Supreme Court Moot Policy

General Terms and Conditions

1. We are offering 12 free slots for graduate law schools and university law societies to have the final round of their internal mooting competition be judged by one of the Justices at the UK Supreme Court.
2. The moot finals will take place at the Supreme Court or online between February and May 2027.

Applications

3. We are only able to accept one application per law school/society.
4. Priority will primarily be given to graduate law schools, undergraduate groups/law societies that have not hosted a moot final at the Supreme Court before, followed by those who have not hosted a moot here within the last two years.
5. We welcome applications from across the UK and encourage institutions from Wales, Northern Ireland, and Scotland to apply.
6. Please note that we are unable to accept applications from institutions that do not teach law.
7. Following submission of your application, an Information Officer from the Supreme Court may contact you over the telephone or on Microsoft Teams to discuss your application in more detail. We will give you advance warning if we plan to telephone you at a mutually convenient time.
8. Please ensure that the Master or Mistress of the Moot has a deputy who we can contact should we not be able to get hold of the main contact point.
9. Law schools/societies will be allocated a two-hour time slot (between 5pm and 7pm Monday to Thursday) in which to hold their moot final. If a moot finishes after 7pm, the cost of covering extra security arrangements will be passed on to the institution/society.
10. Only one moot final per time slot is allowed – this means only 4 students should take part in the moot (two appellants and two respondents).
11. This is an opportunity primarily for students - our aim is to inspire the next generation of legal professionals. We request that you do not allow qualified lawyers (even if they are studying at the university) to take part in the moot finals.
12. Applicants must ensure they are able to commit to participating and attending the moot final. Those who pull out at short notice jeopardise the chance of their institution/society being successful in future years. If

you are in any doubt that you will be able to commit to this requirement, please do not submit an application form as it is unfair for unsuccessful applicants.

13. As the moot programme forms part of the Court's education and outreach initiatives, we ask that the moot finals are not explicitly branded or marketed. This means that no banners or visual branding should be on display in or outside the courtroom (although it is acceptable to produce medals and literature with the sponsor's names on).

Judges

14. The moot final will be judged by a Supreme Court Justice, allocated by the Education and Outreach team. We are unable to accept requests from law schools/societies for a particular Justice.
15. The allocated Justice will be the only judge of the moot final. Law schools/societies may not bring their own supplementary judges to the Court. The Justice's Judicial Assistant may join their Justice on the bench.
16. Successful applicants will be allowed to invite Academic staff, non-competing students, and students to the Moot Final.
17. Given the commitment the Supreme Court Justices are making to this programme, requests for a Justice to judge moots held at the Supreme Court outside of the 12 free slots cannot be met. To avoid embarrassment, we would ask institutions to refrain from asking Justices to judge such moots being held at the Court.

Rules and Deadlines

18. The Supreme Court will offer a bank of various moot problems. Successful applicants will have the choice of using one of the Court's moot problems or preparing their own moot problem for the moot final.
19. If law schools/societies would prefer to draft their own moot problem then they must ensure their moot problem revolves around an arguable point of law of general public importance, reflecting genuine Supreme Court cases.
20. In addition, each team will be limited to referring to 4 authorities (for example, 2 for leading counsel and 2 for junior counsel).
21. In order to ensure a high standard and legally accurate moot, we would recommend that the moot problem is checked over by a law professor or faculty member of the law school before it is submitted to the Supreme Court. If there are any significant legal inaccuracies or errors, the Supreme

Court reserves the right to suggest that amendments be made to the moot problem before it is submitted to the Justice.

22. Moot problems must be submitted electronically **one month** before the date of the moot final.
23. Skeleton arguments and bundles must be submitted electronically **one week** before the moot final.
24. Two paginated skeleton arguments must be provided - one for the appellant and one for the respondent.
25. One agreed bundle of authorities duly paginated should be provided and in the interests of size and conciseness, authorities should be limited to 4 for each team. **We are happy to provide an example of a skeleton argument and bundle from a previous moot, upon request.**
26. In addition to bundles being submitted electronically, parties must bring a physical copy of their bundle to the moot final for the benefit of the Justice. It may be necessary to provide an extra set of skeleton arguments and bundles for an attending Judicial Assistant. We will notify you of this in advance, if applicable.
27. There will be no exceptions to the deadlines stated above. In keeping with civil courts procedure, we expect deadlines to be strictly adhered to and we reserve the right to cancel the moot final if material is not submitted in time.

Timings

28. We recommend that Senior Counsel are given 20 minutes and Junior Counsel are given 15 minutes to make their oral submissions, so that students can get the most out of their experience at the Supreme Court. However, we do appreciate that each law school/society has different rules regarding timings and so alternative timings may be permitted at the discretion of the Supreme Court.
29. Successful applicants must bring their own timing clerk on the day and discreet time prompts will be permitted for the benefit of students.
30. Law schools/societies are responsible for managing the timing for the moot and to ensure that the event finishes on time. This includes bringing your own equipment to time the moots and ensuring that all necessary batteries are fully charged to last the entirety of the moot final.
31. We request that during the moots, the clock is not stopped for intervention or interruptions, as this makes the moot a more realistic and worthwhile experience for the participants.

Results

32. Supreme Court Justices will not use institution's marking sheets when judging the moot finals.
33. The Justice will choose a team and/or individual moot winner (please notify the Information Officer of your preference in advance). The Justice can provide oral feedback on individual participants but should not be asked to rank the students by level of individual performance.

Unsuccessful applicants

34. If you are unsuccessful in your application but are still interested in holding your moot final at the UK Supreme Court, you can hire the court as a venue. Please see the Venue hire at the UK Supreme Court - UK Supreme Court for more information.