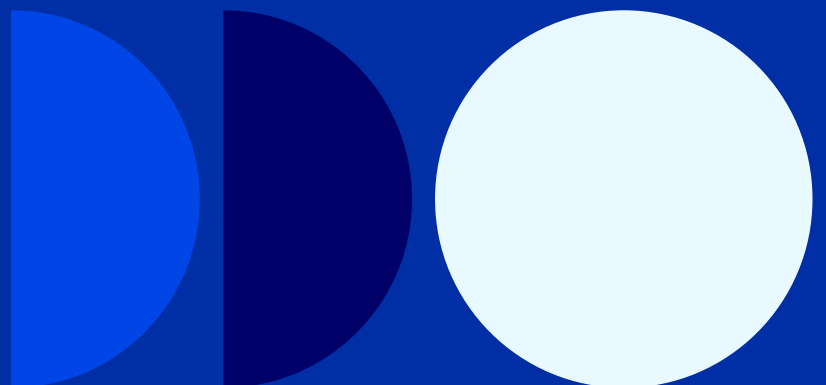


The Official Rules of the 2024 Comparative Law in Action Competition

These are the Rules for the 2024 Comparative Law in Action Competition. The rules of the Competition are reviewed annually and are, therefore, subject to change each year. Reliance on any past rules or practice will not be a valid excuse for the failure to comply with the Rules of the current competition.



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Introduction

I. The Comparative Law in Action Competition

a. The Comparative Law in Action Competition (the “Competition”) is an annual competition of Teams representing top law schools around the World. It is intended to challenge students to work on a multimedia case in a largely virtual environment. Mirroring the methods of tomorrow’s legal teams, students have to apply a comparative legal mindset to reach an innovative, all-encompassing solution.

b. The goal of the Competition is to foster collaboration and innovation among students towards providing a solution of a case that encompasses technology, law and policy.

c. As the Competition progresses, participants will be provided with new case facts and learning information extracts affecting the case, mimicking the dynamic reality of everyday life.

d. The Competition is designed with an educational purpose. While it has many facets of a competitive nature, its rules and procedures must be interpreted in line with this goal.

II. Organization of the Comparative Law in Action Competition

a. Organizer. The Competition is organized by “IE University – Law School” (“IE Law School or Organizer”). While the

organization of daily tasks involving the Competition will be carried by appointed staff members of IE Law School, all grading and judging responsibilities will be in charge of independent parties.

To ensure impartiality, all participating Teams will be given an identification number before the start of the Competition. Teams will identify their Memoranda with this number so they can be graded anonymously. Only the coach of each participating university and a member of IE Law School not responsible in any way for the grading of the written reports will know the ID number.

b. Teams. Teams are expected to participate in both the written and the oral phase of the Competition to receive a certificate of participation.

c. Venue. The Oral Rounds will be held in-person in Madrid, Spain, on May 10th-12th 2024. The Preliminary Rounds and Semifinals will take place on Saturday, May 11th. The Final will take place on Sunday, May 12th. Specific times assigned to each team will be decided as per Official Rule

e. Language. The Competition will be conducted in English.

Privacy and Data Regulation

The Competition makes it necessary to collect certain personal data for the functioning of the event. As per the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), IE Law

School will not disclose any personal data to third parties unless we obtain prior permission from the affected individuals. In case of any concerns or queries about the treatment of personal data, please contact your IE Law School person of contact.

Communications and Online Platform

I. All email communications must be sent to the Competition's official email account: comparativelawinaction@ie.edu. Email will be the main communication means with coaches when particular information concerning the Team needs to be communicated. This will also be the way for Team Members to contact the Organizer in case of particular concerns.

II. The online platform to be used for general information, rules, calendar, announcements, and submission of Memoranda, among others, will be Canvas. The link to access the online platform will be provided before the start of the Competition.

III. The Organizer will send an invitation email to all participants upon receipt of the list of Team Members in order to join the official online platform.

Registration

Registration in the Competition will be complete after the payment of the registration fee.

