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| A coat of arms with dragons and a shield  Description automatically generated**The Worshipful Company of Arbitrators** |

**ARBITRATION WEEKEND 2025**

**Friday, 17 January to Sunday, 19 January 2025**

**RULES**

Teams shall be composed of between two and four members and may also have a coach. The dress code for teams and individuals and tribunals is business attire.

Teams shall be made up of individuals from UK and Irish Universities, Law Schools, Law Firms, Inns of Court or Barristers Chambers, who are Law or Bar students and not yet in full-time practice. Each institution may only nominate one team, although the Judges, in their sole discretion, may accept more than one team from an institution in special circumstances.

The Organising Committee will accept a maximum of 16 teams. Each team will be allocated assignments as counsel in the arbitration, usually in a different session. The Closing Date for entries shall be determined by the Organising Committee.

The papers for the competition will be sent out by 6 January and will comprise the entire documentary bundle required for the competition. Should any clarification of the problem be necessary, questions may be submitted to the Organising Committee. Questions and responses will be distributed to all teams.

The allocation of assignments will take place in advance and will be notified to Teams by email shortly after delivery of the competition papers. The assignments will comprise advocacy tasks and submissions and may include procedural objections, submissions on law or fact, examination of witnesses of fact or experts, closing submissions or submissions on costs.

For each assignment, the team undertaking it may provide a short (not to exceed one A4 page) written skeleton, copies of which should be handed to the Tribunal and the opposing counsel at the start of the assignment. Teams should bring hard copies of their skeletons, if possible, but printing facilities will be available if needed.

The assignments are listed in the competition schedule; each session will be timed to last 15 minutes, including any questions by the Tribunal. Timekeeping will be controlled and enforced by the Tribunal.

Team members should allocate the available time between them. The oral presentation may by one member or may be shared between members.

Assignments will be allotted according to the number of teams entering the competition. Each Team will have at least two different assignments.

There will be a Tribunal of three members with a presiding Chairman who will all have declared their impartiality and independence.

A neutral panel of mentors will be available for consultation and advice at any time during the weekend.

At the conclusion of the hearings, Participants and the Arbitrators will vote for the prize winners. Participants shall not vote for themselves or their own team.

Prizes for the competition will be as advised by the Organising Committee. Each participant will receive a certificate of attendance, and the Organising Committee may award such additional prizes as it finds appropriate.

The decision of the Organising Committee shall be final. Any amendment to these Rules will be notified to the competitors from time to time.