



CEHURD
social justice in health

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 13TH ANNUAL NATIONAL INTER-UNIVERSITY CONSTITUTIONAL LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION

THEME: “Reproductive and Gender Justice in Uganda: Navigating Constitutional Rights, Public Interest and Social Values”

1. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

Since 2014, the Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD) convenes the Annual National Inter-University Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition. The competition has been graced by an ever-growing number of law schools in Uganda that meaningfully participate each year. The main objective of the moot court competition is to train students in the practical aspects of litigating health and human rights within Uganda’s Courts of Law. This kind of arrangement helps shape lawyers who understand key constitutional and health issues beyond what they are taught in class. The moot competition specifically aspires to train students in legal writing, professional conduct and demeanor, court decorum and trial advocacy while arguing cases and preparing court pleadings.

The moot competition also aims at aiding law students to improve their public speaking skills and giving them an experience of the litigation process in Uganda. The CEHURD Moot competition has built a cohort of young lawyers who appreciate the right to health and its justiciability within the confines of Uganda’s legal system.

Uganda’s constitution articulates a commitment to attaining gender equality, but there is still a gap between policy and practice. Ensuring accountability for the realization of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights is a human rights obligation and a central tenet of advancing gender justice. Uganda has a persistently high Maternal Mortality Ratio, and there are still challenges in ensuring the right to reproductive health services and information. Promoting gender-equitable attitudes, behavior and improving Sexual and Reproductive Health are essential to advancing gender equality and Sexual and Reproductive Health among adolescents and young people.

Under this year’s theme “Reproductive and Gender Justice in Uganda: Navigating Constitutional Rights, Public Interest and Social Values”, the moot competition aims at creating a fertile environment for thorough discussions on Reproductive and Gender Justice in Uganda. The moot competition will shed light on government’s policies regarding the provision of reproductive health-related information and services to Ugandans, as well as the promotion of gender equality and equity. Students will demonstrate the need or otherwise, for the advancement of reproductive health and gender justice through access to information by highlighting constitutional rights, referencing international treaties and conventions that Uganda has ratified, and emphasizing the obligation to promote and protect reproductive and gender justice.



2. TIMELINES

DATE	ACTIVITY
8th June 2026	Announcement of the CEHURD Moot 2026
15th August 2026	Release of the Moot Problem and Instructions
19th August, 2026 at 3:00pm	Virtual Call to Guide Participants (Coordinators Meeting)
9th September 2026 at 5:00pm	Deadline for teams to submit Memorials
24th September 2026	Opening Ceremony for the 13th CEHURD Moot, Preliminary Rounds, Quarter finals and Semi-finals
25th September 2026	Announcement of the CEHURD Moot 2026

3. STRUCTURE OF THE MOOT

The moot competition shall be structured in the following format:

- Submission of Memorials
- Preliminary Oral Rounds (each team as an Applicant and as a Respondent).
- Quarter-final Rounds (the 8 teams with the highest scores from the Preliminary Rounds)
- Semi-final Rounds (the best 4 teams from the Quarter final Rounds – Winning by knock out)
- Finals Rounds (the best 2 teams from the Semi-final Rounds – Winning by knock out)

4. TEAM CONSTITUTION

Each participating university is expected to have a maximum of three (3) participants for the moot, two (2) students (mooters) and one (1) Coordinator.

5. TEAM CODE

- Each team shall be assigned a unique code as an identifier during the Competition.
- The team code must be ascribed to the top right corner of the cover page of the Memorial. Nowhere in the Memorial or any time during the competition should any team mention the name of its university or make any reference to it.



6. ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Dress Code

- Teams appearing before the bench during oral submissions are expected to be fully robed.

a) *Raising Preliminary Objections*

- The team members shall not raise preliminary objections on points of law but may structure them as issues and resolve the same within their memorials and oral arguments.

b) *Preliminary Oral Rounds*

- Teams to compete against each other during the preliminary oral rounds will be chosen through computer software where all participating teams will be allocated a random team code and their opponents chosen randomly.
- Each team will have an opportunity to submit both as an Applicant and as a Respondent.
- Each preliminary round shall last for 1 hour with the total speaking time for each team being 20 minutes. The Applicant may reserve up to 5 minutes of their allocated time for rebuttal and rejoinder and the Judge shall take the remaining 15 minutes to give feedback on their cases. How teams will allocate the given time is up to their discretion.

c) *Quarter-final Round*

- The eight (8) teams with the highest scores from the Preliminary Rounds will proceed for the Quarter final Round. They shall present as either Applicants or Respondents before the High Court.
- The best four (4) teams from the Quarter final Rounds who will win by knockout will proceed to the Semi-final Rounds.
- There will be an allocated time of 15 minutes for the 4 teams proceeding to Semi Final rounds to 'Schedule' and agree on their grounds of Appeal to the Appeals Court.

d) *Semi-finals and final Rounds*

- Qualification to the semi-final rounds will be determined by knock outs, and the best 4 teams from the Quarter final Rounds will proceed for semi-finals.
- The teams that qualify for the semi-final round will participate in a randomized exercise in which they will pick their opponents and sides.
- The teams shall present as either Appellant or Respondent during the semi-final and final rounds. The best two (2) teams from the semi-final round will proceed to the final round. Those proceeding to the final round will also participate in a randomized exercise in which they will pick sides (Appellant and Respondent).
- The participating teams will jointly agree upon grounds of Appeal in the final rounds and these will be communicated to the Registrar of the Court and the Presiding Judges.

