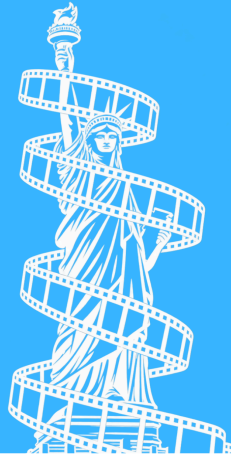


Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law's
Dispute Resolution Competition Honor Society Presents



CINEMA

2026

The Cardozo Invitational Negotiation
on Entertainment, Media & Art Competition

Official Rules (2026 Edition)

A. About the Competition

- I. The Cardozo Invitational Negotiation on Entertainment, Media, and Art (“CINEMA”) Competition simulates intellectual property and entertainment law negotiations in which law students, acting as lawyers, manage a series of legal problems relating to real-life scenarios.
- II. The simulations consist of a common set of facts known by all participants and confidential information known only to the participants representing a particular side.

B. Qualification & Registration

- I. CINEMA is open to any law student *currently attending an ABA-accredited law school* in the United States.
- II. Students and their coaches *must be able to travel in-person* to the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, located at 55 5th Ave, New York, NY.
- III. Registration will close and all payments will be due on *Friday, October 16 by 11:59 PM*. Any team that has not submitted both the registration form and paid the registration fee by the deadline will forfeit its spot in the competition.
- IV. Each school *may initially register only (2) teams* and have a later opportunity to send (3) total teams if space permits. Each team must consist of (2) competitors.
- V. *Coaches may accompany teams to CINEMA*, though they are not required. Coaches may observe by sitting behind their competitors in a negotiation round, but are not permitted to speak to, aid, or in any way communicate with their team at any point during the live negotiation rounds.
- VI. To clarify, *each team may only have (1) an attending coach* at the competition and in the competition room during the negotiation.
- VII. Once registered for CINEMA, competitors and coaches *may not disclose the identity of their law school affiliation* to any other team or judge in any way.
- VIII. Teams will be provided with *a team ID* in order to maintain anonymity. Judges will be instructed not to ask competitors which school they represent, and competitors may not volunteer the information, even if the judges ask.
- IX. *Breach of confidentiality may be ground for disqualification*. At the conclusion of the final round, competitors are free to reveal their school association.

C. Round Format

- I. Each team will participate in (2) *preliminary rounds*. The (2) highest scoring teams from the preliminary rounds will advance to the final round. The format for each of round is as follows:

- Negotiation Session – 40 Minutes
 - Self Reflection – 15 Minutes
 - Preparation – 5 Minutes
 - Team A Reflection – 5 Minutes
 - Team B Reflection – 5 Minutes
 - Judge Feedback – 15 Minutes
- II. Each room will have a competition *Room Clerk* from the Cardozo Dispute Resolution Competition Honor Society who will keep time, give a ***non-verbal reminder to the teams when there are (5) minutes left in the round***, enforce the competition rules, and manage the room throughout the round.
 - III. Each team may take ***(1) break of no more than (2) minutes*** during a round. Any time allocated towards a break will be considered part of the 40-minute negotiation session. For the sake of clarity, ***the clock will continue to run even during a break***.
 - IV. If a break is requested, the team who elected to take the break ***must leave the room for the duration of the break***. The non-requesting team must remain in the competition room for the duration of the break.
 - V. During a break, competitors may not speak to anyone other than their teammate for that round. ***Coaches and/or team supervisors are strictly prohibited from joining a team during a break***. Any violation of these rules may lead to immediate disqualification.
 - VI. In preparation for the Self Reflection portion of the round, competitors may move into the hallway to prepare their statements for the judges. ***Coaches and/or team supervisors are strictly prohibited from joining and/or assisting a team during preparation for the Self Reflection portion of the round***.
 - VII. During the Self Reflection, only Team A or Team B may be present in the room with the judges, Room Clerk, and any coaches.
 - VIII. ***Judge Feedback will occur after both Self Reflection have occurred with both teams in the competition room.***
 - IX. Each team will have (5) minutes to present their Self Reflection. Teams are encouraged to reflect on what worked well and where they hope to improve.
 - X. The format of the Final Round is the same as the preliminary rounds, however, ***finalists will not receive live judge feedback***.

