

# Supreme Court Simulation (Fall 2025) - Syllabus

Josh Blackman

Fall 2025

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Classroom: 3023

Office: 623

Syllabus: <https://bit.ly/SCOTUSSeminar2025>

## Overview:

Welcome to the Supreme Court Simulation. This course will allow students to argue pending Supreme Court cases, and ask questions as if they were the Supreme Court justices. Students will also be able to receive feedback from Supreme Court advocates. This course will be capped at eleven students: nine justices and two advocates for each case. This course will give students a unique perspective of cutting-edge issues at the Supreme Court.

## Structure:

This semester, we will focus on four pending Supreme Court cases. And for each case, we will devote three classes: (1) a case preview, (2) the moot oral argument, (3) and the review after the case is argued at the Supreme Court with an advocate from the case.

## Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory for the oral arguments and the day on which you are “on call.” If you *must*, due to a true emergency, miss a class for which you have an assigned role, you *must* notify the professor and you must arrange for a colleague to play that role in your stead.

## Evaluation:

During the semester, each student will argue one case, and serve as a Justice in three cases. Moreover, there will be short written assignments before and after each case is argued. All assignments should be prepared with **Times New Roman, 12-point font, single-spaced, with one-inch margins.**

All assignments will be typed in a Google Document that the Professor will share with you. The assignments will be submitted in the appropriate D2L dropbox. Assignments will not be accepted after the due date.

**The use of Generative AI is not permitted in this class on any assignment or to prepare for oral argument. Please do your own work. To understand why, read this post: <https://adamunikowsky.substack.com/p/automating-oral-argument>**

Students will be graded with the following rubric based on their participation in the case previews, moot courts, and case reviews.

(The case numbers will vary by student.)

**Case Preview:** 30%

- “On Call” for Case: 15% - **Write two-minute opening statement (approximately 250 words)**
- 5 Questions and proposed answers, with explanation of *why* you asked that question
  - Case A: 5%
  - Case B: 5%
  - Case C: 5%

**Moot Oral Argument:** 50%

- Advocate for Case: 35%
- Serve as Justice
  - Case A: 5%
  - Case B: 5%
  - Case C: 5%

Oral Argument Guide:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jSZKM8ci4HdhlhV2eO0h3PfB4YCjMaNH8BFV9iW-R5U/edit>

**Case Review:** 20%

- One-page reaction paper after the actual oral argument
  - Case #1: 5%
  - Case #2: 5%
  - Case #3: 5%
  - Case #4: 5%

**Samples of Submissions from Fall 2024:**

Fall 2024 Syllabus:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/17DuFH\\_kunxyafPq4yi21eX7HKzfANO8\\_Z7iWpczeAks/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.mb6q87srg08n](https://docs.google.com/document/d/17DuFH_kunxyafPq4yi21eX7HKzfANO8_Z7iWpczeAks/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.mb6q87srg08n)

Questions and Proposed Answers:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hUlH9NTXTbQ1aysua3ZVWF5Z6epyKJq?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hUlH9NTXTbQ1aysua3ZVWF5Z6epyKJq?usp=drive_link)

Videos of Moots:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kaJQnAPYd2d0TtEMQsMenK1U9kGVu1i7?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kaJQnAPYd2d0TtEMQsMenK1U9kGVu1i7?usp=drive_link)

Case Reviews:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1\\_YuKRYxUqDzM8233Mi2iv7F\\_Lg6MK2iW?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_YuKRYxUqDzM8233Mi2iv7F_Lg6MK2iW?usp=drive_link)

Guide for Oral Argument:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jSZKM8ci4HdhIhV2eO0h3PfB4YCjMaNH8BFV9iW-R5U/edit?usp=drive\\_link](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jSZKM8ci4HdhIhV2eO0h3PfB4YCjMaNH8BFV9iW-R5U/edit?usp=drive_link)

### **Samples of Submissions from Fall 2023:**

Fall 2023 Syllabus:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uUB1nyfZTGksN4if0nK4SM-0P2-w7dpPBGy0emJ-Lvw/edit#heading=h.hgafskz15ga4m>

Questions and Proposed Answers:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-UgaNd6gHtBJ-NIPFLLykaZP5h02VEcc?usp=sharing>

Videos of Moots:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TqadLnGWqWOEGq0fKTdIg3K7D363m5qp?usp=sharing>

Case Reviews:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-f51vGV\\_OQxww0FcFiB0NeeUb7\\_fsKT?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-f51vGV_OQxww0FcFiB0NeeUb7_fsKT?usp=sharing)

Guide for Oral Argument:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NPr6RxXot-V-RPfMp8mPNf5vES2UFJmT3q8RdaL03MQ/edit?usp=sharing>

