

A green laurel wreath is positioned at the top of the page, framing the title. It consists of two branches of leaves that curve downwards and meet at the bottom.

Ocean's 11:

A green globe is centered in the background, showing the continents of North America, South America, Africa, and Australia. The globe is overlaid with a grid of latitude and longitude lines.

Robbing the  
Bellagio

Middle School Crisis Committee

# Background Guide

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Virginia Invitational

V I M  N C

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# VIMUNC XI



**MEI TORREY**

*SECRETARY-GENERAL*

**PEYTON WALCOTT**

*DIRECTOR-GENERAL*

**RYAN DADOO**

*CHIEF OF STAFF*

**SOPHIA BONGIOVI**

*UNDERSECRETARY-  
GENERAL OF GENERAL  
ASSEMBLIES AND  
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES*

**MATT TAM**

*UNDERSECRETARY-  
GENERAL OF CRISIS*

Esteemed delegates and sponsors of VIMUNC XI,

Welcome to the eleventh annual Virginia Invitational Model United Nations Conference. As the MUN year winds down, we hope to provide the best experience yet, with paramount service and attention to detail that creates the greatest conference. From broad UN organizations to regional bodies, from corporations to criminal organizations, VIMUNC has committees that truly serve every interest. With experienced chairs, czars, and staff, we will ensure that every delegate truly has a positive experience, and we hope that you can enjoy your experience with us.

VIMUNC's 21 committees and over 850 delegates make this year's conference one of the largest editions ever, and we look forward to expanding our outreach across the DMV region to continue to provide a wonderful experience for all delegates. With a large MUN team that has years of experience, we hope that every single minute of the committee is filled with substantive debate that will create learning experiences that last for years to come.

So much hard work has been put into every single crisis update, background guide, and dossier, and we sincerely hope that the work and care placed in each aspect of this conference is displayed in its quality. If at any time you feel something about the conference is unsatisfactory, please don't hesitate to talk to your chairs, a staffer, or a member of the Secretariat.

Thank you so much for your commitment to VIMUNC XI, and best of luck in your committee, future conferences, and ambitions.

Sincerely,

Mei Torrey

Secretary-General, VIMUNC XI

# Ocean's 11: Robbing the Bellagio

TOPIC A: *Avoiding Law Enforcement*

TOPIC B: *Protecting Future Generations*

## TOPIC A: Avoiding Law Enforcement

Although a group of criminals were able to successfully complete their heist, there are millions out there struggling to steal the money they want. Robbery and theft crimes are on the rise globally. Criminals are turning to increasingly bold and dangerous tactics to steal money and valuables from individuals and institutions. At the same time, law enforcement agencies are cracking down harshly, often overstepping legal boundaries. This situation calls for reasoned debate and policy changes to balance individual rights, public safety, crime reduction, and fair enforcement of laws.

Robbery is defined as the taking of property from another person by violence, threat of violence, or intimidation with the intent to permanently deprive the owner of their property.

Robbery carries severe legal punishment, typically ranging from 5 years up to life imprisonment

depending on specific circumstances such as value stolen, use of weapons, injury to victims, etc. Despite harsh penalties, rates of robbery and theft have been increasing globally.

Desperation leads some individuals to turn to robbery and theft crimes out of poverty, addiction issues, lack of opportunities, or other motivations. However, punishment rarely fits the circumstances, especially compared to nonviolent property or financial crimes. Tough-on-crime policies have filled prisons well beyond capacity without reducing crime substantively.

Mandatory minimum sentencing and "three strikes" laws in some countries remove judicial discretion.

Overzealous policing tactics frequently violate civil liberties in pursuit of clearing cases. Racial profiling leads to disproportionate targeting of minorities. Unlawful searches happen based on flimsy suspicion neglecting rights to privacy, property, and due process. Suspects may be denied legal counsel, coerced into admissions of guilt, subject to excessive force, or threatened to divulge information without regard for constitutional protections.

Incarceration rates have skyrocketed due to harsh policies focused on punishment rather than rehabilitation or constructive social change. Even with criminals who deserve sentences, their crimes are exaggerated due to the will of law enforcement to put people away. By strengthening the community of criminals located in areas with companies/corporations with big money, law enforcement can be overturned.

With the tight connections that criminals form in the world, prison, or even parole, they have access to the resources that allow them to commit heinous crimes. People who want to commit these crimes to have a better life, partner with similar people, giving them motivation and, therefore, the upper hand.