The registration fee for the 2024 Competition is **€900 (nine hundred Euros)**. The Registration fee must be paid by

January 19th, 2024 in order to participate in the Competition, unless express authorization has been granted by the Organizer to pay at a later date. Payment of the registration fee of **€900** can be made by bank transfer to the following account:

Account Holder: IE Universidad
Address: Avenida Partenón 10- MADRID (28042) España
Account N°: 01289407480100016272
International account number (IBAN): ES1401289407480100016272
International routing code (SWIFT): BKBKESMMXXX

To request an invoice prior to the registration fee payment, please send an email to the Competition's email address (comparativelawinaction@ie.edu) with the following information:

University name;
Postal address;
VAT Registration Number;
Email to which the invoice should be sent to;
Any additional instructions.

Official Rules

Official Rule 1.0 Participation & Eligibility

1.1 Composition. All educational institutions offering a degree in law are eligible to participate in the Competition. Each institution may only participate with one Team. Team Members representing each institution may be registered either for an undergraduate or master program of law or any related discipline or area.

A Team is composed of three or more Team Members. Teams may include former participants. All Team Members will subscribe their Team's Memoranda. However, a maximum of five Team Members can participate in the Oral Rounds. Team Members and students participating in the Oral Rounds may be chosen by any method approved by the responsible authority within the participating institution.

Outside assistance to Teams is strictly forbidden and would be penalized. This conduct might even result in a disqualification from the Competition, as established in Official Rules 4.2 and 4.6.

Team Advisors or Coaches may provide advice to a Team, provided that it is limited to: (a) general instruction on the basic principles of law; (b) general advice on research sources and methods; (c) general advice on report and legal document writing techniques; (d) general advice on oral advocacy techniques; (e) general advice on the organization and structure of

arguments in the Team's written and oral reports; (f) general commentary on the quality of the Team's legal and factual arguments.

Each Team must research, write, edit, and develop its own legal and factual arguments without the assistance of persons who are not Team Members.

1.2 List of Team Members. The list of Team Members must be finalized by January 19th

2024, except for express approval from the Organizer to submit them at a later date.

The list of Team Members representing their Team during the Oral Rounds must be communicated to the Organizers by April 22nd 2024.

1.3 Certificates of Participation.

Certificates for participating Team Members will be prepared based on the lists submitted by each Team, showing the name of each Team Member exactly as they have been submitted. They will be sent via email through the Competition's official email account.

1.4 Coaches Letters of Recognition. Letters of recognition for the coaches of each Team will be prepared and sent via email through the Competition's official email account.

1.5 Problem Corrections and Clarifications. Teams may request clarifications and corrections to the

Competition Problem by submitting a written request to the Competition's official email. Corrections and clarifications will be made available on the Competition's platform

Official Rule 2.0 Written Phase: Memoranda

2.1 Number of reports. Each Team will need to submit two independent Memoranda providing legal advice to each of their Clients separately. Both Memoranda will need to comply with the same requirements and content as detailed in the subsequent Official Rules.

2.2 Content. There must be no mention to the University's name on the Memoranda. Memoranda must remain anonymous, identified solely with the identification number provided by the Organizer. Each Memorandum must contain the following parts in the following order: (i) Cover Page; (ii) Table of Contents; (iii) Executive Summary; (iv) Statement of Facts; (v) Questions Presented; (vi) Main Content with Analysis and Suggestion(s); (vii) Index of Authorities

2.2.1 Cover Page. The front cover of each Memorandum must have the following information: (a) the Team's Identification Number; (b) the name of the Client before which the report is submitted and presented; (c) the year of the Competition; (d) the name of the case; and (e) the title of the document (i.e. "Memorandum").

2.2.2 Executive Summary. A well-formed Executive Summary of the Memorandum should consist of a

substantive summary of the Memorandum, rather than a simple reproduction of the headings contained therein.

2.2.3 Statement of Facts. A well-formed Statement of Facts should be limited to the stipulated facts and necessary inferences from the Competition Problem. The Statement of Facts should not include unsupported statements, distortions of the facts provided, argumentation, or legal conclusions.

2.2.4 Index of Authorities. The Index of Authorities must list all legal authorities cited in any part of the Memorandum and must indicate the page number(s) of the Memorandum on which each is cited.

2.3 Formatting and Length. All submitted Memoranda must meet the following formatting provisions in order to be considered for an award.

2.3.1 Paragraphs must be numbered.

2.3.2 Footnotes must be used to identify the source of statements or propositions made in the body of the Memorandum. Endnotes are not permitted. Footnotes may include substantive information in addition to the text of the citation itself. Footnotes are included in the word limit of the Memorandum.

