LASKIN

CONCOURS DE PLAIDORIE | MOOT COURT COMPETITION

RULES 2027

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1. GENERAL

1.01 Overview

The Laskin is an annual national bilingual moot court competition in Canadian administrative and constitutional law, named in memory of the late Chief Justice of Canada, Bora Laskin.

The Laskin is managed by Concours Laskin Moot, a not-for-profit corporation. The Laskin is administered by volunteers (the **Administrators**) who will apply these rules and vary them as necessary to ensure that the competition proceeds fairly.

2. PARTICIPANTS

2.01 Teams

Each participating law faculty (a **School**) sends four students who will make oral submissions (**Mooters**). Mooters must be enrolled in an LL.B., J.D., B.C.L. or LL.L. program at the School.

In appearances against opposing Schools (**Matches**), two Mooters (a **Pair**) will make submissions on behalf of the appellant and two on behalf of the respondent.

Schools may also send coaches and student researchers.

2.02 Language

Each Mooter will make submissions in one language only, either English or French. Each School must have at least one Mooter who makes submissions in English and at least one who makes submissions in French.

2.03 Accommodation

All participants (including those who live or attend law school in the host city) must stay at the hotel that the Administrators designate.

2.04 Outside Assistance

Coaches, faculty members and others may discuss with Mooters in general terms the issues raised in the problem, suggest research sources and provide instruction relating generally to advocacy techniques and the preparation of persuasive oral and written submissions. Beyond this, no one other than the Mooters and any student researcher may take part in the preparation or presentation of any aspect of a School's written or oral submissions.

2.05 Privacy

Each participant agrees that information regarding their participation in the Laskin, including their name, School affiliation, written materials, results, photographs, and video and audio recordings, may be published, including on the Laskin's website.

3. REGISTRATION

3.01 General

By November 27, 2026, each Mooter, researcher and coach must register in accordance with instructions sent to all Schools.

The Administrators will assign a random number to each School, to preserve the School's anonymity. Until the competition is over, no one may disclose to a judge a School's name, a School's geographic location, or a participant's School affiliation.

3.02 Mooters – Updated Registration

By January 6, 2027, each Mooter must update their initial registration to indicate whether they will represent the appellant or respondent, and whether they will be the first or second member of the Pair to make oral submissions. Mooters must use the link in the confirmation email they receive after their initial registration.

Any later request to change the order of presentation must be made by email to admin@laskin.ca. The Administrators may allow a change requested on or before February 5, 2027, taking account of any effect on simultaneous interpretation. No changes will be allowed after that date.

3.03 Fee

By January 21, 2027, each participating School must pay a registration fee of:

(i) $1,100, which covers four students and one coach attending the competition, plus

(ii) $200 for each additional student or coach attending the competition.

The Administrators will issue an invoice showing available methods of payment.

4. PROBLEM

4.01 Content

The competition uses a fictional problem that concerns a subject of timely interest within the jurisdiction of the Federal Court. The problem is in both English and French. Both versions are equally authoritative.

4.02 Jurisdiction of the Court

The competition consists of an appeal to the Canadian Court of Justice, a fictional court established to hear appeals from the Federal Court of Appeal. No decision of any court, including the Supreme Court of Canada, is binding on the Canadian Court of Justice.

4.03 Clarifications

By December 1, 2026, Schools may request clarification of points that are unclear in the problem. Schools must submit such requests by email to admin@laskin.ca and must briefly explain why each clarification is necessary.

The Administrators will answer requests for clarification selectively and will distribute any answers to all Schools.

5. FACTUMS

5.01 Style

Each School will prepare an appellant's factum and a respondent's factum.

Each page must have top and bottom margins of at least 2.5 cm and left and right margins of at least 3.5 cm.

Factums must use Times New Roman, Arial or Tahoma. All text other than footnotes must be in 12-point font. Footnotes must be in at least 10-point font. Kerning is allowed, but no other changes to character width or spacing may be used.

Each factum must be no more than 40 pages, excluding the cover page. All pages except the cover page must be numbered. Paragraphs must be numbered consecutively.

