*Scripted Opening for the Host Judge and the Student Attorneys*

**Courtroom Protocol for Attorneys***New Jersey v. T.L.O.*  
Applied to Seizure of Illegal E-Cigarettes During a Backpack Search at School

The Host Judge is announced, takes the bench, and welcomes the group, then says:

The issue before us today is: Are students’ Fourth Amendment rights violated when school officials search a student’s backpack at school and seize illegally purchased e-cigarettes?

**Host Judge: Are Counsel for the student Ms. Simmons ready?**

**Counsel for the Students** *(Attorney #1 stands at counsel table)*

Yes, Your Honor.

**Host Judge: Are Counsel for the school and for Vice Principal Mario Martin ready?**

**Counsel for the Vice Principal** *(Attorney #1 stands at counsel table)*

Yes, Your Honor.

**Host Judge: Instructs Counsel to introduce themselves.**

**Attorneys for the Student Sandy Simmons**

**Student Attorney #1** *(Stands at the podium)*

Good morning and may it please the Court. My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(first and last names).* I am from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (real school).

My colleague and I are representing the student Sandy Simmons today. I will be handling Issue #1: **Are school officials considered government actors who must comply with Fourth Amendment restrictions when they conduct searches at school?**

My colleague will be handling Issue #2, and now he/she will come to the podium and introduce himself/herself. Then our Attorney Coach will introduce himself/herself. *(Sits down)*

**Student Attorney #2** *(Stands at the podium)*

I am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*first and last names)*

from\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (real school) and I will be handling issue #2: **Do students have a reasonable expectation of privacy at school?**

**Attorney Coach introduces himself/herself.** *(Stands at the counsel table.)*

*I am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (first and last names)*

**Note to Participating Attorneys:**

Address the Judge as “Your Honor.”

The first time each attorney addresses the Judge, the opening is: *“May it please the court.”*

Always stand when speaking to the Judge.

**Attorneys for the School and Vice Principal Mario Martin**

**Student Attorney #1** *(Stands at the podium)*

May it please the Court.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(first and last names).*

I am from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (real school). My colleague and I represent the school and Vice Principal Mario Martin.

I will handle Issue #1 – **Are school officials considered government actors who must comply with Fourth Amendment restrictions when they conduct searches at school?** My colleague will handle Issue #2, and, at this time, he/she will come to the podium and introduce himself/herself. Our Attorney Coach also will introduce himself/herself.

**Student Attorney #2** *(Stands at the podium)*

I am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(first and last names).* I will be arguing the second issue:  **Do students have a reasonable expectation of privacy at school?** *(Sits down)*

**Attorney Coach introduces himself/herself.** *(Stands at the counsel table.)*

I am *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (first and last names)*

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