

2027 WIPO IP Moot Court Competition

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Preface

The WIPO IP Moot Court Competition is organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), as part of its [Intellectual Property and Youth Empowerment Strategy \(IP-YES!\)](#).

The WIPO IP Moot Court Competition aims to inspire wider engagement in intellectual property (IP) law through experiential learning. It provides students with a valuable opportunity to develop their knowledge of complex IP issues, while also cultivating written and oral advocacy, critical analysis, legal reasoning, and professionalism. The competition is designed to simulate real-world dispute resolution, equipping emerging legal professionals with substantive and procedural expertise relevant to international IP practice.

The 2027 WIPO IP Moot Court Competition is the third edition of the competition. These are the Official Rules (Rules) that govern the 2027 competition.

1. Organization of the Competition

1.1. WIPO Steering Committee

A Steering Committee (SC) shall be established for the Competition and shall comprise WIPO staff members drawn from relevant areas of the Organization.

The SC is responsible for the organization and administration of the competition, including:

- Setting these Rules and any other procedures for the conduct of the competition;
- Determining the competition timeline;
- Resolving any questions or disputes and enforcing the Rules.

1.2. Official Rules

These Rules have been developed for the 2027 WIPO IP Moot Court Competition. They may be revised for future editions of the competition.

The SC has the sole discretion to interpret and apply these Rules and to assess any penalties or disqualification arising from non-compliance. The SC may clarify or amend these Rules during the course of the competition. Any changes will be communicated to all teams and become effective immediately.

Any questions regarding the Rules should be addressed to the SC via email to ipmoot@wipo.int. During the final oral rounds, questions can be addressed to the SC in person. The decisions of the SC are final and not subject to appeal.

The SC may, at its sole discretion, disqualify a team if it determines that there has been a violation of the Rules, or that a team has engaged in behavior that is contrary to the spirit of the competition.

1.3. Structure and timeline

The competition consists of three stages: 1) submission of memorials; 2) virtual oral rounds; and 3) final in-person oral rounds.

All teams selected to participate in the competition will have an opportunity to participate in the submission of memorials and in the virtual oral rounds.

The top eight teams, calculated on the basis of a combined score of memorials and virtual oral rounds, will qualify to advance to the final, in-person oral rounds.

The competition will be conducted in accordance with the timeline published on the WIPO website. The SC has the discretion to amend the timeline for operational reasons. Competing teams will be notified promptly of any change in the competition schedule.

All deadlines are given in Geneva time (Central European Time CET)

1.4. Language

The competition will be conducted entirely in English. This condition applies throughout the entire process, including the application, memorials, and the virtual and in-person oral rounds.

1.5. Disputes

The SC has the sole authority to resolve any dispute that may arise at any point during the competition. All objections must be submitted to the SC in writing at ipmoot@wipo.int, and to the extent possible, be put on the record at the commencement of oral argument. If an objection arises during the course of an oral argument, the objection must also be submitted to the SC in writing immediately following the round in which the objection arose.

2. Participation and eligibility

2.1. University authorization and selection

To be eligible, teams must be authorized by their university, as documented in the registration form. Authorization by the university authority (e.g. Dean of Law or other appropriate faculty representative) attests to the fact that both team members are enrolled students at the time they applied to participate in the competition and also fulfil the eligibility criteria stated below.

Up to two teams from the same university may apply. Each university bears responsibility for any selection of teams required. Each university may determine its own criteria for selection, which can be made with or without the conduct of a competition at the university level.

Exceptionally, for the purpose of the 2027 competition, more than two applications from the same university will be accepted. In such cases, all the applications will be scored on the same basis, and up to two teams from the same university may be selected to proceed to the written round.

2.2. Student eligibility

The competition is open to students who, at the time of application:

- 35 years and under
- Are enrolled full-time or part-time in a law program (i.e. a course leading to the grant of a legal degree); and

- Have not previously completed their law degree, nor been admitted to practice in any jurisdiction.

As a result, students who have completed their coursework but have not yet graduated or have not been admitted to practice at the time of application are eligible.

Past winners of the WIPO IP Moot Court Competition are not eligible to participate in any of its subsequent editions.

2.3. Team composition

Each team must be composed of two students. The team may also include a coach.

