

AAMUN

THE ROMAN CENTURION COURT

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Courts in AAMUN

The Roman Centurion Court special committee falls into the category of AAMUN's court-based special committees. It follows a structured legal process involving Advocati presenting arguments, questioning witnesses, and engaging in formal procedure to ensure fairness and due process. Delegates are expected to develop familiarity with Roman legal terminology and courtroom decorum, and arguments will often be shaped by the interpretation of Roman law and precedent-setting cases. The central goal of the committee is to examine questions of judicial authority, accountability, and the rule of law, with the Court remaining impartial throughout proceedings.

Unlike the ICC or ICJ, which focus on international criminal responsibility or disputes between states, the Roman Centurion Court focuses on disputes and cases within the Roman Republic. Cases brought before the Court often involve questions surrounding the authority of Roman officials, the application of Roman law, individual rights, and governmental accountability.

Because of this unique jurisdiction, the structure of this court differs slightly from other AAMUN courts. Instead of a traditional jury, the committee consists of Iudices, who play an active role throughout the hearing by questioning Advocati, evaluating arguments, and deliberating on a final ruling. Instead of standard prosecution and defense teams, delegates may be designated as Advocati, representing opposing legal sides in the case before the Court.

There are 12 delegates in this committee, divided into a panel of 6 Iudices and two opposing Advocati teams (3 Advocati each). Witnesses may also be called during proceedings to provide testimony and support the arguments presented.

The Councils:

Advocati Accusatores: Advocates representing the accuser side argue that an individual's actions or conduct violate Roman law and warrant legal accountability. They present evidence, legal arguments, and relevant Roman laws or precedents to support their claims, while challenging the respondent's arguments. Their main aim is to persuasively demonstrate that the Court should rule in favor of the plaintiff.



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Advocati Defensionis: Advocates on the defensionis side argue in defense of the challenged action or individual, maintaining that it is constitutional, legally justified, or unsupported by sufficient evidence. They provide counter-arguments, challenge the accuser's interpretation of the law, and emphasize alternative readings of precedent. Their main goal is to convince the Court that the defendant's position should be upheld.

Iudices: The Iudices serve as the central decision-making body of the committee. Their role is to hear all arguments, evaluate evidence and testimony, and actively question advocates throughout the proceedings. Unlike a traditional jury, the Iudices are expected to play a continuous and engaged role during each stage of the trial, ensuring that the legal issues are thoroughly examined. After hearing the case, the Iudices deliberate privately and issue a final ruling based solely on the arguments, evidence, and material presented during the trial.

Here is what the process for each case will look like, chronologically:

1. Opening speeches
 2. Stipulations
 3. Evidence
 4. Iudex Questioning
 5. Witness Examination
 6. Questioning of the Accused
 7. Closing Speeches
 8. Iudex Questioning
 9. Iudex Deliberations
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1. Opening Speeches

An effective opening speech begins by clearly outlining the events and constitutional questions that have brought the case before the Roman Court. Advocates should establish the legal context of the dispute, explain the key issues at stake, and identify



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the specific constitutional provisions, amendments, or federal principles that are being challenged or defended.

After setting the foundation of the case, advocates should provide a concise summary of their claims, explaining why the Court should rule in their favor. Opening speeches should also introduce the witnesses that may be called and briefly highlight the main evidence and precedent cases that will support the arguments presented throughout the hearing.

As in any Roman Court-style proceeding, the strength of an opening speech lies not only in its content but also in its clarity, persuasiveness, and legal reasoning. Advocates are encouraged to practice their delivery to ensure their argument is compelling and structured.

Sample Structure for Opening Speech (15-20 mins):

- Introduction / Case background and summary of claims: Present your side's understanding of the case and introduce the central constitutional question in an engaging and well-framed manner.
- Relevant Roman Laws and Legal Principles: A strong opening speech should reference the key Roman laws, legal principles, or doctrines involved (for example, imperium, mos maiorum, the authority of the Senate, or the limits of imperial power). Advocates should explain how the accused's actions align with or violate these principles.
- Brief description of evidence and precedent: Introduce one major piece of evidence or a landmark Roman legal precedent that will play an important role in the case, and explain how it supports your legal argument.
- Brief description of witnesses: Witness names do not need to be stated, but advocates should provide the Court with an overview of the types of testimony that will be introduced and how these witnesses contribute to the case.
- Pre-rebuttals: It is common for both sides to have sources or precedents supporting their position. Addressing potential opposition arguments early on can strengthen credibility before the Iudices.



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- Closing remarks: End with a strong statement that emphasizes the importance of the issue and reinforces why the Court should rule in your favor.

2. Stipulations

Following opening speeches, the Court will move into stipulations. Stipulations are agreed-upon facts and contextual points about the case that both counsel teams accept as uncontested. These facts establish a shared foundation before legal arguments and constitutional interpretation are explored.

Each side will present up to 8 stipulations. Once submitted and presented, stipulations may not be amended or replaced.

Sources used for stipulations must be credible and verifiable. General news articles should be avoided, as they may be objected to on the grounds of relevance, authenticity, or bias, unless they include direct recorded material or primary documentation that cannot reasonably be manipulated. Advocates are expected to rely on reputable authors, official records, and trustworthy legal or academic sources.