7. MARKING CRITERIA FOR ORAL PRESENTATIONS.

MARKING CRITERIA	MARKS ALLOCATED
Legal arguments • General knowledge of the laws • Understanding and analysis of the issues presented • Knowledge of the facts of the case. - Choice of arguments most relevant to the case • Use of case law and secondary sources from the International Human rights law	30
Organization of Presentation • Structure and clarity of presentation • Ability to synthesize factual material with legal arguments. • Use of time	20
General Evaluation • Persuasiveness • Ability to maintain the line of argumentation following interruptions • Originality	15
Responsiveness to Judges • Ability to respond to opponent's arguments • Ability to counter each of the opponent's arguments	10
Responsiveness to Judges • Thoroughness in answering the questions presented • Ability to deal with hypothetical questions	10
Delivery • Control • Demeanor • Body language • Composure • Tone of voice • Ability to be heard • Eye-contact	15
TOTAL MARKS	100

8. MEMORIAL SUBMISSIONS

- Each team shall prepare two memorials; one as Applicant and another as Respondent.
- Each of the memorials must be one single document consisting of the following parts in the order followed below: (a) a standard cover page, identical in style and content to Appendix A. The cover page should not carry any mark that identifies the team, such as the name of the university, country, or team members other than the provided unique team codes.
- The memorial shall account for 25% of the total mark scored at the Preliminary rounds. As a result, the mark obtained by one during the oral round shall be computed to the 75th percentile and added to the memorial mark to obtain the total mark.

MARKING CRITERIA	MARKS ALLOCATED
Knowledge of facts and articulate analysis of the issues	25
Knowledge & Application of Law	25
Innovation and persuasiveness	25
Adherence to the instructions	25
TOTAL MARKS	100

PLEASE NOTE

Marks shall be computed as: 75% (oral marks) + 25% (memorial marks) = Total Mark

The memorial format should also be as follows:

- Spacing: Double-spaced
- Form: Typewritten
- Margins: Top: 2mcm, Bottom: 2mcm, Left: 2 cm, Right: 2 cm
- Font: Arial Narrow 12

10. MOOT REGISTRY

The moot registry shall be CEHURD, and all memorials (and attachments, if any) shall be submitted in PDF format to the following email addresses: dhafa@cehurd.org and ajalo@cehurd.org in copy.

A file of the filed documents shall be compiled by the moot registry and forwarded to the judges for marking and grading.

11. THE JUDGES

The moot will be adjudicated by selected judicial officers from the different courts of judicature in Uganda. Each Preliminary Round and Quarter-finals will be presided over by a single judge, while a panel of three Judges will preside over the Semi-final Rounds. The final round will be presided over by a panel of five Judges.

● Judges have the discretion to guide arguments, pose questions, or seek clarification on matters of law or fact during oral submissions.

12. AWARDS.

The following awards will be given by the organizers after the final round:

- Overall Winner
- First Runner Up
- Best Oralist
- Best Memorial
- Second Best memorial
- Each team member and coordinator will receive a certificate of participation.
- The Best Overall Oralist will receive an internship placement at CEHURD.

13. GENERAL INQUIRIES

For any inquiries or clarifications, please call Esther Dhafa at +256785980879, Ruth Ajalo on +256775166862 or CEHURD at +256200956006 or send an email to dhafa@cehurd.org and copy ajalo@cehurd.org

Appendix A

13th ANNUAL NATIONAL INTER-UNIVERSITY CONSTITUTIONAL LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION

**“Reproductive and Gender Justice in Uganda: Navigating Constitutional Rights,
Public Interest and Social Values”**

September 2026

IN THE MATTER BETWEEN _____(APPLICANT)

AND

_____(RESPONDENT)

Team CODE

Each of the two memorials for either the applicant or the respondent should be submitted in a single PDF document organized in the following order;

- i.Cover page (in the template above)
- ii.Pleadings
- iii.Summary of facts
- iv.Submissions
- v.Attachments (if any)

(Please note that the specific team should not be identified in anyway anywhere in the memorials other than by the Unique team Code provided by the moot registry)

GOOD LUCK TO YOU ALL