



Request to Participate in Other Advocacy Skills Competitions

The School of Law recognizes that advocacy competitions provide valuable experiential learning and leadership opportunities. While our established Advocacy Competition Program already offers a robust range of opportunities and experiences, we understand that student organizations may occasionally wish to participate in additional advocacy skills competitions that fall outside the existing program.

Because these activities require significant time, involvement, and funding, approval for participation in external competitions will be granted **only on a limited, one-time basis** and only when the student organization demonstrates that the competition is of high educational value and that the organization can manage all logistical and financial responsibilities. Please note that academic credit is not awarded for these competitions.

Disclaimer of Liability

Organizations understand and acknowledge, and shall ensure that all participants in the competition understand and acknowledge, that participation in the competition is entirely voluntary, is not required or endorsed by the University, and may involve serious risk, including but not limited to risk of disease, exposure or infection with COVID-19, permanent disability, property damage, bodily injury, paralysis and death. These risks may result from the participation in the competition, the acts of others, or the unavailability of emergency medical care or immediate staff response. Organizations and participants knowingly and freely assume all such risks, both known and unknown, and assume full responsibility for participation in the competition. Organizations and participants understand and agree that the University disclaims any and all responsibility for any loss, injury or damage to person or property in connection with the competition.

Financial Responsibility

Participation in competitions outside the Advocacy Competition Program is **not funded by the School of Law**. Student organizations are responsible for securing their own funding—through the Student Bar Association or, if approved, through fundraising approved and coordinated with the Office for Development & Alumni Relations. The School of Law will not advance funds, and reimbursement will be limited to the amount raised by the organization.

Application Requirements

Members of a student organization seeking to participate in an external advocacy competition must submit an application for approval to the Faculty Director for Advocacy Competition Teams **no later than 90 days before the first competition deadline**.

The application must include:

- Names and class years of participating students
- Confirmation that each student is in good academic standing
- Identification of the competition host and description of the event
- Competition dates and all relevant deadlines
- Details on how team members will be selected
- Explanation of how the competition aligns with the organization's mission
- Identification of who will be volunteering to coach the team
- Estimated total cost of participation
- Proposed funding sources

Approval Criteria

Applications will be evaluated by the Faculty Director for Advocacy Competition Teams, the Vice Dean, and the Assistant Dean for Law Student Affairs. Such evaluation will focus on, but not necessarily be limited to, the following factors:

- The quality and reputation of the competition
- Educational benefit to participating students
- Relationship to the organization's mission and goals
- Demonstrated preparation and commitment of the applicants
- Estimated cost and likelihood of successful fundraising

Applications must be submitted to **Professor Linda Lane**, Faculty Director for Advocacy Competition Teams at LLane@sandiego.edu.