The team members must be enrolled at the same university.

Any changes to the team composition after application require the SC's written approval.

2.4. Role of the coach

The coach must be either another student enrolled at the same university, or a member of the faculty of the same university.

Coaches may provide general guidance only. Coaches are not permitted to make any substantive contribution to the preparation of memorials or oral rounds.

2.5. Outside assistance

Teams must rely on their own research, writing and originality of thought in drafting their memorials and preparing for oral arguments, without assistance from anyone who is not a student member of the team ("outside assistance").

For example, team members must not:

- Receive any assistance in the writing, editing or review of their memorials;
- Discuss the facts of the problem, specific issues arising, or potential arguments with any other person, other than discussing general issues in IP law;
- Exchange or review the memorials of any other team;
- Receive review of their memorials from any person (including the coach) prior to the submission deadline.

3. Application and selection

3.1. Applications

To apply to participate in the competition, teams must submit the following:

- an online application form available on WIPO website;
- A declaration form, including the signature of the Dean of the Students or Faculty Representative; and

- a pre-recorded video argument.

Full instructions for submission, as well as the requirements for the video argument, are published in the Application Guidelines available on the WIPO website.

Only complete applications will be considered.

3.2. Selection

The SC will review all applications on the basis of criteria set out in the Application Guidelines.

The SC has the sole discretion to determine the overall number of teams that will be selected to participate in the competition in each edition.

4. Hypothetical scenario and clarifications

4.1. The scenario

The hypothetical scenario and its accompanying materials are prepared by WIPO. The scenario is entirely fictional in nature and is intended to be purely instructional.

The scenario will be published after the announcement of the teams selected for the written round and will be made available to those selected teams by email.

Participants and law schools may not use the scenario or its accompanying materials for any purpose other than the official competition without prior written permission from the SC. Permission for educational use will not be unreasonably withheld. Authorship must always be attributed. Commercial use is prohibited.

4.2. Clarifications

Each team may submit up to two written requests for clarification on any aspect of the scenario, in accordance with the established competition timeline. Each request for clarification must include a short explanation of the expected significance of the clarification.

The SC will provide a written response to all requests within the official timeline. All clarifications will be shared equally with all teams and will become part of the scenario.

5. Memorials

5.1. Submission

Each team must submit two memorials—one on behalf of the Applicant and one on behalf of the Respondent.

To ensure anonymity, the SC will assign each team a neutral identifier and communicate the link for uploading of the memorials, in advance of the deadline.

To be valid, each document must be named using the following naming convention:
[Team identifier]_[Applicant/Respondent].

Memorials must not contain any identifying information, such as the name of any of the team members, their university or country. Teams must also remove any identifying information from the metadata attached to their documents.

No amendments to the Memorials will be permitted after submission.

Any team that does not submit both memorials before the deadline will be disqualified from participating in the subsequent stages of the competition.

5.2. Requirements for memorials

Each memorial must contain the following parts, in the order shown:

- Cover Page, indicating 1) the team identifier, 2) the title as “Memorial for the Applicant” or “Memorial for the Respondent” and 3) the word count;
- Table of contents;
- Index of authorities, including all legal authorities cited in any part of the memorial, and indicating the page number(s) on which it those citations appear;
- Summary of facts, limited to the facts and necessary inferences from the scenario. This section may not include any unsupported statements, argumentation or conclusions;
- Summary of arguments, providing a substantive overview;
- Arguments; and
- Conclusion.

In addition, the submission must be accompanied by a completed Plagiarism and AI Use Declaration, signed by both student members of the team. This document will be provided to teams in advance of the submission deadline.

5.3. Formatting, word count and citations

All parts of each memorial must be contained in a single file, in Microsoft Word format with a .doc or .docx file extension.

All text other than the cover page, table of contents and index of authorities must be formatted to include at least 1.5 spacing between lines, and with document margins of at least 2.5 cm on all sides. The font used must be Times New Roman 12-pt, except for the footnotes, which may be in Times New Roman 11-pt.

Each memorial must be limited to a maximum of 3,000 words, including all headings and footnotes, but excluding the cover page, table of contents and index of authorities. The word count must be stated on the cover page. The word count must not be manipulated by any means.