The problem here that is if law enforcement gets their way, no robberies, heists, or harm will occur. As criminals, your job is to prevent law enforcement from getting their way.

## *Questions to Consider*

1. How do current criminals find loopholes within the police's policies to evade its restrictive attempts?
2. How can criminals accomplish economic stability with the crimes they commit?
3. How will political leaders, corporations, and communities react to the immense increase in criminal rates and how will we prevent further control?

## TOPIC B: Protecting Future Generations

With the police pining after criminals every day, their families and friends cannot be easily protected from law enforcement and their unjust ways. These families are usually low-income and can easily be taken advantage of due to the immense stigma surrounding them. This stigma puts them under the umbrella that they will do anything for money, even sell out their own family, and law enforcement would pay high amounts to put criminals behind bars.

Low-income families often lack the resources to fully understand or defend themselves in legal matters. Without adequate legal representation or knowledge of the law and legal system, low-income families can be at a disadvantage. They may face predatory practices, discrimination, or unjust settlements because they lack the means to effectively advocate for themselves.

Law enforcement will throw lawsuits at the families of criminals to get the family to turn on them. This includes both civil and criminal law. In civil cases like housing disputes, debt collection, or consumer issues, low-income families frequently lack legal counsel due to an inability to afford representation. This can result in unduly burdensome settlements, evictions, or other negative outcomes that significantly impact a family's financial stability and well-being. Due to this, the families are pressured to turn in the criminal who was only trying to beat the legal system to provide for their family. In cases where the criminal is tried, their families will have to get a court-appointed public defender. Court-appointed public defenders are often overburdened, underfunded, and unable to dedicate sufficient time or resources to provide an

adequate defense. This leaves low-income defendants more vulnerable to harsh sentences or unjust plea deals.

There is a clear need for better legal protections, advocacy, and reform to prevent families of criminals from being taken advantage of or facing unfair repercussions simply due to someone else's decision in their family to commit a crime.

## *Questions to Consider*

1. What programs, legal clinics, and aid services currently exist to assist low-income families with legal issues? Where are the gaps? How can existing services be expanded and made more accessible?
2. What roles can advocacy groups and other criminals' families play in improving the situation? What advocacy is needed for legislative and regulatory reforms?
3. What are the barriers that prevent low-income families from accessing adequate legal representation and advice? How can these barriers be addressed?



# Character Dossier

1. **Danny Ocean** - Charismatic ex-convict who assembles a crew to pull off an elaborate Las Vegas heist in order to win back his ex-wife Tess and get revenge on casino owner Terry Benedict. Danny is an excellent strategist and planner, thoughtfully considering all elements of the heist, while his cool confidence under pressure inspires the crew's unwavering loyalty.
2. **Rusty Ryan** - Danny's trusted friend and chief strategizer who helps him handpick the diverse team of skilled criminals to assist with the ambitious casino heist. Rusty is quick-witted and gifted in sleight of hand, disguise as well as hatching complex, ingenious plans that help Danny settle old scores.
3. **Reuben Tishkoff** - Once-powerful Las Vegas tycoon who now happily bankrolls Danny's scheme in order to exact revenge against rival Terry Benedict who forced Reuben out of ownership of a casino he helped fund.
4. **Linus Caldwell** - Young and ambitious pickpocket who impresses Danny and Rusty with his bold elevator theft of Benedict's keys, earning him a spot to assist with the Bellagio heist.
5. **Frank Catton** - Longtime casino worker and card dealer/scam artist who maintains his day job while secretly assisting Danny's crew with gaining insider access and knowledge necessary to navigate employees-only areas of the casinos.
6. **Basher Tarr** - An eccentric demolitions expert and technology enthusiast with extensive knowledge of alarms and explosives who aids the team by devising clever gadgets and ingenious methods to avoid detection and bypass vault security systems during the heists.
7. **Virgil Malloy** - Blue-collar worker with a knack for mechanics and driving who provides critical transportation and support to Danny's crew including modifying vehicles, creating quick exits, and serving as lookouts during the heist operations.
8. **Livingston Dell** - Socially awkward but remarkably brilliant technologist who applies his exceptional hacking skills to gaining remote access to surveillance systems allowing him to manipulate what security personnel see and disable recording devices.