2.3.3 All citations and references must follow OSCOLA (Oxford University Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities). Find quick reference guide [here](#).

2.3.4 Footnotes must be used to

identify the source of statements or propositions made in the body of the Memorandum. Endnotes are not permitted. Footnotes may include substantive information in addition to the text of the citation itself. Footnotes are included in the word limit of the Memorandum.

2.3.5 Formal English style is required from all Memoranda. For instance, slang or contractions (e.g. aren't, didn't) should not be used.

2.3.6 The minimum type style permitted is 12 point. The Memorandum should be typed at 1½ line spacing. All margins must be at least one inch or 2.5 cm.

2.3.7 The word count for each Memorandum must not exceed 4,000 words. The count shall only consider the substantive part of the Memorandum: Executive Summary, State of Facts, Questions Presented, Main Content with Analysis & Suggestion(s). The Cover Page, Table of Contents and List of Authorities will be excluded from the word count.

2.4 Submission of Memoranda. The Memoranda must be submitted in Word format so that the evaluators can review the word count.

Each Team must submit both Memoranda to the Organizer's online Platform by 23:00 (Madrid time) on April 22nd, 2024. The Memoranda must be submitted through the appropriate section of the Competition's Platform. The Team's Coach(es) will be responsible for the submission of their Team's Memoranda. Only one submission

attempt will be permitted for each Memorandum, and the uploaded documents will be considered final by the Organizer.

Submissions made after the deadline will be penalized as indicated in Official Rule 4.2. Additionally, at the same time the Memoranda are submitted, the final list of Team Members representing the Team in the oral rounds must be sent to the Competition's official email address.

Official Rule 3.0 Oral Phase: Oral Rounds

3.1 Format. The Oral Rounds will be held in Madrid, face-to-face.

3.2 Structure. The Oral Rounds consist of three distinct phases: Preliminary Round, Semifinals and Final. Each Team will argue once per round. During Oral Rounds, Teams must present their advice to their Clients through an oral presentation of the main points and suggestions made in the memorandum, followed by a Q&A phase by the respective Client. All Teams will counsel the same client during the Preliminary Rounds, which shall be determined randomly before the start of the Preliminary Round. The four Teams that move forward to the Semifinals as per Official Rule 4.4, will advise the other Client. The two Teams that advance to the Final will counsel opposing Clients that will be decided on a public draw before said round.

3.3 Composition of Teams in Oral Rounds. As per Official Rule 1.1., a minimum of three and a maximum of five Team Members who submitted the Team's Memoranda should

represent the Team in the Oral Rounds. All Members of the Team chosen to participate in the Oral Rounds must take part in each round, whether that is during the oral presentation or answering the questions from each Client.

Observers are not allowed during the Preliminary Round and Semifinals unless they are members of the presenting Teams. All Teams will be permitted to attend the Final Round. The Organizer will record all presentations during the Preliminary Round and Semifinals. Recordings shall be made available for all Teams to watch after the winning Team has been selected and announced. The purpose of the recordings is purely informative and to enhance transparency. No recourses or appeals will be allowed.

3.4 Order of presentations. The order of each Team's presentation will be decided randomly through a draw right before the start of each Round.

3.5 Duration. During the Preliminary Round and the Semifinals, each Team will deliver an oral presentation of the main points and suggestions for the Client during 5 minutes, followed by a 15-minute round of questions, for a total of 20 minutes.

During the Final Round, Teams will have 10 minutes to raise a final advice, followed by a 20-minute round of questions, for a total of 30 minutes per Team.

3.6 Panels of Clients. The Organizer shall provide a panel of minimum two experts acting as the Client whenever possible during the Preliminary Round and the Semifinals. The panel for the Final Round

will be formed by a minimum of three and a maximum of six experts acting as both Clients. Each panel will represent one Client, regardless of the number of experts in said panel. During the Preliminary Round and the Semifinals, there will only be one panel acting as one Client for each round. In the Final Round, there will be two panels, one for each Client.

Client panels will be composed of independent members not linked to the Organizer in order to ensure transparency.

3.7 Arguments. Teams are not restricted to the arguments in their Memoranda. However, Teams should rely on the arguments given in their Memoranda.