### **Samples of Submissions from Fall 2022:**

Questions and Proposed Answers:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JlcGJOY16dxOgEHWOEZ0nL14k7E922Tg?usp=sharing>

Videos of Moots:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1s-WEm1OLO3ufbCMCp3-E01GGjv51sZ7x?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1s-WEm1OLO3ufbCMCp3-E01GGjv51sZ7x?usp=drive_link)

Photos of Moot: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/a9fQJTfwmxfoNhvZ8>

Case Reviews:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19MEYQcRh3gS3PDHZAFfrnG6mpFg0nncl?usp=sharing>

Guide for Oral Argument:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NPr6RxXot-V-RPfMp8mPNf5vES2UFJmT3q8RdaL03MQ/edit>

## Office Hours

I will hold office hours on Mondays before and after class, and at other times by appointment.

## Cases

### Case #1

[Chiles v. Salazar \(24-539\)](#)

- Preview: 8/25/25
- Moot Oral Argument: 9/29/25
- Actual Oral Argument: 10/7/25
- Review: 11/17/25

#### Question Presented

Whether a law that censors certain conversations between counselors and their clients based on the viewpoints expressed regulates conduct or violates the free speech clause of the First Amendment.

Submitted Questions:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1d7tGSZWgSoLm49nKoxFThdPVxPfuVw3W?usp=sharing>

### Case #2

[Bost v. Illinois State Board of Elections \(24-568\)](#)

- Preview: 9/8/25
- Moot Oral Argument: 10/6/25
- Actual Oral Argument: 10/8/25
- Review: 10/20/25

#### Questions Presented

Whether petitioners, as federal candidates, have pleaded sufficient factual allegations to show Article III standing to challenge state time, place, and manner regulations concerning their federal elections.

Submitted Questions:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JLhNRgpNDfnBQHkgw10I6EhiAdyEFptB?usp=sharing>

### **Case #3**

#### [Case v. Montana \(24-624\)](#)

- Preview: 9/15/25
- Moot Oral Argument: 10/13/25
- Actual Oral Argument: 10/15/25
- Review: 10/27/25

#### Question Presented

Whether law enforcement may enter a home without a search warrant based on less than probable cause that an emergency is occurring, or whether the emergency-aid exception requires probable cause.

Submitted Questions:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MEy6OmNloL7tYHabvZjhTi2zNkynWr4Y?usp=sharing>

### **Case #4**

#### [Coney Island Auto Parts Unlimited, Inc. v. Burton \(24-808\)](#)

- Preview: 9/22/25
- Moot Oral Argument: 11/3/25
- Actual Oral Argument: 11/4/25
- Review: 11/10/25

#### Questions Presented

Whether Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60(c)(1) imposes any time limit to set aside a void default judgment for lack of personal jurisdiction.

Submitted Questions:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vDCDi3vC1YgV4h33rWM87s0sySrbGnVr?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vDCDi3vC1YgV4h33rWM87s0sySrbGnVr?usp=drive_link)

## **Students**

1. Shelton B.
2. Katherine D.
3. Tevin L.
4. Harshal P.
5. Stephen S.
6. Robert M.
7. Dustin B.

8. Ryan L.
9. Ricardo C.
10. Fiona N.
11. Jacob M.

## Schedule

The course calendar is available [here](#).

## Week 1 – 8/18/25

- **Introduction to Supreme Court Advocacy I**

### Guest Speaker

[Will Peterson](#) - Solicitor General of Texas

Read

- [Guide for Supreme Court Advocates](#) (Updated October Term 2023)
- Pick a case that was argued last term, and listen to the oral argument:  
<https://www.oyez.org/cases/2024>
  - Be prepared to talk about the case.

## Week 2 – 8/25/25

### Introduction to Supreme Court Advocacy II

### Guest Speaker

[Aaron Streett](#)

Baker Botts

Practice Group Chair - Supreme Court and Constitutional Law

Mr. Streett argued and won a unanimous victory in *Groff v. DeJoy* (2023)

- Listen to Oral Argument: <https://www.oyez.org/cases/2022/22-174>
- Read *Groff v. DeJoy*:  
[https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/22pdf/22-174\\_k536.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/22pdf/22-174_k536.pdf)

## Preview Case #1

[Chiles v. Salazar \(24-539\)](#)

Materials:

- Oral argument below: [MP3, Transcript](#)
- Opinion below: [10th Circuit](#)
- [Petitioner Merits Brief](#)
- [Solicitor General's Brief](#)
- [Amicus Brief of the Manhattan Institute, et al](#)
- [Respondent Merits Brief](#)
- [Reply Brief](#)

On Call:

- Petitioner: Student 1
- Respondent: Student 2
- Amicus (United States Solicitor General): Student 11

Justices:

- Roberts: Student 3
- Thomas: Student 4
- Alito: Student 5
- Sotomayor: Student 6
- Kagan: Student 7
- Gorsuch: Student 8
- Kavanaugh: Student 9
- Barrett: Student 10
- Jackson: Guest Judge

Submissions:

- 8/24/25 at 5:00 p.m.
  - Students 1, 2, 11: Submit two-minute opening statement
  - Students 3-10: Submit five prepared questions and sample answers in Case #1 based on Justice Assignments

**Week 3 - Labor Day - 9/1/25**

**No Class**

## Week 4 – 9/8/25

### Preview Case #2

*Bost v. Illinois State Board of Elections (24-568)*

- Ari Savitzky, ACLU

Materials:

- Oral argument below: [MP3](#), [Transcript](#)
- Opinion below: [7th Circuit](#)
- [Petitioner Merits Brief](#)
- [Amicus Brief of the League of Women Voters, et al](#)
- [Respondent Merits Brief](#)
- [Amicus brief in support of Respondent - District of Columbia](#)
- Reply Brief (TBD)

On Call:

- Petitioner: Student 7
- Respondent: Student 8
- Amicus (League of Women Voters): Student 9

Justices:

- Roberts: Student 11
- Thomas: Student 4
- Alito: Student 10
- Sotomayor: Student 5
- Kagan: Guest Judge
- Gorsuch: Student 3
- Kavanaugh: Student 2
- Barrett: Student 1
- Jackson: Student 6

Submissions:

- 9/7/25 at 5:00 p.m.
  - Students 7, 8, 9: Submit two-minute opening statement
  - Students 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11: Submit five total prepared questions and sample answers in Case #2 based on Justice Assignments

## Week 5 – 9/15/25

## Preview Case #3

[Case v. Montana \(24-624\)](#)

Materials:

- Opinion Below: [Montana Supreme Court](#)
- [Petitioner Merits Brief](#)
- [Amicus brief of Constitutional Accountability Center](#)
- [Respondent Brief](#)
- [Amicus brief in support of Respondent](#)

On Call:

- Petitioner: Student 5
- Respondent: Student 6
- Amicus (Constitutional Accountability Center): Student 10

Justices:

- Roberts: Student 2
- Thomas: Student 8
- Alito: Student 9
- Sotomayor: Student 7
- Kagan: Student 1
- Gorsuch: Guest Judge
- Kavanaugh: Student 11
- Barrett: Student 3
- Jackson: Student 4

Submission:

- 9/14/25 at 5:00 p.m.
  - Students 5, 6, 10: Submit two-minute opening statement.
  - Students 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11: Submit five prepared questions and sample answers in Case #3 based on Justice Assignments.

## Week 6 – 9/22/25

### Preview Case #4

[Coney Island Auto Parts Unlimited, Inc. v. Burton \(24-808\)](#)

Special Guest: Judge Joan Larsen (U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit)

Materials:

- Opinion below: [6th Circuit](#)
- [Petitioner Merits Brief](#)
- [Respondent Brief in opposition to certiorari](#)

- [Respondent Merits Brief](#)

On Call:

- Petitioner: Student 3
- Respondent: Student 4

Justices:

- Roberts: Student 1
- Thomas: Student 2
- Alito: Student 11
- Sotomayor: Student 5
- Kagan: Student 6
- Gorsuch: Student 7
- Kavanaugh: Student 8
- Barrett: Student 9
- Jackson: Student 10

Submission:

- 9/21/25 at 5:00 p.m.
  - Students 3 and 4: Submit two-minute opening statement
  - Students 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11: Submit five prepared questions and sample answers in Case #2 based on Justice Assignments

No Submissions

## **Week 7 – 9/29/25**

### **Moot Case #1**

[Chiles v. Salazar \(24-539\)](#)

On Call:

- Petitioner: Student 1
- Respondent: Student 2
- Amicus (United States Solicitor General): Student 11

Justices:

- Roberts: Student 3
- Thomas: Student 4
- Alito: Student 5
- Sotomayor: Student 6
- Kagan: Student 7
- Gorsuch: Student 8

- Kavanaugh: Student 9
- Barrett: Student 10
- Jackson: Guest Judge

## No Submissions

## Week 8 – 10/6/25

### Moot Case #2

[\*Bost v. Illinois State Board of Elections \(24-568\)\*](#)

On Call:

- Petitioner: Student 7
- Respondent: Student 8
- Amicus (League of Women Voters): Student 9

Justices:

- Roberts: Student 11
- Thomas: Student 4
- Alito: Student 10
- Sotomayor: Student 5
- Kagan: Guest Judge
- Gorsuch: Student 3
- Kavanaugh: Student 2
- Barrett: Student 1
- Jackson: Student 6

Submission:

- 10/9/25 at 5:00 p.m. Reaction paper to Case #1: Chiles v. Salazar

## Week 9 – 10/13/25

### Moot Case #3

[\*Case v. Montana \(24-624\)\*](#)

