

EXAMPLES: Moot Court Oral Argument

Professor Lauren Simpson | February 25, 2023

I. Outline of a Side's Opening (not rebuttal)

Introduction

- 1st speaker
- Appellant (petitioner) and appellee (respondent)

Roadmap (global level)

- 1st speaker
- Appellant (petitioner) and appellee (respondent)

Background/facts

- Only 1st speaker
- Only appellant (petitioner)
- Ask if court wants this: won't give it if court doesn't.

Issue 1 (1st team member)

- Roadmap for issue 1
- ≈ IRAC for each sub-issue
- Prayer

Issue 2 (2nd team member)

- Modified intro. (transition)
- Roadmap for issue 2
- ≈ IRAC for each sub-issue
- Prayer

II. Beginning of a Side's Round

Intro.

(first speaker; second speaker does modified intro. at start of their presentation.)

“May it please the Court. My name is Lauren Simpson, and along with Amira Badawi, I represent Mr. George Hernandez, the appellant in this case.”

Theme/hook

(first speaker; second speaker will reintroduce this in their presentation.)

“This case highlights the fundamental principle that those who enforce the law are themselves subject to it.”

Global issues

(first speaker; high-level roadmap of global issues)

“This Court should reverse the judgment and remand the case because the trial court undermined that fundamental principle when it denied Mr. Hernandez’s motion to suppress. More specifically, the trial court erroneously denied that motion for two reasons. First, the officers lacked reasonable suspicion to stop Mr. Hernandez’s car, rendering the both the stop and later confiscation of contraband from the car illegal. And second, the arresting officer coerced Mr. Hernandez into giving his confession, in violation of well-settled Texas law.”

Dividing of global issues

(first speaker)

“I will show why the trial court erred in refusing to suppress the physical evidence obtained after the illegal stop, and Ms. Badawi will show why the trial court erred in failing to suppress Mr. Hernandez’s coerced confession.”

Facts/Background (if court wants to hear them)

(first speaker; appellant/petitioner only)

Roadmap for first speaker’s presentation

(first speaker)

“This Court should reverse the judgment and remand the case because the trial court erred in refusing to suppress the evidence obtained after Mr. Hernandez’s illegal traffic stop. This is for two reasons. First, the anonymous tip leading to the stop lacked any basis for reliability, in violation of the Constitution’s Fourth Amendment. Second, independent of the unreliable tip, the officer lacked reasonable suspicion to stop the car. For both reasons, the stop was illegal, rendering anything obtained from that stop inadmissible.”