

Message to Teams:

Several questions have been submitted regarding the new element in this year's case problem that certain facts change depending on the gender of the defendant.

The use of the words "husband" and "wife," "he" and "she," or "Mr." and "Mrs." in various witness statements and exhibits is intentional.

Whether to play the defendant as male or female is a decision each team will have to make, however, there are trade-offs built into the case that will impact the decision either way.

As an example, if Bailey Forsythe is portrayed as male, then Stipulated Fact #4 means he has a prior felony conviction. On the other hand, if Bailey Forsythe is portrayed as female, she does not have a prior felony conviction but Exhibit 13 and Val Williams indicate that she doubled the life insurance policy for Corey's death a month before Corey died (and both then contradict Bailey about the issue).

There are other instances in the problem where facts change based upon the gender of the defendant, but the problem is still structured so that the vast majority of the case will be the same regardless of whether the defendant is portrayed as male or female. The variability was specifically introduced into the case to provide competitors with increased opportunities and challenges both in preparing and trying the case, but, in the end, the differences that arise create peripheral issues rather than alter the prosecution's fundamental theory of how the murder occurred.

During the tournaments, the gender of the defendant in each trial will be announced along with the team pairings for each round. This means, the prosecution will not know the gender of the defendant until that time, so it either must be ready to modify its case or must prepare a case theory that is the same for both circumstances.

Case Questions

Q1: Bailey Forsythe says at line 60 that Corey took out policy. Shouldn't this be my spouse which allows for Bailey to be played by female.

A1: The case problem is correct.

Q2: Nunn at line 121 refers to Exhibit 11 as map. Should be Exhibit 12.

A2: Line 121 should read Exhibit 12.

Q3: Exhibit 2. Signature should be ME of Larimer not Weld county.

A3: Exhibit 2 signature should be Larimer County.

Q4: Are teams allowed to have the actual gender of the student playing the defendant be different than the declared gender of the defendant? For example, will a team be allowed to declare that the defendant is the wife, but have a male playing that role?

A4: Yes. This information will be added to volunteer orientation.

Q5: Is the dead person [whether man or woman] the one who has the higher insurance premium. or does the premium holder change based on who is the man or woman?

A5: Refer to message to teams.

Q6: One of the pieces of evidence is a map of Poudre Canyon. The map is blurry. Could we print that map for their evidence instead of the blurry pdf? Or, is the pdf purposefully blurry?

A6: The map should not be blurry. You might want to update your Adobe software or email cgravit@cobar.org for another copy.

Q7: On line 24-25, "I was a groomsman at Jackson's second wedding, and he was best man at my first.". Our team was hoping to get some clarification on this as it raises the issue of Val Williams being a man.

A7: This will be edited to read, " I stood at Jackson's second wedding...".

Q8: In coroner's affidavit and autopsy report Lloyd says that he did not find any bruising on body. However, the autopsy report refers to contusions (which appear in all sources we looked at) to be bruising.... Was this intentional or are you changing this.

A8: The case problem is correct.

Q9: In Bailey's affidavit, he/she says that he/she called the insurance place but the After Life evidence (13) says that the wife called. This genders Bailey.

A9: Refer to message to teams

Q10 The expert witness on the defense team, Medical Examiner Dr. Morgan Lloyd, it is stated that they are the medical examiner for Larimer County. However, in the affidavit the witness is signed as the Weld County coroner and the medical report is also filed with Weld county, the district that has jurisdiction in this case. Is Larimer County a typo or a fact that we need to take into consideration?

A10: See question 3.

Q11: Pg 37 line 33..." she had a black eye" . If the victim has a black eye then you have to prep a domestic violence case. If the defendant has a black eye then you have to prepare a self-defense case.

A11: The case problem is correct.

Q12: When and how do I register individual students and indicate their roles?

A12: After registration closes, all registered teams will start to receive e-mails about tournament locations, as well as requesting team rosters. Team rosters will be due Jan. 30.