

Giles S. Rich Moot Court Competition
Course Number LAW 125-001
Spring Semester 2024
SYLLABUS

Professors

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Student Expectations

The Giles Rich Moot Court Competition class is designed to give students the opportunity to prepare appellate briefing and deliver an appellate oral argument from both the appellant's and the appellee's positions. Each student will partner with one other student in the class to draft an appellant's and an appellee's brief based on the problem designed for the competition by AIPLA. Each student will then participate in an intramural oral argument competition with his/her partner, presenting on behalf of the appellant and the appellee. At least one team of two students will be selected from the intramural competition to represent GMU at a regional competition. Selection to advance to the regional competition will be based on briefing as well as oral advocacy.

Course Materials/ Problem

The Giles S. Rich Moot Court Competition problem and rules were prepared by the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA). These materials are available on the AIPLA website:

<https://www.aipla.org/resources/programs-awards/moot-court-competition>

Class Schedule

Meet as needed between now and April 2024

Friday, Dec. 8, 2023 (11 PM local time): Priority deadline for submission of Notices of Intent to Compete

Friday, Jan. 5, 2024, by midnight: Intramural Briefs due

Week of Jan. 8, 2024: Intramural Moot Court Competition

Friday, Jan. 12, 2024 (11 PM local time): All Notices of Intent to Compete in Regional Competition must be submitted

Monday, Jan. 29, 2024 (11 PM local time): Team(s) Serve Briefs on Regional Director and National Operations Director

Feb. to Mar. 2024: Team(s) Practice Oral Arguments

Friday, Mar. 22, to Sunday, Mar. 24, 2024: Regional Competition

Friday, Mar. 29, 2024 (11 PM local time): Team(s) Advancing to National Rounds
Serve Briefs

Wednesday, Apr. 17, to Friday, Apr. 19, 2024: National Finals Competition

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of:

- the Federal Circuit rules as modified by the competition rules;
- how to select issues and brief an appeal before the Federal Circuit; and
- how to argue an appeal before the Federal Circuit.

Class Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory for all class sessions held prior to and including the intramural moot court competition. Attendance at practice oral argument sessions is mandatory for all students selected to represent GMU at a regional competition. Students not selected must attend at least two practice oral argument sessions, but are encouraged to attend more if possible. Class attendance may be excused by the professors, but typically only for illness or other emergency. Regular class attendance is necessary for successful work, and a student who does not meet the class attendance requirements may be subject to a grade reduction.

Grading

Each student will be assigned a letter grade for the class based upon his/her performance on the appellant and appellee briefs in combination with oral advocacy demonstrated at the intramural competition. Class attendance and participation also will be taken into consideration. The professors may raise or lower a student's grade on the basis of class participation by one grade step, e.g., from B to B+ or B to B-. Selection to advance to the regional competition is not a grade criterion.

Briefing: 60%;
Oral Advocacy: 40%
TOTAL: 100%