3.8 Audio and Video Recording. No audio or video recording made by the Teams during the Oral Rounds is permitted.

3.9 Electronic devices. During the Oral Rounds, orators and other Team Members may not operate mobile phones, laptops, or any other electronic devices, including but not limited to those which are internet-enabled or data-capable, or have instant messaging capabilities. All devices must be turned off and be kept out of sight before the start of the Team's presentation. The only electronic devices allowed during Oral Rounds are the ones put in place by the Organizer.

3.10 Exhibits. Supporting materials (i.e. visual presentations) are permitted during each Team's presentation, including exhibits coming directly from the Problem or any other designed by the Teams.

Official Rule 4.0 Competition Scoring

4.1 Scoring and Ranking of Memoranda.

Each Memorandum will be scored on a scale of 30-100 points, prior to any applicable penalties, taking into consideration the following criteria:

4.1.1 Quality of research: Shows extensive research and understanding of relevant sources of law, authorities, and cases.

Weak: 3-6
Average: 7-12
Strong: 13-15
Max. Score: 15

4.1.2 Quality of argument, prose, structure, and formal aspects: Follows a logical structure, with appropriate connectors between sections and the main issues, and follows the formal requirements.

Weak: 3-6
Average: 7-12
Strong: 13-15
Max. Score: 15

4.1.3 Knowledge and Application of the Facts: Explains, interprets, and accurately applies the facts to the law and arguments.

Weak: 9-13
Average: 14-26
Strong: 27-30
Max. Score: 30

4.1.4 Knowledge and Application of the Law: Accurately states and applies rules

of law, demonstrates knowledge and understanding of the cited cases and presents strong arguments.

Weak: 15-20
Average: 21-35
Strong: 36-40
Max. Score: 40

Teams will be informed of the scores they obtained on each of their Memoranda before the start of the Oral Rounds. Scores obtained by each Team will not be shared with other competitors by the Organizer.

4.2 Penalties to Memoranda. Memoranda penalties may be imposed by the evaluators and shall be deducted from each of the Team's scores.

Penalties shall be assessed for violations of the Rules concerning Memoranda by reference to the following:

4.2.1 Tardiness in submitting

Memoranda: 10 points for up to the first day, 3 points per day thereafter. Memoranda that have not been submitted 3 days after the deadline, will not be considered for Memorandum awards. If the Memoranda has not been submitted 7 days prior to the commencement of the Oral Rounds, the Team will be withdrawn from the Competition.

4.2.2 Failure to remove Track Changes or Comments: Up to 5 points (one-time penalty).

4.2.3 Failure to include all parts of the Memorandum, or inclusion of an un-

enumerated part: 2 points for each part.

4.2.4 Failure to comply with

formatting: (i) Line spacing, margins and font size: 5 points; (ii) Citations and referencing: Up to 10 points.

4.2.5 Failure to include necessary and correct information on Memorandum

Cover Page: 2 points (one-time penalty).

4.2.6 Excessive length: (i) Memoranda 1-100 words over the word count limit: 3 points; (ii) Memoranda 101-200 words over the word count limit: 6 points; (iii) Memoranda 201-300 words over the word count limit: 9 points; (iv) Memoranda 301-400 words over word count limit: 12 points; (v) Memoranda 401+ words over word count limit: 20 points.

4.2.7 Manipulation of word count: 5 points.

4.2.8 Plagiarism (including lack of or scarce citations): 1 to 50 points.

4.2.9 Having outside assistance involved in any way and at any stage in the process of creating the Memoranda: 50 points or disqualification.

4.3 Scoring and Ranking of Oral Rounds.

Each member of the panels of Clients will score each of the orators on a scale of 50-100 points on each round, prior to any applicable penalties.

The individual score given to an orator by a Client is entirely within the discretion of that Client. While the panel is strongly encouraged to discuss scoring before

submitting the scores to the Organizer, there is no requirement for the panel to agree on scores. While the scores are discretionary, the criteria to be regarded in the evaluation of the orators are:

4.3.1 Organization and Time

Management: Clearly follows a logical sequence, dedicating appropriate time on the main issues. This criterion applies to both the executive summaries and the answering of questions raised by each Client.

