



Ames Information Session

General Ames Questions: amesHLS@gmail.com

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The Big Picture

- 2L Fall: Qualifying Round
 - Two phases:
 - All teams: Appellant Brief
 - Top 16 teams: Appellee Brief (two separate briefs) and Oral Argument
- 2L Spring: Semi-Finals
 - Top Four teams submit briefs and conduct oral argument for a new problem
- 3L Fall: Final
 - Final Two teams submit briefs and conduct oral argument for a new problem



Schedule

- Thursday, **September 14**: Register for Q-Round by 12:00pm.
- Friday, **September 15**: Records will be distributed by 6:00pm via email and/or pick up in BSA Office WCC 2051.
- Thursday, **September 28**: Deadline to replace a member via email by 12:00pm.
- Friday, **October 13**: Appellant briefs due by 1:00pm. Withdrawal deadline.
- Monday, **October 17**: Teams are informed if they move on and will receive opposing briefs by 5:00 PM.
- Monday, **October 30**: Appellee briefs due by 1pm.
Be aware of the quick turn around for appellee briefs (**two weeks**).
- Wednesday, **November 8** and Thursday, **November 9**: Oral Arguments



Team Members

- **Qualifying Round:** 4 members, must be 2Ls
 - Replacement of Teammate Date: Thursday, September 28
 - Any replacement after this date will **only be permitted in extraordinary circumstances**
- **Semi-final Round:** 6 members (original 4, and 2 new members who must have participated in the qualifying round)
- **Both Rounds:** Designate one member as Captain, **all** communications with Ames administrators will be done by / with the Captain



Team Responsibilities

- Any participant or team who withdraws after the deadline may be referred to the Administrative Board.
- Any participant or team who does not appear at a scheduled oral argument may be referred to the Administrative Board.
- Every participant must make a good-faith effort in both briefs and oral argument to receive a Written Work Requirement credit (option 2)



Team Organization

- **Phase 1 of Qualifying Round:** Each team will write one appellant brief
 - The highest scoring 16 teams advance to Phase 2 of Qualifying Round
- **Phase 2 of Qualifying Round:** Each team will write two appellee briefs in response to two appellant briefs
- **Phase 2 of Qualifying Round:** Each team will participate in four oral arguments
 - Each team member must participate in only two arguments
- ***If you do not advance to the second phase of the Qualifying Round, you will NOT participate in oral argument.***



Rules

- You are responsible for knowing the rules
- Questions about the rules must be submitted via this Google Form by Friday, September 22 at noon: <https://forms.gle/Ut8scVJyLw78ffDA6>
- All answers will be shared with all participants
- Rules will be available after this session



Changes to and Clarifications of the Record

- **Qualifying Round Record questions:**

- All questions about the Record must be submitted by Friday, September 22 at noon: <https://forms.gle/XzjFgxscgARpEHp97>
- The Record Writer answers or declines to answer the record questions
- If necessary, the Record Writer will amend the record

- **All answers will be sent to Team Captains**



Accommodations

- **Our goal is to make the Ames Competition as accessible as possible.**
 - If you need an accommodation to fully participate in the competition, please contact DOS@law.harvard.edu and/or the Chairs as soon as possible and we will work with you!



Research and Outside Assistance

- You cannot consult any person not on your team
- You can consult briefs or oral arguments from real practice or moot court, only if those materials are generally available on the Internet
- Research using only the materials generally available in the Harvard University library system (e.g. LEXIS, Westlaw)



Briefs: Helpful Tips

- Pay special attention to the rules when writing your brief
- Note what does and what does not count toward your word limit (e.g., footnotes)
- Qualifying Round briefs can be used to help satisfy the Written Work Requirement. **But must write both appellant and appellee briefs, even if you do not advance to the Qualifying Round second phase**



Oral Argument

- Review these rules if you make it to Phase 2 of the Qualifying Round
- Judges will be made up of HLS faculty, practitioners, and 3L BSAs.
- Guests are not permitted



Advancing to the Semi-Final Round

- The four highest scoring teams across both Phases of the Qualifying Round will advance to the semi-final round
- The score is calculated by adding:
 - Appellant Brief Score + Appellee Brief Score + Team Average Oral Advocacy Score
- Semi-finals will occur during the spring semester



Why do Ames?

