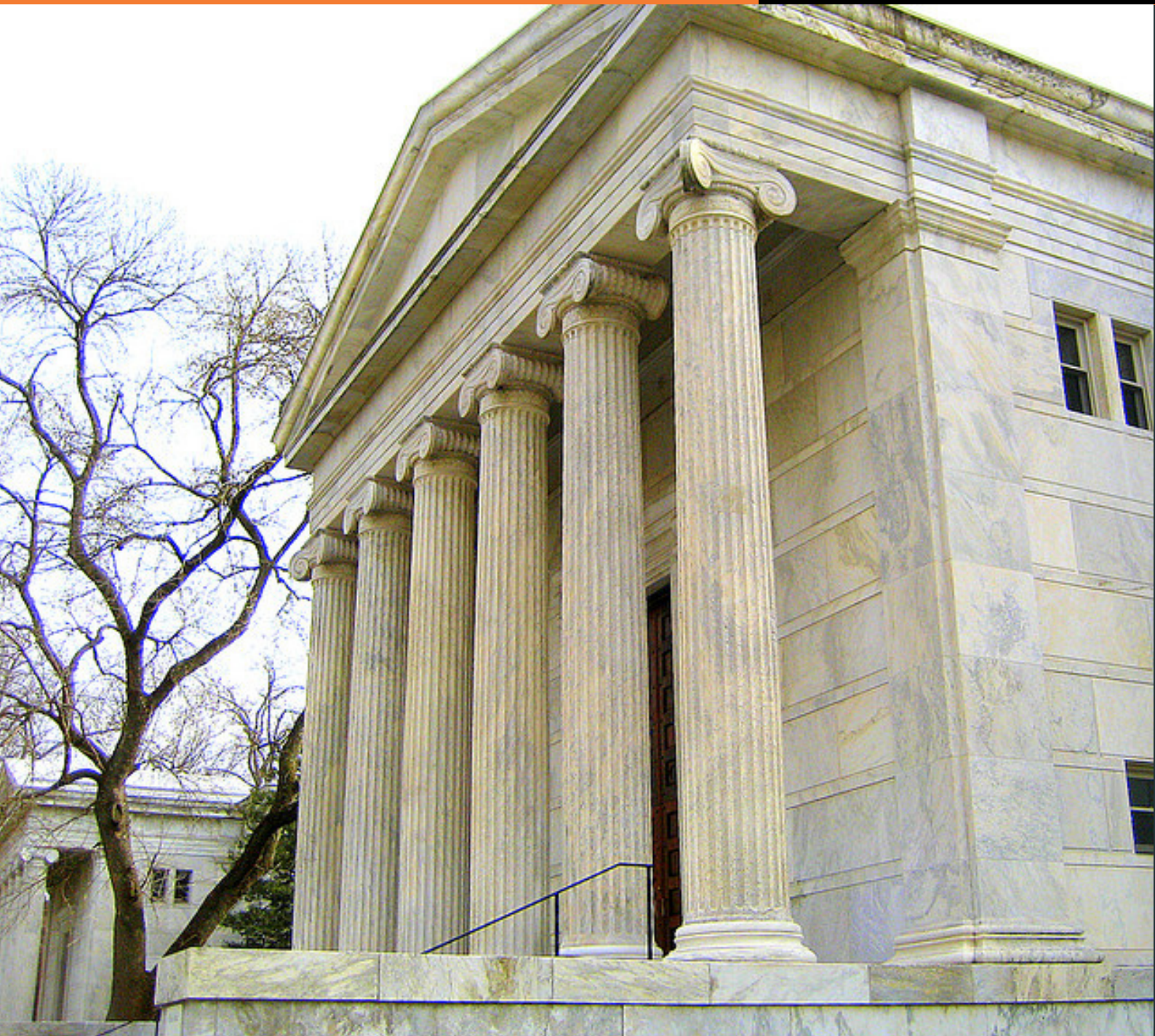


PRINCETON MOOT COURT

Hosted by Princeton Mock Trial

20 24



April 27, 2024

In-Person

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What is Moot Court?