Memorials that exceed the word limit will be subject to a penalty. Footnotes must be used to identify the source of statements or propositions made in the body of the Memorial. Footnotes must be included in the word count. Footnotes should be in 11-pt font size or larger.

Teams may use any official format for providing citations. However, teams must keep in mind that all citations, whether used either in footnotes or in the index of authorities, must allow a reasonable reader to identify and locate the authority. Full citations must be provided the first time that a source is cited in the footnotes, and short forms can be used for following instances.

5.4. Plagiarism

Teams must provide proper attribution for any work that is not their own work. Any form of plagiarism will result in penalization or disqualification.

5.5. Permitted uses of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools may be employed in strictly limited and transparent ways that support, but do not replace, the intellectual labor of the participants. These tools may only be used for auxiliary or administrative tasks that assist with comprehension, research efficiency, and language clarity, provided that they do not influence the substance, structure, or authorship of the memorials or oral arguments.

For example, AI tools may be used for:

- Locating relevant sources;
- Translating materials for research;
- Generating high-level briefings on relevant topics for internal understanding only (i.e. not to be submitted as part of the memorials); and
- Proofreading grammar or syntax.

5.6. Prohibited uses of AI

To ensure that all written and oral submissions reflect the independent reasoning, analytical ability, and advocacy skill of the participants themselves, any use of AI that influences, alters, or generates substantive content, or that interferes with the fairness or confidentiality of the Competition, is expressly forbidden.

Such uses include:

- Use of AI-generated text in memorials;
- Use of AI to draft, edit, or restructure arguments;
- Training AI using WIPO materials;

- Using AI models trained on prior moot problems.

6. Virtual oral rounds

6.1. Qualification

All teams that satisfy the requirements for submission of memorials qualify to participate in the virtual oral rounds.

6.2. Format

The virtual oral rounds will be conducted via Zoom. Each team will argue at least twice during the virtual online round—at least once as the Applicant and at least once as the Respondent.

All teams will compete in the same number of moots. However, whether this is two or three moots will be determined after the submission of memorials and communicated to all teams.

6.3. Schedule

The virtual oral rounds will be organized in the most equitable way possible in light of the distribution of qualifying teams across geographic regions. The SC will make its best efforts to accommodate the differences in time zones among teams but cannot guarantee that all moots will be held during local working hours.

Further details and the full schedule for the virtual oral rounds will be disseminated to all teams in advance.

All teams are expected to inform their respective faculties of their participation in the Competition and to make the necessary arrangements to avoid conflicts between Competition commitments and their regular academic obligations, including examinations, presentations, classes, or other university requirements. Teams are responsible for ensuring their availability in accordance with the published Competition schedule and are expected to adhere to all scheduled fixtures. Academic or institutional scheduling conflicts will not constitute grounds for altering or disrupting the Competition timetable.

6.4. Speaking time

Each team is allocated a fixed speaking time of 30 minutes in the virtual oral rounds.

Speakers must not be interrupted during their submissions, except where a judge interjects to ask a question.

The total speaking time should be divided between the two oralists in a reasonably equitable manner.

The Applicant has the right to make a rebuttal. However, the Applicant must state this intention at the outset of the moot and must reserve no longer than five minutes for rebuttal. This reserved time for rebuttal will be subtracted from the Applicant's total speaking time of 30 minutes.

The speaking order will be as follows:

- Applicant – 30 minutes (minus up to 5 minutes reserved for rebuttal)
- Respondent – 30 minutes
- Applicant's rebuttal – up to 5 minutes, as reserved

The presiding judge for each moot may, in their discretion, allow an extension of time as they deem fit. The presiding judge will endeavor to treat both sides consistently.

6.5. Questions from the panel of judges

Judges may intervene at any stage of a team's presentation to ask questions or direct the speaker to a specific part of the argumentation. For example, judges may ask questions that:

- Test the depth of a participant's understanding of the legal issues;
- Clarify points of law or fact raised in the oral argument;
- Challenge assumptions, interpretations, or conclusions;
- Explore alternative reasoning that may not have been addressed; or
- Encourage the participant to refine, narrow, or expand their submissions.