Weak: 5-6
Average: 7-8
Strong: 9-10
Max. Score: 10

4.3.2 Style, Demeanor, and Poise:

Delivers respect, professionalism, and formality while engaging the audience and maintaining eye contact with the panel.

Weak: 8-10
Average: 11-13
Strong: 14-15
Max. Score: 15

4.3.3 Knowledge and Application of the Facts:

Knows, interprets, and accurately applies the facts. While presenting the facts is not advised during the executive summaries, their knowledge thereof must be perceptible and evident by the Client in the orator's arguments.

Weak: 10-12
Average: 13-17
Strong: 18-20
Max. Score: 20

4.3.4 Knowledge and Application of the Law: Accurately states and applies rules of law, demonstrates knowledge and understanding of the cited cases and presents strong arguments.

Weak: 15-19
Average: 20-25
Strong: 26-30
Max. Score: 30

4.3.5 Handling Questions: Skillfully, directly, and concisely answers questions about facts, law and policy. Strategically ties questions into arguments.

Weak: 12-15
Average: 16-21
Strong: 22-25
Max. Score: 25

4.4 Advancing through Oral Rounds. In order to determine the Team's overall score in each of the Oral Rounds, both the Teams' Memoranda scores and oral arguments will be considered. The Memoranda score will represent 30% of the overall score of each Team in that specific Oral Round. The remaining 70% will pertain to each Team's oral arguments and performance during that phase of the Oral Round.

The Memoranda score that will be taken into consideration for each phase of the Oral Rounds will be the one obtained on the Memorandum prepared for the Client that the Team is advising during that specific phase.

The four Teams with the highest overall scores during the Preliminary Round will advance to the Semifinals. Only the two Teams with the highest scores after the

Semifinals will move forward to the Final Round.

4.5 Tie-breaking Procedure in Oral Rounds.

If two or more Teams are tied in any of the Oral Rounds, the following rules will be applied to break the tie among them, starting with the first and working down only if the previous option does not break the tie:

4.5.1 The Team with the highest total score during Oral Rounds, calculated as per Official Rule 4.4. wins, calculated by adding the Team's total average score in each of the Oral Rounds.

4.5.2 The Team with the highest orator score average wins.

4.5.3 The Team with the highest Memoranda average score wins.

4.5.4 The Organizer determines a method to break the tie, taking into consideration the interests of the Teams and the Competition as a whole.

4.6 Penalties during Oral Rounds. Panels of Clients shall impose penalties during Oral Rounds after consulting with the rest of the members of that panel. The penalty total shall be discounted from the individual orator's total score for that Round. The penalties in place are the following:

4.6.1 Improper communications to the Clients: Up to 20 points.

4.6.2 Using outside assistance in preparation for or during the Oral

Rounds: 50 points or disqualification.

4.6.3 Discretionary Penalties: In addition to the Penalties listed previously, the Clients or Organizer may deduct up to 20 points for other violations. Discretionary Penalties might be imposed upon a Team for conduct from its orators or of persons affiliated with the Team. These penalties are:
4.6.4.1. Submitting multiple complaints against other Teams without grounds.

4.6.4 Inappropriate behavior during Oral Rounds between Team Members or affiliated persons

Official Rule 5.0 Awards

The following awards will be granted upon completion of the Oral Rounds:

5.1 Best Orator: This award will be won by the person with the highest average score during the Oral Rounds, without taking into consideration their Team's Memoranda score. For an orator to be considered for this award, they must have participated in at least two rounds. An Orator's average score is the average of the scores awarded to that individual by each member of the panels of Clients. This will total the sum of all the scores divided by the number of members of the panels of Clients granting those scores. In case of a tie, the Organizer shall break it by comparing average oral scores deducting the single lowest score from each tied Orator.

5.2 Best Team in Oral Rounds: This award will be presented to the Team that received the highest score in any phase of the Oral

Rounds. For a Team to be considered for this award, it must have participated in at least two rounds.

5.3 Best Memoranda: This award will be won by the Team with the highest average score in both Memoranda.

5.4 Winning Team of the Competition: This award will be presented to the Team with the best performance during the Final Round, taking into consideration the Memorandum and the oral arguments in the Final Round.

Official Rule 6.0 Interpretation of the Rules

6.1. Requests. For interpretation of the Rules must be submitted to the Organizer of the Competition. All interpretations, consents or waivers are at the discretion of the Organizer.