The Basics

Moot Court is a simulation of an appeals court or Supreme Court hearing. Teams of two student “attorneys” prepare and present oral arguments on a legal case, such as the constitutionality of the Equal Rights Amendment, to a judge or panel of judges. The activity is a unique opportunity to learn about real case law, trial processes, and the fundamentals of legal analysis and persuasion.

The Case

A typical case for a Moot Court competition will address one or two constitutional issues. We try our best to write cases that are fair and balanced, giving neither side an advantage. There will always be plenty of supporting case law so that both sides can present convincing arguments to the judge(s).

The Teams

There are two students on each Moot Court team. Both students will work together to craft and present arguments for both sides of the case.

The Rounds

Two teams compete against each other in each round. One represents the petitioner and the other represents the respondent. The petitioner is the team that appeals the lower court decision. The respondent is the team that argues that the lower court decision was correct. Over the course of the tournament, all teams will represent both sides.

What is Moot Court?

The Rounds (Continued)

Each team will have 20 minutes to speak during a round. The petitioner speaks first and may reserve up to 8 minutes of their time for a rebuttal. The respondent then speaks for the entirety of their 20 minutes. Finally, the petitioner gives a rebuttal. You should prepare at least 10 minutes of your presentation beforehand, but be careful not to use the entire 20 minutes for prepared material. You will have to respond to the points that your opponent makes and answer questions from the judge(s). A good presentation should address each constitutional question and explain why your side offers the correct interpretation of the law. To do this, rely heavily on both the Constitution and the case law provided. Be very clear about how you are interpreting the laws and legal precedent.

The Judging

Early rounds will typically have one judge. Later rounds will have three or five judges. The final round will have nine judges. During both teams' presentations, the judge will interrupt to ask questions. You should be well versed in the case law provided, and you should be able to think on your feet. The number of questions asked will vary from judge to judge. The judge will not ask questions in the first or last minute of a team's overall time. When the round is over, the judge will score each individual attorney on argument and presentation, and they will score the team on their teamwork. An attorney's argument score is based on the content of their presentation. To receive a high score in this area, you should be thorough, convincing, and well prepared to answer questions.

What is Moot Court?

The Judging (Continued)

It should be clear that a lot of thought has gone into your presentation. Presentation is scored separately from argument.

When scoring on presentation, the judge will take into account factors like how engaging you were, how smoothly you spoke, and how heavily you relied on notes/scripts. Finally, the teamwork score will be based on the level of collaboration between you and your partner. To score well, distribute the amount of speaking time equally between both attorneys, both when presenting prepared material and when fielding questions from the judge. In addition to scoring each team, the judge will pick a top attorney from the round. The top attorney does not necessarily have to be from the team that won. The top attorney designations will be used to calculate individual awards. Individual awards are given at the end of the tournament along with team awards.

The Tournament

The Moot Court tournament takes place over two days. In early rounds, teams are randomly paired against each other. After four in-rounds, the top sixteen teams progress to the single-elimination, out-round portion of the tournament. The final two teams face off in front of a panel of nine justices in a simulation of the Supreme Court.

Tentative Schedule

The final schedule will be released after registration has closed.

Saturday, April 27

9:00 A.M.	Registration Opens (Whig Hall)
9:30 A.M.	Opening Ceremonies (Whig Hall)
10:00 A.M.	Round 1
11:30 A.M.	Round 2
12:30 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.	Lunch Break
1:30 P.M.	Round 3
3:00 P.M.	Quarterfinals
4:30 P.M.	Semifinals
6:00 P.M.	Finals
7:15 P.M.	Closing Ceremonies (Whig Hall)

Registration

The registration fee is \$50 per team this year. Payment information will be sent after teams have registered.

