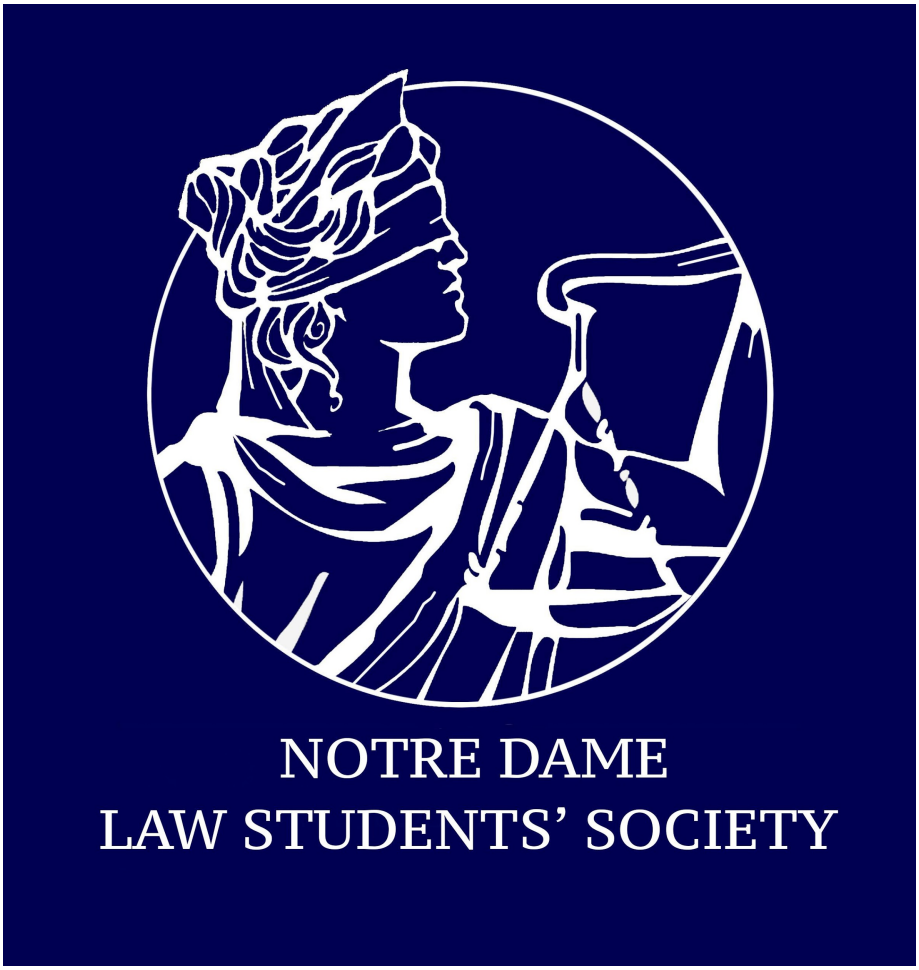
NOTRE DAME LAW STUDENTS SOCIETY

SENIOR CLIENT INTERVIEW COMPETITION



Senior Client Interview

Competition Rules

1. COMPETITORS AND SIGN UP

1.1. By nominating as a competitor in the Senior Client Interview Competition all competitors agree to be bound to the Senior Client Interview Competition Rules contained within this document, as well as the General Competition Regulations.

1.2. All competitors must be currently enrolled in a Law course at the University of Notre Dame Australia, Fremantle Campus.

1.3. Junior students may compete in the Senior Client Interview Competition without automatically becoming a senior student.

1.3.1. A Senior Student is a student who:

1.3.1.1. Is in their penultimate or final year of study;

1.3.1.2. Has participated in the Grand Final of the Junior Client Interview Competition; or

1.3.1.3. Has participated in the Grand Final or Semi Final of the Senior Client Interview Competition.

1.3.2. A student who is not a senior student is a junior student.

1.4. Sign-up for the Senior Client Interview Competition will be as-per Regulation 3 of the General Competition Regulations.

1.4.1. Students are to register in teams of two.

1.4.2. The Competitions Representative may at any time exclude a student from the competition.

1.4.3. Teams may register as reserves for the competition.

1.5. Teams will conduct all research and preparation for the competition without assistance from any other person.

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Approved by: Competitions Representative

2. COMPETITION DRAW

2.1. The Senior Client Interview Competition draw will be created as-per Regulation 4 of the General Competition Regulations.

3. PROGRESSION THROUGH THE ROUNDS

3.1. The Senior Client Interview Competition rounds will be held as-per Regulation 5 of the General Competition Regulations, unless stated otherwise.

3.2. Teams will progress through the competition as a team.

3.3. One Preliminary Round will be held, and all teams will compete.

3.3.1. Teams will be ranked, after scoring and discussion by judges.

3.3.2. The top 8 ranked teams following these preliminary rounds will proceed to the Quarter-Final.

3.4. The Quarter Final, Semi-Final and Grand Final rounds will be held as-per Regulation 5 of the General Competition Regulations.

3.5. Teams who do not progress to the next round of the Senior Client Interview Competition will be ranked on a reserve list, according to their scores from the previous round.

3.6. Any teams who do not progress to the next round will be ranked on a reserve list according to their scores and in the event that a team is unable to participate in the following round, that team's position is filled by the team ranked highest on the reserve list.

4. THE QUESTION/SCENARIO

4.1. At a time specified, the Competitions Representative will email teams a brief containing:

4.1.1. the competition draw and details of the date and venue of the interview

4.1.2. a memorandum containing information similar to that which a law office secretary might give to interviewing practitioners when a client has called to make an appointment; and

4.1.3. the competition rules and General Competition Regulations.

