

Judge UCI Law Moot Court Oral Arguments

As a growing law school, we count on the local legal community to train and encourage our next generation of lawyers. We are incredibly grateful that we have been able to rely on local judges and attorneys each year to provide challenging questions and valuable feedback. This year, **we have 100 student competitors**, which is **the largest group in UCI Law Moot Court history** and **almost double** the number of competitors of **last year's competition**. The students are eager to expand their legal skill set – and answer tough questions from the judges. We are asking for your expertise to give these students a truly challenging and constructive competition experience.

The oral argument schedule is as follows:

Preliminary Round I: February 4, 6, 11, 13, and 15

Preliminary Round II: February 18, 20, 22, 25, and 27

Top 16 Elimination Round: March 17 and 19

Quarterfinal Round: March 23 and 25

On weekdays, we will hold two to four rounds beginning at 7:00 p.m. On Saturdays, we will hold arguments from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For Saturday arguments, we ask judges to commit to either a morning session or afternoon session, or both. All arguments will take place here at UCI Law. Prior to oral arguments, judges will receive a bench memorandum summarizing the relevant law and containing suggested questions for competitors. Meals and parking will be provided to judges by the Competition.

The 2019-2020 Moot Court Competition centers around a recent case from the Ninth Circuit, *Vos v. City of Newport Beach*, 892 F.3d 1024 (9th Cir. 2018). This case involves a mentally ill man shot and killed by police officers in Newport Beach, California. The victim's parents sued the City of Newport Beach alleging, *inter alia*, excessive force in violation of the Fourth Amendment and failure to provide reasonable accommodations to an individual with a disability in violation of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The case presents the following questions presented (slightly modified for the competition):

I. Does Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act apply to police conduct during the course of an arrest?

II. If Title II does apply to arrests, to what extent does Title II require officers to make “reasonable accommodations” for an armed arrestee prior to securing the scene and taking the arrestee into custody?

III. Under the Fourth Amendment “totality of the circumstances” test for assessing the “objective reasonableness” of police use of force, (a) may a court consider only the facts and circumstances at the moment force was used; or (b) may it also consider the relevant facts and circumstances leading up to the use of force, including alleged police failures to de-escalate the situation or the suspect's mental illness?

If you are able to donate your time during one or more of these dates and times, please email me at lawmootcourt@lawnet.uci.edu. Please include your email address and phone number, and also indicate your preference for the dates and times that you are available to judge the competition.

As you know, courtroom experience is pivotal to law students' growth as young professionals. We rely on our community partners to assist us in providing this unique and vital opportunity to the next generation of Orange County attorneys. Thank you for your kind consideration of this invitation, and we hope that you can join us. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Aguiar
Director of Judicial Relations
Moot Court Competition Executive Board
UC Irvine School of Law