heads of argument must contain the following:
 - 4.8.1. a cover page;
 - 4.8.2. a synopsis of the argument of no more than 250 (two hundred and fifty) words;
 - 4.8.3. the prayer or remedy sought; and
 - 4.8.4. all authorities relied upon by the team (to be included as footnotes accompanying the relevant portion of the argument).

5. Moot Hearings

- 5.1. The organisers of the Competition will determine the pairings and allocations of teams.
- 5.2. The organisers reserve the right to modify pairings and may determine that a team is to argue a particular round on an *ex parte* basis, in the interest of the competition.



- 5.3. Any changes to the pairings will be communicated to the relevant teams, with reasonable notice, by email.
- 5.4. The total collective time for oral arguments per team is 25 minutes per moot. In addition, the team acting as the applicants will have the option of a collective time of 5 minutes for rebuttal.
- 5.5. Each member within a team should make oral arguments for at least 10 minutes per moot, but the use of the total collective time by a team is left to its discretion.
- 5.6. A team is not restricted in its oral argument to the scope of its written heads of argument.
- 5.7. A team, when acting as the applicant in the moot, is, however, restricted in its rebuttal to addressing the respondent's oral arguments in that moot.

6. Absent teams

If a team does not arrive for a moot to which they have been allocated by the organisers within 10 minutes of its scheduled start, such a team will be immediately disqualified from the Competition.

7. Prohibited activities subject to elimination

- 7.1. No member of a team, including any person coaching such team, may attend another team's moot unless they are scheduled to compete against that team.
- 7.2. The only exception to the above rule is the final moot to which all teams may attend.
- 7.3. All rounds will be generally open to the public, but oral and video recordings are strictly prohibited unless prior approval in writing is received from the organisers of the Competition.
- 7.4. No oral or written communication may take place between a team and their respective coaches or supporters during a round.
- 7.5. No team should leave the moot court room once a round has commenced until the proceedings in that round are finished.



8. Scoring of Moots

The organisers, together with the appointed moot judges, will determine a general scoring rubric for oral submissions which will be sent to all participants by 24 August 2026, by email.

9. Language

All oral and written submissions must be in English.

10. Application of the rules

- 10.1. The organisers of the Competition are responsible for interpreting and applying the rules.
- 10.2. The organisers reserve the right to change any rules to the Competition subject to all participants being notified of such changes before they come into effect.
- 10.3. Any participant seeking to submit a complaint regarding any other participant should do so timeously to Jemima.Thomas@uct.ac.za.
- 10.4. The organisers reserve the right to penalise (either with the loss of points or time) or to disqualify a team in the event of:
 - 10.4.1. frivolous complaints;
 - 10.4.2. dishonesty; or
 - 10.4.3. inappropriate conduct contrary to the spirit and object of the Competition.