



ANU LAW
STUDENTS'
SOCIETY

Client Interview Competition Rules 2010

1. TEAMS

- 1.1 Each team *must* consist of 2 members.
- 1.2 All team members must be members of the Law Students Society of the Australian National University.
- 1.3 Teams must register by the registration date as set by the competition convenor.
- 1.4 The order of competition will be set randomly by the competition convenor.

2. CLIENTS

- 2.1 Each client is supplied with a packet containing the Rules, the consultation situation, and a detailed confidential memorandum concerning the client's background and concerns.
- 2.2 Clients should give feedback to judges after each interview, outlining their level of confidence in the team's handling of their situation and any other relevant comments.

3. PREPARATION AND RESEARCH

- 3.1 Teams must not discuss the contents of the situation with any other person in preparing for the competition.
- 3.2 Competitors will not be permitted to use mobile phones during the preparation or the judging of the round. Any mobile phone carried by a competitor must be switched off throughout the preparation and judging of the round.
- 3.3 Any infringement will result in automatic disqualification.

4. THE INTERVIEWS

- 4.1 Sessions will be 45 minutes long.
 - 4.1.1 No person may attempt to communicate in any way with any of the participants during a round, from the beginning of the participants' interview session to the completion of the final judge's critique.
- 4.2 The first 30 minutes are devoted to a consultation with the client during which students are expected to elicit the relevant information, outline the problem, and propose a solution or other means of resolving the problem.
- 4.3 The teams will have a 15 minute post-consultation period, when students may confer privately and then make a presentation to the judges. During that period, the students may directly address the judges, or talk to each other loudly enough

to be overheard by them. The post consultation performance may summarise the interview, indicate the scope of the legal work to be undertaken, and state the legal issues that should be researched. Explanation of the position or attitude taken by the attorneys may be useful. Judges may ask questions during this time.

- 4.4 Team members are free to decide how they will divide their work, but both students must interview the client as a team and their plan is subject to judging. The students may wish during their post consultation explanation to explain to the judges why they worked together in the way that they did.
- 4.5 During the interview and post-consultation, the team may use books, notes, and other materials.
- 4.6 The discussion of fees is an integral part of any first consultation between an attorney and a client. The fee schedule applicable to all teams is that the first consultation is free and any consultations after that will be charged according to the Law Society's Schedule of Fees. For the purposes of the competition that Schedule provides for a fee of \$200 per hour. The participants may discuss fees at any appropriate point in the consultation but their decision is subject to evaluation by the judges.
- 4.7 Time limits are as follows:

Consultation with client	30 minutes
Judge Consult with Client	5 minutes
Post Consultation	15 minutes
Critique	10 minutes

5. JUDGING

- 5.1 Number of Judges
 - 5.1.1 Each round of client interview will be judged by between one and three judges.
- 5.2 Qualification and Selection of Judges
 - 5.2.1 Judges will be judges, magistrates, legal practitioners, legal academics or others with a demonstrated experience in competing in and/or judging client interview competitions.

- 5.3 All judges will be supplied with a copy of the consultation situation for the round they will be judging, a copy of the Rules, and a detailed confidential memorandum about the client's background and concern.
- 5.4 At the conclusion of the 30 minute session judges must ask the interviewers to leave the room and the judge must consult with the client for up to 5 minutes. The judges should then permit interviewers 15 minutes of post consultation review, and then provide the team with a critique of the team's handling of the consultation and post consultation periods. The critique should last no more than 10 minutes.
- 5.5 Judges should stop competitors after 45 minutes regardless of where they are in the interview or post consultation process.
- 5.6 Clients should not be present during the post consultation period or the critique.
- 5.5 Each judge will award each team a mark out of 100. These marks will be allocated as follows:
- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Organisation of Presentation | 10 Marks |
| Written Submissions | 10 Marks |
| Development of Argument | 25 Marks |
| Questions from the Bench | 30 Marks |
| Speaking ability and delivery | 25 Marks |
| Total 100 Marks | |
- 5.6 Judges must award each team with a different total score; no draws are possible.
- 5.6 Return & Revelation of Scores
- 5.6.1 At the conclusion of a round, the judges will reveal to the competitors before them which team has won and also their respective scores.
- 5.6.2 Each team's score will be submitted to the Director of Competitions or a person nominated by them.
- 5.6.3 At the conclusion of the competition the Director of Competition or chosen representative will release a ranking of all teams in the competition.
- 5.7 Determining the winner where multiple judges
- 5.7.1 If there is a panel of judges judging the round, the winning team is the team which was the superior team in the opinion of the majority of judges, irrespective of the result derived from the aggregate of the teams' scores.

