

MOOTING – ORAL ARGUMENTS

Appearance:

- Successful oral mooting relies on **40 % law and 60 % appearance**
- Keep eye contact, smile and be polite – do not be aggressive or annoyed
- Make sure to handle your materials



Argument:

- **Structure** your arguments
 - I. Introduction
 - II. Overview
 - III. Substance
 - IV. Summary
- Know your law and know your facts
- **When the law is on your side argue the law – When the facts are on your side argue the facts**
- Control the questions (e.g. by anticipating them by knowing your counter-arguments)



Legal nerd alert! The US Supreme Court puts all its oral pleadings online!!

http://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/argument_audio.aspx

- o Listen to e.g. Sackett v. EPA to get a feel..

Speech:

- **Stay simple** in argumentation
- Speak loud and clear
- **Converse with the bench** – intonate like in normal speech
- Address the bench correctly
- Let the judge finish his question

Time management:

- Manage your time wisely
- Do not try to hurry in more arguments
- When two minutes are remaining, slowly find an end and head towards the prayer for relief
- If you see the stop sign, indicate this to the bench and ask to finish sentence, argument, sum up arguments...