Materials:

- Opinion Below: [Montana Supreme Court](#)
- [Petitioner Merits Brief](#)

- [Amicus brief of Constitutional Accountability Center](#)
- [Respondent Brief](#)
- [Amicus brief in support of Respondent](#)

On Call:

- Petitioner: Student 5
- Respondent: Student 6
- Amicus (Constitutional Accountability Center): Student 10

Justices:

- Roberts: Student 2
- Thomas: Student 8
- Alito: Student 9
- Sotomayor: Student 7
- Kagan: Student 1
- Gorsuch: Guest Judge
- Kavanaugh: Student 11
- Barrett: Student 3
- Jackson: Student 4

Submission:

- 10/19/25 at 5:00 p.m. Reaction paper to Case #2: Bost v. Illinois State Board of Elections

## **Week 10 – 10/20/25**

### **Case #3 Review**

[Bost v. Illinois State Board of Elections \(24-568\)](#)

- Paul Clement, Counsel for Petitioner

Submissions

- 10/19/25 at 5:00 p.m. Reaction paper to Case #2: Bost v. Illinois State Board of Elections

## **Week 11 – 10/27/25**

## Case #3 Review

### Case v. Montana (24-624)

- Christian Corrigan, Solicitor General of Montana

### Submissions

- 10/26/25 at 5:00 p.m. Reaction paper to Case #3: Case v. Montana

## Week 12 – 11/3/25

### Moot Case #4

#### Coney Island Auto Parts Unlimited, Inc. v. Burton (24-808)

##### On Call:

- Petitioner: Student 3
- Respondent: Student 4

##### Justices:

- Roberts: Student 1
- Thomas: Student 2
- Alito: Student 11
- Sotomayor: Student 5
- Kagan: Student 6
- Gorsuch: Student 7
- Kavanaugh: Student 8
- Barrett: Student 9
- Jackson: Student 10

No submissions

## Week 13 – 11/10/25

### Review Case #4

#### Coney Island Auto Parts Unlimited, Inc. v. Burton (24-808)

- Lisa Blatt, Counsel for Respondent

##### On Call:

- Petitioner: Student 3
- Respondent: Student 4

Justices:

- Roberts: Student 1
- Thomas: Student 2
- Alito: Student 11
- Sotomayor: Student 5
- Kagan: Student 6
- Gorsuch: Student 7
- Kavanaugh: Student 8
- Barrett: Student 9
- Jackson: Student 10

Submissions

- 11/9/25 at 5:00 p.m. Reaction paper to Case #4: Coney Island Auto Parts Unlimited, Inc. v. Burton

## **Week 14 – 11/17/25**

### **Review Case #1**

[Chiles v. Salazar \(24-539\)](#)

- In-Person Guest - John Bursch, counsel for Petitioner

## **Class 15 – 11/24/25**

### **Guest Lecture**

Ann Marimow, Supreme Court Reporter for the *New York Times*

Scott Stewart, Solicitor General of Mississippi

### **Learning Outcomes.**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Present appellate arguments in similar fashion as Supreme Court advocates.
2. Ask questions in the personas of Supreme Court justices
3. Predict outcomes of Supreme Court cases based on briefing and questions asked during oral argument.
4. Interact with Supreme Court advocates.

## **Accommodations for Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment Act (ADA) is federal anti-discrimination legislation providing comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. South Texas College of Law Houston is committed to providing a learning environment meeting the needs of all students. It provides reasonable accommodations to otherwise qualified students who are classified as disabled under the ADA including students who have physical, learning, psychological, or other disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Office of Student Support (Disability & Accessibility Services) at [studentsupport@stcl.edu](mailto:studentsupport@stcl.edu) to discuss how your need for support services may be met. All discussions will remain confidential.

Accommodations cannot be provided retroactively. Students may use this link here to access information:

[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?STCLHouston&layout\\_id=12](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?STCLHouston&layout_id=12)

This information can also be found in the Office of Student Support, located in Room 255, on the Office of Student Support (Disability & Accessibility Services) webpage, and in the Student Handbook.

## **STCLH's Title IX Policy**

STCLH prohibits sex discrimination against any applicant or participant in its education programs or activities. Incidents of Sexual Misconduct should be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at [TitleIXCoordinator@STCL.edu](mailto:TitleIXCoordinator@STCL.edu) or by phone at 713-646-1709. Your reports may also be submitted 24 hours/day through Maxient (conduct management system) at [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?STCLHouston&layout\\_id=40](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?STCLHouston&layout_id=40). Assistant Dean and Title IX Coordinator Donna Davis (713-646-1709) is the administrator designated as the primary Title IX contact for the law school. You may contact her with any questions or to report information.