Advocates are allowed to object to only 3 things during the presentation of stipulations (**relevance, authenticity, bias**)

3. Evidence

Advocates should work collaboratively on evidence packets with the rest of the counsel on their side. It is important to remember that evidence does not simply mean facts; rather, it should explain why and how each side's legal argument is supported.

Delegates are encouraged to think of it in the following way:

- Stipulations establish the uncontested background: the who, when, and where.
- Evidence supports the argument: the how, why, and under what legal reasoning the Court should rule in your favor.



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Evidence in this committee may include official Roman documents, court records, testimonia, legal texts, Roman laws, or precedent-setting Roman Court cases that strengthen your position.

Under each piece of evidence, advocates must provide a working source link so the opposing counsel may verify authenticity. In the absence of a source, the opposing side may object on the grounds of authenticity.

All evidence must be clearly formatted and include a title and author or issuing institution to ensure credibility and prevent incorrect or misleading sourcing.

Advocates are allowed to object to only 3 things during the presentation of evidence **(relevance, authenticity, lack of foundation)**.

4. Iudex Questioning

Following the presentation of evidence, the Court will proceed to a structured Iudex Questioning period. During this stage, the panel of Roman Court Iudices will actively engage with both counsel teams in order to clarify arguments, challenge legal reasoning, and explore the constitutional questions at the center of the case.

Each side will receive five questions from the Iudices.

Advocates are expected to respond directly, professionally, and with strong legal support, as this portion of the hearing reflects the Roman Court's emphasis on judicial inquiry and constitutional interpretation.

5. Witness Examination

Witness questioning occurs after a witness has submitted their affidavit as part of the evidence packet. Once the affidavit is officially entered into the record, the witness may be called to testify during the hearing.



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The prosecution counsel will always begin questioning first. Advocates are not limited in objections during witness examination and may use any appropriate objections from the official objections list provided.

After the Iudex reliability questioning, examinations will proceed as follows:

Examinations:

1. Direct Examination: Between the witness and the counsel team they stand with.
2. Cross-Examination: Between the witness and the opposing counsel team. Leading questions are permitted only during cross-examination.
3. Iudex Examination: The Iudices may ask follow-up questions as necessary, and the reliability rating will be formally recorded out of 5.
4. Re-Direct Examination (Optional): A maximum of two questions may be asked, only if the witness has not been impeached.
5. Re-Cross Examination (Only if redirect occurs): A maximum of two questions may be asked.

Quick tips for Witness Procedure:

- **Prepare your witness thoroughly:**

In AAMUN, witnesses are not strictly bound to their affidavit, meaning they must have a strong understanding of their role, testimony, and the broader context of the case in order to perform effectively. Witnesses should also be able to answer basic background questions confidently, as the Roman Court Iudices will assess credibility and assign a reliability rating out of 5 before formal examination begins.

- **Use every witness strategically:**

Counsel should take full advantage of each witness's capacity to support their argument. Any question that strengthens your legal position and falls within the witness's knowledge should be explored, whether the witness is testifying for or against your side.



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6. Questioning of the Accused

Following the presentation of evidence and witness examination, the Court will proceed to a structured Questioning of the Accused period. During this stage, the Iudex will directly question the accused in order to clarify their actions, intentions, and role in the events giving rise to the charges.

The accused will receive a series of questions from the Iudex, with both counsel teams given the opportunity to request clarification where necessary.

The accused is expected to respond directly and truthfully to the questions presented. This stage allows the Court to assess the accused's account of events, address inconsistencies in the evidence, and further examine the factual and legal issues at the center of the case.

7. Closing Speeches

Closing speeches serve as the final opportunity for counsel to summarize the arguments presented throughout the hearing and persuade the Roman Court Iudices to rule in their favor. During this stage, advocates should revisit the most important legal claims, evidence, and witness testimony introduced during the case.

Each closing speech should last approximately 15 minutes. Counsel are expected to focus on constitutional reasoning, precedent, and the overall strength of their side's position, as this is the final argument the Court will hear before entering deliberations.

Sample Structure for Closing Speech (15-20 mins):

- Introduction and hook
- Summary of main legal arguments
- Recap of key stipulations, evidence, and witness testimony
- Address weaknesses or contradictions in the opposing counsel's case
- Strong conclusion, reinforcing why the Court should rule in your favor



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8. Iudices Questioning

Following closing speeches, the Court will proceed to a final Iudex Questioning period. This stage allows the Roman Court Iudices to address any remaining uncertainties, challenge final legal interpretations, and ensure that the legal issues at the center of the case have been fully explored before deliberation. The Iudices may ask 5 questions to the Advocati of each side. Advocates are expected to respond clearly and directly, as this is the final opportunity to clarify arguments before the Court enters deliberations and issues its ruling.

9. Iudices Deliberations

Following the conclusion of arguments and final Iudex Questioning, the Roman Court Iudices will enter deliberations. During this stage, the Iudices will privately discuss the case, evaluate the arguments presented by both sides, and determine the Court's final ruling.

Iudices must base their decision solely on the stipulations, evidence, witness testimony, and legal reasoning introduced throughout the hearing. Deliberations are intended to reflect the Roman Court's role in interpreting Roman law and issuing a final judgment.

The Iudices will reach a consensus decision and present their ruling privately to the chairing panel. The final outcome for each case will be formally announced during the closing ceremony.