5.02 Contents

A factum will consist of:

Part	Details	Language	Max. # of pages	Spacing
Front cover	• Title of proceeding • Title of document (*e.g.*, "Factum of the Appellant") • School number (see rule 3.01). No identifying information about the School or its location.	English, French or both	n/a	n/a
I. Overview	Summary of issues and submissions	English, French or both	2	1
II. Facts	*Appellant:* Concise statement of facts *Respondent:* Respondent's position on the appellant's statement of facts, including any additional facts considered relevant, and, where appropriate, a reference to one of the two opposing factums, *e.g.*, "In School 9's appellant factum …")	English, French or both	n/a	1

Part	Details	Language	Max. # of pages	Spacing
III. Submissions	Legal submissions (The respondent factum may refer to one of the two opposing factums, *e.g.*, "Contrary to the submissions by School 9 …")	Each issue must be in the same language in which the Mooter will be presenting that issue orally in the Matches. Quotations can be in the language in which they appear in the cited source and need not be translated. Footnotes may be in English or French or both.	25	*Headings and footnotes*: 1 or 1.5 *Body text:* 2 *Space after headings:* 1 blank line *Quotations of more than 50 words:* 1, with additional left and right indentation of 1.3 cm
IV. Order sought	Concise statement of the desired order	English, French or both	n/a	1
Names of Mooters	Printed names of Mooters, in the order in which they will speak. No other identifying information, such as School name or city. Signatures permitted but not required.	English, French or both	n/a	1
Appendix	A list of authorities (including decisions, statutes, regulations, books and articles) referred to in the factum. Copies of authorities are not to be included.	English, French or both	n/a	1

5.03 Footnotes and Citations
Citations to cases or other authorities must be in the form of footnotes only (*i.e.,* neither in-line nor following the paragraph). Footnotes must consist of the actual citation only and must not include additional text.

Citations must accord with the current edition of the *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation* published by the *McGill Law Journal*. These rules prevail if there is a conflict.

Where possible, citations must be hyperlinked to a free online source (*e.g.*, CanLII but not Westlaw). The hyperlink must be included in the citation (*e.g.*, "*Canada (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration) v Vavilov*, 2019 SCC 65"), rather than appearing separately after it (*e.g.*, "*Canada (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration) v Vavilov*, 2019 SCC 65: https://www.canlii.org/en/ca/scc/doc/2019/2019scc65/2019scc65.html").

5.04 Submission
Schools must provide each factum electronically and on paper, as follows.

By 8:00 pm Eastern time on January 11, 2027, each School must submit its appellant factum in both Microsoft Word and PDF formats, in accordance with instructions to be sent by the Administrators.

By 8:00 pm Eastern time on January 25, 2027, each School must submit its respondent factum in both Microsoft Word and PDF formats, in accordance with instructions to be sent by the Administrators.

When checking in at the Laskin registration desk on February 18, 2027, each School must provide three paper copies of each of its factums. These copies must be on letter-size paper (216 mm × 279 mm), fastened by Cerlox or coil binding, with the printed pages on the right-hand side of the opened factum (one-sided printing). The appellant factum must have red cardboard front and back covers. The respondent factum must have blue cardboard front and back covers.

5.05 Delivery to Opposing Schools
The Administrators will email the PDF version of each factum to everyone registered on behalf of the two opposing Schools.

5.06 Complaints
Complaints about factums must be sent to admin@laskin.ca within three days of delivery by the Administrators to the Schools.

5.07 Assessment
Three factum judges will score each factum according to Appendix A to these rules.

5.08 Publication
The Mooters and any student researcher permit Concours Laskin Moot to publish their factum on the Laskin website.

6. MATCHES

6.01 General

Each Pair will participate in two Matches. Each School will appear twice as appellant and twice as respondent. The Administrators assign the Pairs to the Matches randomly, except that no School will meet any other School more than once.

Each Match will be judged by three judges.

Subject to rule 2.02 (language of presentation), any Mooter may make submissions in a Match, in the language of the corresponding portion of the factum (see rule 5.02, Part III). However, for a Pair to be eligible for the Final Matches, the same two Mooters must have pleaded together as a Pair in at least two Matches. For a Mooter to be eligible for an award under rule 8.03, the Mooter must have pleaded in at least two Matches.