9. **Saul Bloom** - An aging yet spirited con man, Bloom draws on his decades of experience running elaborate long cons to assist Danny's crew with planning the intricate details and misdirections essential for pulling off the dangerous Bellagio, Mirage, and MGM Grand casino heists.
10. **Yen** - As an exceptionally skilled Chinese acrobat and contortionist, Yen leverages his extraordinary athleticism and flexibility to infiltrate the casinos through tight spaces enabling him to covertly gain access to restricted areas and open pathways for other team members.
11. **Terry Benedict** - As owner of the Bellagio, Mirage, and MGM casinos, ruthless tycoon Terry Benedict relies on intimidation and elaborate security measures to protect his profits, but his arrogance and cruelty toward Danny's mentor Reuben motivates their bold attempt to fleece his vaults and upend his operations.
12. **The Night Fox** - Danny views the seasoned and mysterious European thief known as The Night Fox, who boldly challenges Danny by placing a high stakes wager on his capability to simultaneously steal a precious jewelry item, as a worthy adversary and welcomes the chance to compete against an opponent who matches his cunning and audacity.
13. **Bank** - Wealthy but unethical businessman, Bank purchases the rights to a lucrative Las Vegas casino property, in the process cruelly double-crossing Danny's friend and mentor Reuben Tishcoff, spurring Danny to orchestrate an elaborate and clever revenge scam targeting Bank's newest hotel/casino venture.
14. **Tess Ocean** - Sophisticated art curator Tess, who also happens to be Danny's ex-wife, finds herself unexpectedly playing a central role in the casino heist drama since her relationship with ruthless casino owner Terry Benedict serves as a key motivating factor and potential point of vulnerability that may assist Danny's intricate mission to fleece Benedict's vaults.
15. **Denny Shields** - An expert in surveillance, intel gatherer Denny provides detailed insider knowledge of casino operations and security protocols in addition to tipping off Danny's crew about money routes, shift changes, and the locations of rare works of art displayed on the Bellagio property - potentially valuable targets for stealing.

- 16. Isabel Lahiri** - Highly skilled in digital subterfuge, cunning hacker Isabel disables various computerized security systems allowing Danny's crew to breach the Bellagio vaults without leaving an electronic trail while erasing camera footage that could implicate members of the criminal team.
- 17. LeMarque** - As an art dealer familiar with the rare masterpieces on display in Bellagio's gallery, the well-connected Frenchman LeMarc feeds Tess crucial details about the valuable paintings ripe for stealing when the time locks open allowing Temporary access to Benedict's deepest vault.
- 18. Roman Nagel** - Expert forger and master of disguise Roman provides Danny's crew members with fake identity credentials and costumes so convincingly authentic that the team can successfully pose as security guards, EMTs, and wealthy gamblers to maneuver through the casinos largely undetected while they fleece Benedict's reserves.
- 19. Matsui** - Japanese high roller and Whale level gambler Matsui is an old acquaintance of Reuben's whom Danny exploits to create distractions and gain access to privileged areas of the casinos housing the count rooms and security offices the thieves intend to crack and ransack.
- 20. Sponder** - Shady executive casino host Sponder, serving as Terry Benedict's trusted proxy and lieutenant, directs security teams and oversees cage operations while aggressively expanding Benedict's burgeoning empire of properties on the Vegas Strip, making him an obstacle Danny must maneuver around to successfully pull off the elaborate burglaries.
- 21. Van der Woude** - Rival casino magnate Woude secretly assists Danny's scheme to fleece Benedict's reserves by directing his own security team to unknowingly trigger false alarms diverting Benedict's forces to fabricated emergencies allowing Danny's crew to breach restricted areas and access the vulnerable vaults.
- 22. The Caldwell**s - Naive real estate developers and casino investors, the affluent Caldwell clan provides the perfect patsies for Danny and his crew to use as unwitting decoys while the con men infiltrate Bank's newest property to ultimately sabotage the hotel's grand opening and launch a high profile heist without casting suspicion on themselves.

- 23. The V.U.P** – An acronym for “Very Unimportant Person,” the V.U.P represents the random ordinary casino patron that Danny's crew cleverly employs at key moments to create useful diversions allowing them to covertly access restricted employee corridors and sneak in unauthorized deliveries of gear and explosives essential to carrying out their caper.
- 24. Rydoo Dadoo** - Rydoo is a young entrepreneur who has a history of being connected to the drug market, concentrating on the West Coast. His specialties include his negotiation and seducing strategies, where his skills lend him to effectively communicate and convince others.

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