Example

	Team A score	Team B score	Winner in judge's opinion
Judge 1	50	48	Team A
Judge 2	50	48	Team A
Judge 3	45	50	Team B
TOTAL	145	146	Team A

The winner of the example round is Team A.

6. APPEALS

- 6.1 Appeals must be addressed by the Director of Competitions in accordance with a published appeals procedure.
- 6.2 A decision of the Director of Competitions may be appealed the LSS President.
 - 6.2.1 A decision of the LSS President will be final.
- 6.3 An appeal must be in writing, and must be the unanimous decision of the team.

7. FORFEITURE

- 7.1 Any team which forfeits a round will be deemed to have lost that round. Counsel for the forfeiting team will be deemed to have a mark of zero for that round.
- 7.2 Any team whose opponent forfeits a round will be, insofar as is practicable, allocated another competitor for the round.
 - 10.2.1 In the event that this is not possible, the team will be deemed to have won that round. Counsel for the winning team will be deemed to have scored in that round the average mark scored by that team in the other rounds in which it competes.

8. SELECTION OF SEMI-FINALISTS

- 8.1 Selection will be determined firstly on win-loss ratio.
- 8.2 If win-loss ratio is the same, then regard may be had to whether the two teams with same ratio have competed directly with one another.
- 8.3 If win-loss ratio is the same, considering whether the two teams have competed directly, the decision shall be determined by the total points accrued by the competing teams.

Appendix 1: MARKING SHEET

Judge:

Date:

Student Lawyers:

1:

2:

5 = Highly Effective	4 = Effective	3 = Somewhat Effective
2 = Somewhat Ineffective	1 = Ineffective	

1. Working Atmosphere

Established effective relationship with client?

1 2 3 4 5

2. Description of the Problem

Learned how client views his or her situation and problems ?

1 2 3 4 5

3. Client's Goals and Expectations

Learned the client's initial goals and expectations?

1 2 3 4 5

4. Problem Analysis

Analysed the clients' problems?

1 2 3 4 5

5. Moral and Ethical Issues

Recognised and dealt with moral and ethical issues?

1 2 3 4 5

6. Alternative Courses of Action

Developed alternative solutions?

1 2 3 4 5

7. Client's Informed Choice.

Assisted Client in understanding and making informed choices among possible courses of action?

1 2 3 4 5

8. Effective Conclusion	Effectively concluded the interview				
1	2	3	4	5	
9. Teamwork.	Worked together as a team: balance of participation?				
1	2	3	4	5	
10. Post-Interview Reflection	Learned from their experience?				
1	2	3	4	5	

Please make any additional comments below:

NOTE TO JUDGES:

Please use the following as a guide for final scores:

Very Good	43- 50
Good	38 – 42
Above Average	33 – 37
Average	28 – 32
Below Average	23 – 27
Poor	18 – 22
Very Poor	10 - 17

When deciding on the scores, please take the following into account:

- Identification of client’s issues;
- Identification of clients goals;
- Speaking ability;
- Teamwork ability;
- Following of time limits;
- Ability to come to a suitable outcome; and
- Any other factors that you consider relevant.