

Temple Chambers Moot

Introduction

Temple Chambers is one of Hong Kong's leading barristers' chambers. Chambers is currently home to more than 60 advocates, including 26 Senior Counsel / Queen's Counsel and 27 Bar Scholars. At the heart of Chambers is a commitment to the highest levels of excellence in advocacy, together with a strong culture of public service. Current members of Chambers include the incumbent Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association, Victor Dawes SC, and two former Secretaries for Justice, Wong Yan-lung SC and Rimsky Yuen SC. Chambers has also produced many distinguished judges, including the Hon Geoffrey Ma, the Hon Mr Justice Ribeiro and the Hon Mr Justice Fok of the Court of Final Appeal.

In order to provide law students with an opportunity to improve their advocacy skills, Chambers will be hosting an annual mooting competition. The moot will be open to all undergraduate and JD students reading law for the current academic year at universities in Hong Kong or abroad.

The competition will be run on a knock-out basis. A maximum of eight teams (16 students) will be selected to compete in the competition based on academic ability, prior experience in mooting and cognate activities.

All moots will take place on Saturday, 27 August 2022. The final will be judged by the Hon Geoffrey Ma, Paul Shieh SC, and Bernard Man SC, all of whom are members of Chambers.

The winning team and the best mooter will each receive a certificate and a cash prize.

Students must apply as teams of 2. Members of each team need not study at the same university.

The deadline for applications is 30 June 2022 at 17:00 (Hong Kong time). For enquiries, please contact mooting@templechambers.com for further information.

Moot Rules 2022

Eligibility and Teams

1. The Moot is open to all undergraduate students reading law and Juris Doctor candidates for the current academic year at university whether in Hong Kong or abroad. For the avoidance of doubt, eligible students include those who have sat, or are sitting, their final exams for their undergraduate or Juris Doctor degrees in 2022, and are expecting to enter into the PCLL in September 2022. However, current year PCLL students are ineligible.
2. Each team shall consist of two members, one of which shall act as leading counsel and one of which shall act as junior counsel. Teams shall be responsible for allocating roles amongst themselves.
3. Members of each team need not study at the same university nor belong to the same year at university.
4. Students must apply as teams. One person from each team shall be responsible for submitting the application and handling all matters relating to the Moot on behalf of the team.
5. To enter the Moot, students must, by 17:00 (Hong Kong time) on 30 June 2022, submit by email to mooting@templechambers.com a completed application form (which may be obtained from Chambers' website).
6. In the absence of exceptional circumstances, late applications will not be considered.
7. A maximum of eight teams (16 students) will be selected to compete in the moot based on academic ability, prior experience in mooting and cognate activities.
8. Teams selected to participate in the moot will be informed and provided with a copy of the moot problem in mid-July.

Moot problem and applicable law

9. The moot problem for 2022 will concern a topic in private law.
10. The relevant law will be that applicable in Hong Kong.

Format

11. All rounds for the Moot will be conducted in person at Chambers on 27 August 2022.
12. Eight teams will compete in the quarter-final stage, four teams in the semi-final stage, and two teams in the grand final. The competition will be conducted on a knock-out basis.
13. Quarter-final stage:
 - 13.1. Chambers will assign teams into four groups (Group A, Group B, Group C, and Group D). Each group will consist of two teams.
 - 13.2. At the beginning of the moot, a coin will be tossed to determine which team argues on behalf of the appellant and which on behalf of the respondent.
 - 13.3. Each team will argue the moot problem against the other team in its group once.
 - 13.4. The judge of each moot will award each team a score out of 200. No draws will be permitted.
 - 13.5. In each quarter-final moot, the team with the higher score will qualify for the semi-final stage.
14. Semi-final stage:

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- 14.1. The team qualifying from Group A will moot against the team qualifying from Group B; and the team qualifying from Group C will moot against the team qualifying from Group D.
 - 14.2. At the beginning of the moot, a coin will be tossed to determine which team argues on behalf of the appellant and which on behalf of the respondent.
 - 14.3. The judge(s) of each moot will award each team a score out of 200. No draws will be permitted.
 - 14.4. In each moot, the team with the higher score will qualify for the grand final.
15. Grand Final:
- 15.1. A coin will be tossed to determine which of the two qualifying teams argues on behalf of the appellant and which on behalf of the respondent.
 - 15.2. The judges of the Grand Final will decide upon a winning team and the best mooter on the basis of their understanding of the law and the moot problem and their skill and style in presenting arguments.
 - 15.3. The winning team shall be the winner of the Temple Chambers Moot 2022.

Skeleton Arguments and Preparation

16. Teams must conduct all research and preparation for the competition without assistance from any other person.
17. Each team should prepare two skeleton arguments: one for the appellant and another for the respondent. Each skeleton shall contain submissions for both leading counsel and junior counsel.

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18. Skeleton arguments must be typed. Each skeleton argument may not exceed five A4 pages in total (font size no smaller than 14 points; page margins no smaller than 2.5 cm on all sides).

Authorities

19. Authorities will be supplied in the moot problem. Teams need not prepare lists of authorities.
20. No authority that is not listed in the moot problem may be cited in skeleton arguments or referred to during the moot.

Lodging

21. No later than 09:00 two days before the moot (i.e., Thursday, 25 August 2022), each team should email their skeleton arguments to mooting@templechambers.com. The skeleton arguments will then be distributed to the judge(s) and the relevant teams.

Hearing of moots

22. Copies of each team's skeleton arguments will be provided to the judge(s) of each moot in advance.
23. Teams need not supply bundles of authorities. The judge(s) will have in front of them standardised bundle(s) of authorities containing the authorities referred to in the moot problem in numbered tabs.
24. Teams may not provide to the court any additional authorities or documents during the course of the hearing.
25. Moots will proceed as follows:

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<i>Stage of proceedings</i>	<i>Maximum duration</i>
Submissions by leading counsel for the appellant	10 minutes
Submissions by leading counsel for the respondent	10 minutes
Submissions by junior counsel for the appellant	10 minutes
Submissions by junior counsel for the respondent	10 minutes
Reply by one counsel for the appellant	3 minutes
<i>Adjournment and Feedback</i>	
<i>Approximate total:</i>	1 hour

26. Leading counsel for the Appellant may take the facts of the case as read in opening the case, and need not take up time repeating or summarising them.
27. While the maximum duration for each stage of the proceedings must be strictly observed, judges may grant a short extension of time to allow mooters to respond to further questions at their discretion.
28. One member of the team for the Appellant should keep time when members of the Respondent team are speaking; likewise, one member of the team for the Respondent should keep time when members of the Appellant team are speaking. Counsel keeping time should warn opposing counsel when two minutes remain of their allotted time.
29. At the conclusion of each round, the judge(s) will announce the winning team and provide brief feedback to each team on their performance.
30. Counsel will dress professionally but will not robe.

General

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31. The decisions of the moot judges as to the conduct and result of each round shall be final. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the moot judges shall have absolute discretion as to such penalties (if any) to be applied for non-compliance with the Rules, including marking down or disqualifying the team in default.
32. Any issue arising in relation to the competition shall be referred to the Moot Coordinators. All determinations made by the Moot Coordinators in relation to these rules will be final and conclusive and binding on all teams. Teams with concerns or enquiries regarding the interpretation or application of these Rules are advised to contact the Moot Coordinators at mooting@templechambers.com at the earliest possible opportunity.
33. Chambers may at any time make such amendments or additions to these rules or other measures as may be necessary or convenient for the efficient organisation, administration or conduct of the Moot.