6.02 Simultaneous Interpretation

When a Mooter registers for the Laskin, they will indicate whether they need interpretation to understand the oral submissions of an opposing Mooter who will be making oral submissions in the other language. A Mooter who requests interpretation and whose co-counsel will make oral submissions in the other language will not receive interpretation during their co-counsel's submissions (unless interpretation was already requested by an opponent in that Match, in which case the Mooter may also use the service).

All judges will hear submissions without the assistance of simultaneous interpretation. Judges will ask questions of a Mooter in the same language in which the Mooter is speaking.

6.03 Time

Each of the appellant and respondent Pairs will have a total of 40 minutes in which to present oral submissions. There will be no reply.

Before the Match begins, the volunteer clerk will ask each Pair how they want to allocate their time. Mooters may divide the 40 minutes as they see fit, subject to a maximum of 22 minutes for either Mooter.

Each Mooter will be limited to the allocated time. Time not used by one member of a Pair will not be transferred to the other member of that Pair. Judges are instructed to strictly enforce the time limits, although judges may in their discretion permit a Mooter to conclude briefly at the expiry of the allotted time.

6.04 Scope of Oral Submissions

The scope of a Mooter's oral submissions, including reference to any authorities, is not limited to the scope of the written submissions.

6.05 Dress Code

Mooters should wear business attire. Neither judges nor Mooters will wear robes.

6.06 Conduct During a Match

During a Match, the two members of a Pair may communicate with each other but with no one else.

Mooters should address judges as "Justice" or "Your Honour". Mooters may not submit any materials (including authorities) to the judges at any time.

Mooters may use electronic devices as a resource but not to record a Match.

6.07 Complaints

If a Mooter observes a rule violation during a Match and wishes to complain about it:

(a) if the violation can be adequately addressed after the Match, the Mooter must, within five minutes after the Match, advise an Administrator of the complaint; or

(b) if the violation warrants interruption of the Match, the Mooter should immediately advise the judges that a complaint is to be made. The Mooter must not disclose any further information regarding the nature of the complaint. In this case, the Match will pause while the Administrators address the complaint. Judges will not be involved in the adjudication of the complaint. Once the complaint has been addressed, the Match will resume.

6.08 End of Match

The Match ends once the last Mooter finishes making submissions. The judges will neither give a decision nor give any assessment (numerical or otherwise) of the Mooters' performance.

6.09 Assessment

Each judge will assign a score to each Mooter based solely on the Mooter's oral submissions, without consideration of the Mooter's factum, and in accordance with Appendix B to these rules.

6.10 Final Matches

Immediately following the Matches, two **Final Matches** will take place, both before the same panel of three judges.

One Final Match will feature the highest-ranking (based on total oral scores) appellant Pair against the second-highest-ranking respondent Pair. The other Final Match will feature the second-highest-ranking appellant Pair against the highest-ranking respondent Pair. If that would result in two Pairs from the same School appearing against each other, then the highest-ranking appellant Pair will meet the highest-ranking respondent Pair in one Final Match, and the second-highest-ranking appellant Pair will meet the second-highest-ranking respondent Pair in the other Final Match.

Where two or more Pairs are tied in total oral score, the Pair with the highest factum score will advance. If two or more Pairs are still tied, the Pair to advance will be determined by random selection.

In the Final Matches, each Mooter will have a maximum of 15 minutes for their oral submissions. There will be no reply.

No information about the four finalist Pairs' performance in the earlier Matches will be disclosed to the Final Match judges. The judges will rank the four finalist Pairs for the purpose of the awards referred to in rule 8.02.

7. PENALTIES

7.01 General

The Administrators may, on their own initiative or in response to a complaint, assess a penalty for any violation of the rules. Before assessing a penalty, the Administrators will ask the affected School or Mooter to respond.

7.02 Assessment

The Administrators will determine the number of penalty points, guided by the objective of maintaining the integrity of the competition and considering the following factors:

(a) the extent of any prejudice caused to other participants in the competition;

(b) the extent of any advantage gained because of the violation;

(c) whether the violation was intentional or inadvertent;

(d) whether the violation was beyond the control of the Schools or Mooters involved; and

(e) the extent of any inconvenience caused to the Administrators or other participants.

7.03 Factums

Penalty points assessed against a factum will be deducted from each factum judge's score for that factum.