6.6. Evaluation and scoring

Each member of the panel of judges must score each oralist of each team for that specific performance. A detailed scoresheet, outlining the criteria for evaluation, will be communicated to all teams in advance of the virtual oral round.

Each team will receive a total score for the virtual oral rounds, combining their scores for each moot.

Scores may be normalized where a judge's scoring pattern deviates substantially from that of the other judges. The purpose of this adjustment is to limit the influence of statistical outliers arising from unusually high or low scoring patterns, while preserving the relative assessment made by each judge and ensuring greater fairness and comparability across competitors and rounds.

7. Final in-person oral rounds

7.1. Qualification

The **eight** teams with the highest combined scores across **both** the memorials and the virtual oral rounds will qualify to participate in the final oral rounds.

The announcement of qualifying teams will be made within a reasonable time period after the conclusion of the virtual oral rounds, to allow the SC to receive all scoresheets and to determine the overall rankings.

All qualifying teams must have valid passports and obtain any visas required to travel to Geneva for the final rounds. Teams are responsible for applying for their visas in a timely manner. WIPO will provide the necessary supporting documents and cover the required visa fees. Participants are responsible for any other costs related to obtaining a visa.

7.2. Format

The final oral rounds will be held in person at WIPO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, over three days, culminating in a grand final on the third day. The dates for the final oral rounds are established in the competition timeline.

The procedures for the final oral rounds, e.g. speaking time, questions from the panel of judges, and evaluation criteria, will be the same as for the virtual oral rounds. The only exception is the speaking time. For the in-person final rounds, each team will be allotted 40 minutes to speak.

7.3. Scoring in the final in-person oral rounds

For the final oral rounds in Geneva, teams will be ranked only on the basis of their performance in these rounds (i.e. their scores from the memorials and virtual oral rounds will no longer be considered). The final rounds will consist of the quarter-final round (eight teams), the semi-final round (four teams), and the grand final round (two teams).

The **Best** Oralist score shall be based solely on a speaker's performance in the final rounds.

Scores may be normalized where a judge's scoring pattern deviates substantially from that of the other judges. The purpose of this adjustment is to limit the influence of statistical outliers arising from unusually high or low scoring patterns, while preserving the relative assessment made by each judge and ensuring greater fairness and comparability across competitors and rounds, as in the virtual oral rounds.

The eight teams participating in the final rounds shall each compete twice in the **quarter final round**, pleading once as **Applicant** and once as **Respondent**.

For each quarter-final round moot, the scores of the two team members shall be added together to determine the team's score. The team's scores from its two quarter-final round moots shall then be added together to determine its cumulative quarter-final score.

The teams shall be ranked by their cumulative quarter-final scores. The four highest-ranked teams shall advance to the semi-final round.

The semi-final round shall follow a **power-pairing system**, as follows:

- the **first-ranked qualifier** shall compete against the **fourth-ranked qualifier**; and
- the **second-ranked qualifier** shall compete against the **third-ranked qualifier**.

The allocation of Applicant and Respondent sides in each moot of the semi-final round shall be determined by the drawing of lots by representatives of the competing teams.

Each semi-final round moot shall be a head-to-head elimination round with the two winning teams advancing grand final round.

The winner of the grand final shall be declared the Champion of the 2027 WIPO IP Moot Court Competition.

The two teams that do not qualify for the final from the semi-final round shall be considered for the Third Place (Second Runner-up) Award. Third place shall be determined on the basis of points, with the higher-scoring of the two teams ranked third in the Competition.

The full schedule and details of how teams will progress through the final oral rounds will be disseminated to all teams in advance.

7.4. Awards

Following the grand final, the following awards will be presented:

1. Winner – to the team with the highest score in the grand final;
2. Runner-Up – to the non-winning team in the grand final;
3. Best Memorials – to the team with the overall highest score for both memorials;
4. Runner-Up and 2nd Runner-Up Memorials – to the teams with the second- and third-highest overall scores for both memorials;
5. Best Oralist – to the individual oralist with the highest combined score across all moots in the final rounds;
6. Runner-Up and 2nd Runner-Up Oralist – to the individual oralists with the second- and third-highest combined score across all moots in the final rounds.

Official Rules released by the 2027 WIPO Steering Committee