

CORRS CHAMBERS WESTGARTH CLIENT INTERVIEW COMPETITION JUDGING GUIDELINES 2019



CORRS
CHAMBERS
WESTGARTH
lawyers

Structure of the Competition

1. Each team shall consist of two law students. The competition is run in a knockout fashion with four teams randomly allocated to compete against each other. Where possible the teams competing against each other will have the same judge and client for their round.
 - a. Teams will be given a score at the end of the competition, and only the top two teams out of four will go through to the next round.
 - b. On competition night a single judge will judge 4 teams throughout the evening. Teams who have competed under the same judge and client conditions will each be given a score, and the 2 top-scoring teams will move on to the next round of the competition.
2. Judges will be provided with a score sheet and the client's confidential memorandum, which shows the legal problems/facts to be identified in the interview.
3. Clients are provided with a confidential memorandum, which they are to memorise prior to the competition. Clients are volunteers and sourced by the LSS Competitions Officers for competition rounds. Clients must not reveal any information provided to them to any other person prior to the competition.
4. In the case of an uneven number of teams, one team will be randomly selected to have a bye and progress to the next round without competing.
5. Each team will interview the client for 15 minutes followed by a 5 minute briefing with the judge, and then 5 minutes for the judge's feedback.
6. The winning team is the team with the highest score compared to the other team in their round for that evening. The competition is scored out of 50. The marking sheet can be found online at the MULSS website.
7. The results of rounds will be announced by email the day following the completion of a round.
8. The decision of the Competitions Officer in relation the rules or execution of the competition will be final.

Instructions to Judges

1. Please arrive 15 minutes before your allocated interview. Competition officers will be at the LSS office (on level 2 of the Melbourne Law School) to meet you.
2. Judges will judge 2 or 4 teams in a night (With a time slot of either/both: 6.30-7.30pm and/or 7.30pm- 8.30pm). This depends on what has been arranged between the judge and the officers. Accordingly, please collect from the officers the corresponding amount of scoresheets before proceeding to your allocated room.
3. The interview is to last no more than twenty minutes per team (although is ideally meant to go for 15 minutes), followed by the post-consultation briefing of no more than 10 minutes per team. Thus each team shall be in the room for 30 minutes.
 - **A suggested breakdown would be:** 15 Minutes for the interview, 2 Minutes for the team members to briefly consult one another, 5 Minutes Judge/Partner debrief, and then 5 Minutes giving feedback to the team on their performance.
4. It is at the discretion of the judge as to how time limits may be enforced (i.e. knock once when there is 5 minutes left, knock twice when there is 1 minute left). Teams may also keep their own time (e.g. with phone on table) if you find this agreeable. Please discuss time keeping arrangements with the team before commencing the interview.
5. Although 15 minutes has been designated to interview the client, teams may conclude the interview before such time is up and will not be penalised for doing so. However, if a team exceeds the 15 minutes, judges are entitled to impose a penalty.
6. During the feedback stage, it is preferable that judges ask the team questions about the interview (using the scoresheet as a guide) followed by provision of thorough and helpful feedback so that teams may understand where to improve.
7. After feedback has concluded, please do not advise the teams of their score or who won the round. Please return your score sheets to the competition officers in the LSS office at the end of the night.