D. Permissible Materials & Outside Research

- I. During the negotiation rounds, competitors may use previously prepared printed notes, calculators, and timekeeping devices. However, mobile phones, smart

- watches, and any other device connected to the internet are not acceptable forms of timekeeping devices and are *strictly prohibited during each round*.
- II. For the sake of clarity, all technological devices, mobile phones, computers, tablets, or similar electronic communication devices may not be used for any reason during each round.
 - III. Timekeeping devices will *not be provided* by the competition organizers. CINEMA can not guarantee a clock will be in each competition room. Additionally, teams will *not have access to printers* at the law school.
 - IV. While the rounds will take place in classrooms, competitors *may not use items in the competition rooms*, including but not limited to: whiteboards, chalkboards, and technological devices.
 - V. Pre-prepared exhibits are permissible. However, any *pre-prepared exhibits* provided to the other side during the negotiation must also be given to the judges.
 - VI. Each problem represents a *closed universe*, and all the information necessary to conduct the negotiation has been provided, in the form of either general or confidential facts. However, *competitors may conduct outside research* to assist their preparation and gain general background information, as long as this outside information does not change any material facts within the fact pattern provided. Any references used during preparation to gain this background knowledge must come from sources that are publicly available (e.g., no subscription is necessary to access the information).
 - VII. To *challenge another team's use of materials* (including improper source or factual veracity), a team must first ask the opposing team to provide confirmation of the source. If the opposing team cannot provide their source, or the challenging team believes the source or information to be incorrect or an impermissible use of outside materials, the challenging team shall notify the judges and Room Clerk of their specific challenge, along with the reason for the challenge, at the conclusion of the negotiation round, but before self-reflection. At the end of the negotiation round, the Room Clerk will verify the fact or source in question with CINEMA officials. If the source or information is proven incorrect, the CDRCHS will, at its discretion, deduct three points from the violating team's final score for that round. Good faith errors may be excused at the discretion of competition management.

E. Scoring & Penalties

- I. Teams are *not required to reach an agreement to be successful* in their round and *judges are prohibited from deducting points* based solely on a team not reaching an agreement.

- II. CINEMA will be scored in line with the *American Bar Association Law Student Division's Competition Judging Standards*. Competitors will be scored exclusively on their negotiation performance in the following areas:
- Preparation
 - Teamwork
 - Relationship with the Other Team
 - Service to Client's Best Interests
 - Creativity
 - Self Reflection
- III. Judges may *deduct points* if they believe it is appropriate. Penalties include: whether a team abuses the time restraints, strays from the facts provided, uses an inappropriate outside source, or other misconduct or unethical behavior as determined by the judges and Cardozo DRCHS.
- IV. The number of points that judges may deduct is described below:
- Deduct *two points* if the team abused the time restrictions.
 - Deduct *three points* if the team inappropriately created facts.
 - Deduct *one point* per violation of other rules or conduct (with a maximum of [5] points deducted in total).
- V. In addition to the regular scoring, judges may nominate competitors they observe for any of the following awards: *Best Advocacy*, *Best Opening Statement*, *Best Teamwork*, and *Best Creative Solution* (each a "Certificate Award"). For the sake of clarity, *each Certificate Award will be awarded to a team as a pair, not to an individual person*.
- VI. *If there is a tie*, the team with the highest overall team score will be announced as the winner of such a Certificate Award.
- VII. Certificate Award nominees will be determined through the preliminary rounds.

F. Judge Scoring & Feedback

- I. Each judge will be required to attend a *Judge Orientation* before judging any round. For each round, judges will complete a Score Sheet. The Score Sheet gives a numerical rating for each team's performance. At the bottom of each Score Sheet is a comment section. Judges are encouraged but not required to leave comments for each team.
- II. Following each (40) minute round, judges may begin to fill out their Score Sheet. Following the Self Reflection portion of the round, judges will finalize their Score

Sheet. Before giving feedback, judges must hand in their Score Sheet to the Room Clerk.

- III. If requested, CDRCHS will release Score Sheets to the respective inquiring team after completion of the CINEMA Competition.

G. Awards

- I. There will be (9) *awards presented* at the completion of the final round as follows:
- First Place Overall
 - Second Place Overall
 - Third Place Overall
 - Fourth Place Overall
 - Fifth Place Overall
 - Best Advocacy
 - Best Opening Statement
 - Best Teamwork
 - Best Creative Solution
- II. The *First, Second, and Third Place Overall Awards* will be given to the (3) highest scoring teams of the competition and takes into consideration the scores from the preliminary and final rounds.
- III. The *Fourth and Fifth Place Overall Awards* will be given to the (2) highest scoring teams of the competition and only takes into consideration the scores from the preliminary round.
- IV. The *Certificate Awards* are (as described above) are judge-voted awards and are given to the team with the most nominations and only takes into consideration the negotiation sessions from the preliminary rounds.
- V. All award recipients are *required to be present at the Awards Ceremony* in order to accept the award. If a team and/or individual is not present at the Awards Ceremony, the award will be given to the runner(s)-up of such award.

ANY VIOLATION OF THESE RULES MAY RESULT IN THE DISQUALIFICATION OF THAT TEAM AT THE SOLE DISCRETION OF CARDOZO DRCHS