



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

YMCA VIRTUAL NATIONWIDE JUDICIAL COMPETITION

July 26-29, 2021 - Virtually on Zoom

Welcome to the YG Nationwide Judicial Competition!

This Nationwide Judicial Competition offers Youth and Government students across the country a chance to participate in a hands-on legal experience. The Competition will be held virtually over Zoom.

CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Adam Cesal - Michigan
Angela Castilleja-Texas
Elise Dugger - Tennessee
Lydia Mitchell - Michigan
Orville Lindquist - Minnesota
Susan Moriarty - Tennessee
Tyler Dorr - Tennessee
Whitney Chandler - Oklahoma

DATES AND DEADLINES

(Times are in Central Standard)

July 26-29, 2021 – YMCA Nationwide Judicial Competition

May 1, 2021 – Registration Opens

June 1, 2021 – Case Materials sent out

July 1, 2021 – Final Deadline for Registration and Payment

Registration and Case Materials – www.ymcayaq.org/njc

DRAFT CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Prior to conference

Orientation and training videos

Training sessions for Justices and Presiders

July 26, 2021 – 1 PM – 4:30 PM

Team Check-in and Orientation

Judge/Justice Check-in and Training

Orientation and Kick Off Event

Mock Trial Round one (possible, depending on number of teams registered)

July 27, 2021 - 10:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Morning Briefing

Trials and Hearings – 2 rounds of Mock, 4 rounds of Appellate

July 28, 2021 – 10:30 AM – 7:00 PM

Morning Briefing

Trials and Hearings – 2 rounds of Mock, 4 rounds of Appellate

Evening Fun

July 29, 2021 – 10:30 AM – 2 PM

Morning Briefing

Showcase

Closing Session and Recognition

VIRTUAL PROCEDURES

Courts around the globe are grappling with how to conduct hearings and trials virtually in an attempt to protect court staff and members of the public from COVID-19. The Supreme Courts of most states have given wide latitude to individual Judges authorizing them to modify in person rules to work with a virtual court environment. Likewise, for our YG Nationwide Competition, Judges are being called upon to conduct a bench trial where all participants are remotely presenting their arguments to the court. Basic rules such as “rise when talking to the Judge” obviously do not make sense in a virtual environment. Also, tendering evidence to opposing counsel for consideration does not work virtually. As such, the students are being asked to embrace the flexibility needed for this competition to be successfully.

MOCK TRIAL:

1. For the Zoom calls, each speaker will need to be on a separate connection. For example, an attorney and the witness they are questioning will need to be on two separate devices for the examinations. They cannot be side-by-side on a single Zoom session window. However, if allowed by your school and parents, the witnesses can share a single Zoom session window and the co-counsel attorneys can share a single Zoom session window. The bailiff will need to be on their own connection though.
2. The bailiff will have time cards available to print out so they may hold them up to their camera as an attorney’s time elapses.
3. If an attorney needs to address the court, the attorney should state their concern like in a regular court hearing (ex: “Objection!”), but they should also hit the “raise hand” button on Zoom so that the Judge can see who is addressing the court.
4. For the offering of evidence, the attorney simply needs to make their intention know to all participants. “I am holding pages 38-40, which I have marked as State’s Exhibit 1. Mr. Witness, could you please reference these pages? Do you recognized what has been marked as State’s Exhibit 1? Your honor, I offer State’s Exhibit 1. There is no need for tendering to opposing counsel or approaching the bench. We approach the bench to bring things to the Judge or quietly address things outside the presence of the jury. With a Zoom bench trial, our Judge is right in front of us on the screen and there is no Jury.
5. Judges must wear a black shirt.
6. Attorneys must have their names on Zoom in the following format: Attorney, Last Name, First Name. EX: Jane Smith will be Attorney, Smith, Jane. Students that are a

witness will use the name of the witness in Zoom. EX: If Jane Smith was playing the role of Kate Riley, her name in Zoom will be Kate Riley.

APPELLATE:

1. Attorneys should attempt to limit reading their arguments. There is no great way to monitor whether competitors are simply reading their arguments off their screen. You should still work to memorize your arguments as much as possible.
2. There is no ban on having resources pulled up on your computer screen. However, you will be scored lower if you are scrolling through pages to answer questions. You should try to limit your resources to two side-by-side word documents.
3. Both attorneys can share the same webcam stream if they wish.
4. If a justice has a question, they have control to interrupt arguments still, but they should "raise hand" on the zoom meeting so that the attorney knows which justice to address.
5. Justices may have to make calls on amending certain rules on the fly if needed for the proper administration of their courtroom.
6. Justices should not make changes that substantially impair an attorney's ability to present their case.
7. Pre-competition, if participants have a question about how a rule would work in a virtual courtroom, please send an e-mail to Angela, Breanna or Jose and we can work on getting an answer to everyone.
8. Justices must wear a black shirt.
9. Attorneys must have their names on Zoom in the following format: Role (Justice, Appellant, or Respondent), Last Name, First Name. EX: Jane Smith is the Appellant so her Zoom name is Appellant, Smith, Jane.

APPROPRIATE ATTIRE

Appropriate attire must be worn at all times. Clothing with vulgar language, obscene gestures, racial slurs, or anything that contributes to a hostile environment or would be considered inappropriate in a YMCA facility or program is not allowed. Appropriate tops and bottoms should be worn.

- Visible undergarments and bare midriffs are not appropriate at any time.
- Hats are only permitted in social session on Wednesday evening.
- Pajamas, slippers or any other sleeping attire is not appropriate to be worn.