7.04 Matches

Penalties assessed in relation to oral submissions may be either Pair penalties or individual Mooter penalties. In the case of Pair penalties, the penalty points will be deducted from the score awarded by each judge to each member of the Pair during the Match in which the violation occurred. In the case of individual Mooter penalties, the penalty points will be deducted from the score awarded by each judge to the penalized Mooter only.

8. AWARDS

8.01 Best Schools

Awards will be presented to the four best Schools, ranked by the total of all oral and factum scores. Neither the determination of the four finalist Pairs nor the results of the Final Matches will affect the determination of the best Schools.

8.02 Best Pairs

Awards will be presented to the four best Pairs as selected by the judges in the Final Matches.

8.03 Best Oralists

Awards will be presented to the four best Mooters, ranked by their total oral scores.

A Mooter must make submissions in at least two Matches to be eligible for an oralist award. If a Mooter participates in more than two Matches, the Mooter's first two Matches will be used for the calculation.

A Mooter's performance in a Final Match will not affect their score for the purposes of the best oralist awards.

8.04 Best Factums

Awards will be presented to the four Schools with the highest combined scores for their appellant and respondent factums.

8.05 Jane O'Neill Spirit of the Laskin Award

The Jane O'Neill Spirit of the Laskin Award will be presented to the School that best exemplifies the Laskin spirit of fair competition, commitment to bilingualism, and professional camaraderie.

The winning School will be selected by votes submitted by the other Schools. Each School must submit its vote for one other School, using a link that will have been provided, after the announcement of the finalists and before 4:30 pm local time on Saturday, February 20, 2027 (following the conclusion of the Final Matches). The submission must set out brief reasons for the submitting School's choice.

To be eligible to receive this award, a School must have submitted its vote in accordance with this rule.

APPENDIX A — SCORING CRITERIA FOR FACTUMS

Introduction and facts ● properly outlines the core issues ● clearly sets up the party's positions ● effectively presents a summary of the facts ● persuasively frames facts and inferences	10	Excellent: 9 - 10 Very good: 7 - 8 Good: 6 Fair: 5
Quality of legal submissions ● demonstrates thorough research ● effectively applies the law to the facts ● properly develops the submissions ● presents the submissions persuasively ● advances creative positions	50	Excellent: 45 - 50 Very good: 40 - 44 Good: 35 - 39 Fair: 30 - 34
Presentation ● uses a logical structure ● is clear and concise ● demonstrates correct grammar and punctuation ● focuses on the strongest submissions	30	Excellent: 27 - 30 Very good: 24 - 26 Good: 21 - 23 Fair: 18 - 20
Conclusion and remedies ● properly links submissions and conclusions ● has a persuasive conclusion ● seeks appropriate and effective remedies ● makes good use of authorities relating to remedies	10	Excellent: 9 - 10 Very good: 7 - 8 Good: 6 Fair: 5

APPENDIX B — SCORING CRITERIA FOR ORAL SUBMISSIONS

Knowledge and use of the law • states rules of law accurately and clearly • knows facts and holdings of relevant decisions • gives appropriate emphasis to authorities • skilfully applies the law to the facts of this case • distinguishes unfavourable authorities • uses the law persuasively	30	Excellent: 27 - 30 Very good: 24 - 26 Good: 21 - 23 Fair: 18 - 20
Response to questions • welcomes questions • answers questions directly • shows ingenuity in responding to questions • makes appropriate concessions • integrates answers into their submissions	25	Excellent: 23 - 25 Very good: 20 - 22 Good: 17 - 19 Fair: 15 - 16
Style and demeanour • speaks clearly • is appropriately formal and respectful of the judges and counsel • uses good posture and gestures • interacts with judges easily • maintains eye contact with judges • maintains composure	18	Excellent: 17 - 18 Very good: 15 - 16 Good: 13 - 14 Fair: 11 - 12
Knowledge and use of the facts • knows the facts of this case • interprets the facts fairly and accurately • uses the facts persuasively	15	Excellent: 14 - 15 Very good: 12 - 13 Good: 10 - 11 Fair: 9
Structure and time management • organizes submissions logically • deals appropriately with opposing submissions • allocates time appropriately to the issues • maintains a good tempo • adapts well to how active the judges are	12	Excellent: 11 - 12 Very good: 9 - 10 Good: 8 Fair: 7