Competition Registration Guides

Eligibility and Course Requirements:

The Eugene Gressman Moot Court Competition is a one-credit elective open to 2L and 3L day students and 2L, 3L and 4L weekend students who have passed Appellate Advocacy, are enrolled in the course in Fall 2026 or will take it in Spring 2027 as a co-requisite.

Students may enroll a second time if they did not advance to the quarterfinal (Elite Eight) round during their first enrollment and meet all other eligibility requirements.

The course is graded Pass, D or Fail. To earn credit, students must submit an acceptable brief and participate in every round of oral argument until eliminated.

Current Mock Trial Team and Interscholastic Moot Court Team members must obtain permission from Professor Lori Borgan, assistant dean of Experiential Education, before participating.

Competition Format and Requirements:

Students compete in teams of two. Each team submits one brief and presents oral arguments together. Students register individually and must submit their partner's name to the Gressman director by **Dec. 14, 2026**.

Students without a partner should contact the Gressman director for assistance with pairing. However, students are encouraged to arrange their own partnerships.

All participants must be available on every competition date. The compulsory round will take place on a Saturday. Religious observances will be accommodated.

All oral arguments will take place in person unless safety concerns prevent in-person proceedings. In that event, arguments will be conducted via Teams.

Competition Problem and Preparation:

All participants receive the same problem, developed by the Gressman competition director and assistant director. The problem addresses two legal issues that the U.S. Supreme Court has not yet resolved.

The problem will be distributed through Canvas in early January 2027. Students will have approximately five weeks to prepare and submit their briefs.

Required Meeting and Scheduling:

Participants will meet as a class once during the semester:

Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2027, at 5:30 p.m. via Teams

A Teams invitation will be sent before the meeting. The Gressman student and faculty directors will review competition rules and answer questions.

Students unable to attend must contact the Gressman director to arrange an alternative opportunity to review the rules and ask questions.

Following the meeting, participants must submit their class schedules to the Gressman director to help coordinate oral argument times and avoid scheduling conflicts outside the compulsory round.

Awards and Additional Opportunities:

Awards recognize semifinalists, finalists, best brief authors and best oral advocates.

Participation is recommended for students interested in applying to the Appellate Advocacy Moot Court Board, where members can earn academic credit for writing problems for Appellate Advocacy courses and the Gressman Competition.

Students who advance to at least the semifinal round may also be invited to join Seton Hall Law's Interscholastic Moot Court Program, a nationally ranked competition team that travels throughout the country to compete against other law schools.