IMPORTANT

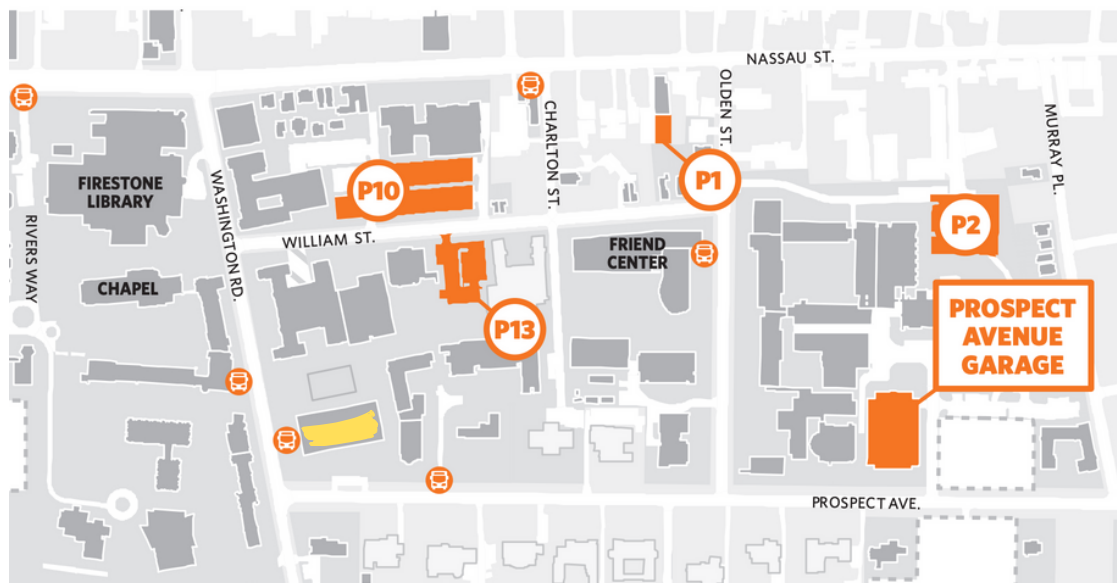
In order to ensure that this year's tournament runs smoothly, we are once again requesting that each school provide one individual qualified to judge per three teams the school is bringing (i.e. if school is bringing 10 teams, they must provide 3 judges). These individuals may be teachers, advisers, or some otherwise qualified individual, but they may not be parents, even if a parent serves as the adviser of a team. If a school is bringing less than three teams, they do not need to provide a judge. If schools are unable to send sufficient judges, they must pay a \$20 fee for every three teams they cannot provide a judge for.

Getting to Princeton

Driving: Princeton is in central New Jersey (50 miles south of New York, just off of Route 1). You can navigate to the following address using GPS:

Robertson Hall
20 Prospect Ave, Princeton, NJ 08540

Free parking is available in Lot 10 or Lot 13, which are less than an 8 minute walk from Robertson, both of which are on Williams Street. There is also paid street parking and a parking garage on Prospect.



By Train: Princeton has a New Jersey Transit station located on campus. If you take NJ Transit, buy your tickets with the destination of Princeton (NOT Princeton Junction). You then take the train to Princeton Junction, and then transfer to the shuttle train (“the dinky”, the station of which is located directly next to the Princeton Junction station) which will take you to the southern end of Princeton’s campus. Whig Hall is about a 15-20 minute walk from there.

Hotels

Nassau Inn

10 Palmer Square, Princeton, NJ 08542

Courtyard by Marriott Princeton

3815 US Route 1 at Mapleton Rd, Princeton, NJ 08540

Hampton Inn Princeton

4385 US-1, Princeton, NJ 08540

Westin Princeton

201 Village Blvd, Princeton, NJ 08540

Holiday Inn Princeton

100 Independence Way, Princeton, NJ 08540

Sonesta ES Suites

4375 US-1, Princeton, NJ 08540

DoubleTree by Hilton Princeton

4355 US Route 1 at Ridge Road, Princeton, NJ 08540

Contact Information

General Inquiries & Planning Board

For General Inquiries

Feel free to email princetonmootcourt@gmail.com.

Planning Board

Tournament Director: Abby Bacall

Chiefs of Staff: Myrah Charles, Aum Dhruv, Carson He, Haley Hoffman, Aidan Moes, Rohan Sykora

Directors of Recruitment: Akash Bhowmick, Frances Brogan, Sophia Vernon

Directors of Tabulation: Jimmy Fraley, Sophie Glaser, Charlotte Selover

Princeton Mock Trial Executive Board

President: Shrey Addagatla, shreya@princeton.edu

Vice President: Shailee Desai, shaileedesai@princeton.edu

Treasurer: Abby Bacall, abbybacall@princeton.edu

Secretary: Kyrah Potter, kyrahpotter@princeton.edu