

LEH355/PHI370 – LEGAL REASONING – FALL 2019

MOCK TRIAL

	death penalty Nov 26	euthanasia Nov 26	abortion Dec 3	same-sex marriage Dec 3
Justices	Christian (D) Michael (R) James (N)	? (D) ? (R) Jaqueline (N)	Abdul (D) Emilienne (R) Veronica (N)	Tera (D) Karchung (R) Veronica (N)
Petitioner	Ana	Barbara Wilmarie	Justine	Ngimlamu
Respondent	Linavel	Carlos Richar	Poonam	Jennie

Each Justice will impersonate a political ideology, loosely identifiable with the Republican Party (R), the Democratic party (D) or neutral (N).

Preparation Start early! This requires significant amount of reading and thinking.

Stage 1: Read the majority opinion; concurring opinions; and dissenting opinions. Identify the questions at issue, governing law and precedents, the decision of the court and the supporting arguments.

Stage 2: Listen to the oral argument, preferably in its entirety or at least to significant portions of it. Take notes of the petitioner's and respondent's arguments. Keep track of the questions posed by the Justices. If available, you should look at petitioner's and respondent's briefs.

Stage 3: Gather your thoughts. As a Justice, you will ask difficult questions to the lawyers in the case. As a lawyer, you will make a convincing case for either party and answer questions by the Justices. Prepare your arguments together with the lawyer in your team.

Legal Arguments Only You should elaborate legal arguments, based on text, precedent, history, tradition, purpose and precedent. If the matter at issue is both factual and legal, make sure your argument are also based on evidence and inferences drawn from the evidence. Use the course readings as sources of inspiration.