4.1.4. The relevant law will be that applicable in Western Australia.

4.2. The interview situation will concern only the following areas of law:

4.2.1. administrative law;

4.2.2. contract law;

4.2.3. criminal law;

4.2.4. property law; and

4.2.5. tort law.

4.3. Teams may at any time make reference to books, notes and other materials.

5. PREPARATION AND CONDUCT OF THE INTERVIEW

5.1. Students should work with their teammate on all preparation for the competition. However, outside of this, students may not receive any assistance or coaching from other students, staff or legal professionals.

5.1.1. Any breach of Rule 4.1 may be considered cheating under Regulation 6 of the General Competition Regulations and may result in disqualification.

5.2. Unless stated otherwise, the Senior Client Interview Competition interviews will commence at 6:30 pm and 7:15 pm.

5.2.1. Competitors are expected to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to their allocated timeslot.

5.3. Each interview will proceed as follows:

Stage of Proceedings	***Maximum Duration***
Interview period	20 minutes
Judges' consultation with client	5 minutes
Post Interview Consultation	10 minutes
Adjournment and Feedback	5 minutes
Approximate total:	~40 minutes

5.4. The maximum duration for each stage of proceedings must be strictly observed. The teams themselves are responsible for timekeeping.

5.5. During the 20-minute interview period indicated in Rule 5.3, teams are expected to:

5.5.1. build rapport with their client;

5.5.2. elicit the relevant information;

5.5.3. outline the problem; and

5.5.4. propose a solution or other means of resolving the problem.

5.6. During the interview, teams are expected to discuss the issue of fees. The relevant fee schedule must be taken to provide that:

5.6.1. the first consultation is free; and

5.6.2. any subsequent consultations will be charged at $200 an hour, which is the rate suggested by the Law Society.

5.7. Directly following the interview, the judges will consult with the client, in the absence of the team, to assist them in assessing the team's performance.

5.8. During the post-consultation period indicated in Rule 4.2, teams are expected to:

5.8.1. confer privately and then make a presentation to the judges or talk to each other loudly enough to be overheard by the judges;

5.8.2. summarise the interview;

5.8.3. indicate the scope of the legal work to be undertaken; and

5.8.4. state the legal issues that should be researched.

5.9. During the post-consultation period teams may, if they consider it useful, explain:

5.9.1. the position or attitude they adopted during the interview;

5.9.2. their plan for the interview or the manner in which they divided the tasks.

6. CLIENTS

6.1. Any person who is not a competitor in that round of the competition may act as a client.

6.2. Any person wishing to act as client will email the Competitions Representative prior to the commencement of Round 1.

6.2.1. Teams will be informed of the identity of their client shortly before the start of the interview.

6.3. Clients must adhere to their background brief as closely as possible for each interview, and may not lie, contradict their brief or intentionally mislead teams.

6.3.1. Clients may at any time refer to their background brief.

6.3.2. Clients may expand on the brief staying within the spirit of the competition and their character.

6.3.3. Clients will receive a copy of their background brief at least four hours prior to the interview.

6.3.4. Clients must not reveal or discuss the contents of this brief to anyone other than the Competitions Representative.

6.4. During the judges' consultation period, clients may give their feedback to judges, outlining their level of confidence in the team's handling of their situation, the amount of information the team retrieved from the client and any other relevant comments.

7. JUDGES AND ASSESSMENT

7.1. A single judge will observe all rounds of the Senior Client Interview Competition except the Grand Final.

7.1.1. The Grand Final may be heard by up to three judges.

7.2. Judges will be judges, magistrates, legal practitioners, legal academics, professionals with interviewing experience or others with a demonstrated experience in client interview competitions.

7.3. Judges will be provided with the following:

7.3.1. the memo and client profile for that round;

7.3.2. one marking sheet per competitor; and

7.3.3. the Senior Client Interview Competition Rules and General Competition Regulations.

7.4. The judging standards recognise that there is no single correct approach to conducting an interview.

7.5. Judges must award each competitor a different score and no draws are possible.

7.6. The score sheets will be submitted to the Competitions Representative and will be held in the possession of the NDLSS for one year after the competition.

7.7. The judge may not reveal or indicate a winner

8. PENALTIES

8.1. All complaints and appeals concerning scoring and assessment or the organisation, administration and conduct of the competition must, within twenty-four (24) hours of the matter giving rise to the complaint or appeal, be submitted to the Competitions Representative for determination, in line with Regulation 14 of the General Competitions Regulations.

8.2. In respect of any alleged breach of these Rules, the Competitions Representative will, in line with Regulation 6 of the General Competitions Regulations:

8.2.1. determine whether there has been a breach; and

8.2.2. determine what penalty, if any, is to be imposed for the breach.

9. WITHDRAWING FROM THE COMPETITION

9.1. Students must be dedicated and prepared to compete - this includes time management and managing conflicts in schedules.

9.2. All withdrawals will be dealt with as per Regulation 9 of the General Competition Regulations.

10. DISPUTES AND APPEALS

10.1. The Competitions Representative has full discretion in the application and amendment of these rules.

10.2. All complaints and appeals arising in the course of the Senior Client Interview Competition must be requested as per Regulation 14 of the General Competition Rules.

10.3. The Competitions Representative is the final arbiter of any disputes and has the discretion to decide the dispute on a case-by-case basis.