



SUITS: Play the Man Not the Odds



High School Specialized Committee

Background Guide

Virginia Invitational

V I M  N C

Model United Nations Conference

11th Session

March 1st-2nd, 2024

VIMUNC XI



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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

Suits

TOPIC A: *Restoring Peace*

TOPIC B: *Facing Bankruptcy*

Overview of the Body

Created by Aaron Korsh, *Suits*, is an American series that explores the concept of legal drama. The show addresses the colleagues at the Pearson Hardman law firm who counsel clients and represent them through various legal cases. Throughout its span of 9 seasons, the firm goes through numerous challenges including management changes, partnerships, name changes, ruthless power plays, and personal vendettas. Since Robert Zane joined the firm in season 8, there has been consistent disunity, with both Robert and Harvey continuing to fight over who is the true leader of the firm. As a result of this feud, both of their right-hand men (Samantha Wheeler and Alex Williams) were made a promise by their respective name partners to be the next name on the wall. As the season continued, both Samantha and Alex discovered the conflict between the last name partner and continued to fight on cases and with each other to prove who truly deserves the name partner. During episode 9, Samantha's client ends up suing Alex's client (Samantha's former client) resulting in a conflict of interest as two people from the same firm

cannot represent clients on either end of a case. Yet, because neither Samantha nor Alex chose to back down, and their clients refused to settle, Harvey, Robert, and Louis chose to waive the conflict of interest to let them fight in court setting an ultimatum that the winner would receive name partner. After this, in episode 10, Alex Williams wins the court case and is set to become a name partner but Samantha decides to ignore the deal and goes to Robert, telling him he has to go back on his word and stand up for her. Robert listens and goes to Harvey to fight for Samantha and they get into a heated argument because Robert hasn't kept his word and Harvey didn't want Alex to be punished even though he won. Throughout this fight, the only grounds Robert had to fight with was that he was Managing Partner. Yet, during this time Donna Paulsen had recognized this was going to become an issue and while they were fighting, she went to Louis Litt and told him he was forced to become Managing Partner and settle this argument before the entire firm broke out into war. Listening to Donna, Louis agrees (but is hesitant because he just found out his girlfriend was pregnant) and steps in as Managing Partner, settling the argument by forcing the two to agree to put both names on the wall. But what if that never happened? What if Louis didn't agree to become Managing Partner? That is where our committee starts. In this committee, Harvey and Robert are still in a heated argument because of the aforementioned events. Donna still recognized this and went to Louis for help. However, Louis, instead of accepting Donna's request, refused and even decided to quit his job to focus on his pregnant girlfriend and help raise their family. As a result, Robert Zane told Harvey that because he is the Managing Partner, he can veto anything Harvey does and is putting only Samantha's name on the wall. Harvey, enraged by this, decides to leave the firm, taking many of their connections, associates, and allies with him.

Topic A: Restoring Peace

Topic Background

The reality is, that even though this divide happened, neither side was happy about it. Neither Robert nor Harvey wanted this war, and because of it everyone, regardless of their relation to the firm, is involved and has been forced to take a side. Finding a solution to this issue and restoring peace, either through the reunion of the firm, or the continued divide is important for either company's long-term success. Yet, although a reunion of the firm is ideal, both Harvey and Robert are unable to come to an agreement about who will get the name partner, Alex or Samantha. This issue in particular continues to be prevalent and is the reason for this disunity. As a result of the firm's split, both Harvey and Robert are looking for ways to get ahead of one another and build their company. Robert began to look to many of Harvey's enemies for sources of funding, associates, and more to try and salvage his firm. Meanwhile, Harvey called in Mike Ross to come and start his firm alongside him. Mike, initially refusing, decides to come and help but is only willing if Harvey lets him go back to Seattle after the case is finished. As both firms continue to get help from pre-existing allies, they still fight over aspects of the original firm that each gets to keep. To add on to this fight, clients have become upset about this schism and have decided to leave either firm altogether, looking for new representation. While this is all taking place, not just the clients, but all of the members of the original firm are put in a position to take a side, to go with Harvey, or to stay with Robert. Yet, both firms recognize that they need to find a way to survive and the only way to do this is to work with people outside the firm,

compromise, and find new and innovative methods to build each firm's reputation and put them in a position of strength. While Harvey and Robert are set on keeping the firms divided, Donna has continued to work and find a way for them to reunify. Although her attempt with Louis failed, Louis has still been involved with the firm and has realized his mistake. Although it is too late for Donna's plan, Louis is willing to help reunify the firm as he doesn't want to pick a side. This same mentality is true for many of the partners, and associates, who are willing to join Donna and find a resolution where the firm is reunified. But, reunification isn't the only solution, keeping the firm divided can also be a method to move forward past this conflict, as long as there is a way each firm can compromise and establish themselves.

Questions to Consider

1. Who are possible allies to work with?
 - a. What side will they be willing to help, and how?
2. Where do compromises need to occur for peace?
3. ● Should the two firms re-unify?
 - a. What solutions are there for the name partner issue?
4. Should the two firms stay divided?
5. What is your character's stance on the matter, and how can they help bring peace to this situation?

Topic B: Facing Bankruptcy

Topic Background

As tensions mount and deals begin to break down, economic hardship rapidly approaches. The internal squabbles between Harvey and Robert did more than tear the once-united team apart; they threatened the financial stability of both companies. Concerned about the instability, consumers begin to leave the companies, taking the capital with them. From this point on, mergers and acquisitions decline sharply, government litigation declines and administrative costs begin to exceed revenue, creating a significant financial burden that neither Harvey nor Robert expected. Other firms, noticing the feuds, raise concerns about the ability of the firms to effectively pursue their interests, placing Harvey and Robert's corporations in a dangerous position. With no foreseeable solution to the feud, and mounting financial pressure, both groups find themselves teetering on the edge of bankruptcy. This looming presence of financial ruin forces Harvey and Robert to reconsider their positions; fighting each other could very well lead to mutual destruction. Members of a once-merged company are now wondering not only about the future of the company but also about the longevity of their jobs. A bankrupt company on their resume can cause current and future difficulties. Moreover, the threat of bankruptcy looming over both firms extends to their newfound allies. The inherent instability resulting from dwindling financial resources may dissuade potential allies from offering support, leading to further isolation for both Harvey's new venture and what's left of the old firm. As a result, this pushes both firms into a corner, compelled to consider outside help, or even mergers, to stay afloat. As the firm's leaders structure strategies to navigate their financial woes, associates find

themselves torn between their loyalty to their superiors and the need to secure their professional livelihoods. The ensuing bankruptcy forces rapid changes and weighty decisions that may change the course of their careers. Mergers and acquisitions taper off, civil suits dwindle, and the cost of maintaining operations begins to outweigh the income, creating a substantial financial burden that neither Harvey nor Robert expected. International companies, witnessing the public feud, raise concerns about the ability of the firms to manage their interests effectively and begin to opt for more stable firms, leaving both Harvey's and Robert's firms in a perilous position. With no foreseeable solution to the feud, and mounting financial pressure, both groups find themselves teetering on the edge of bankruptcy. This looming presence of financial ruin forces Harvey and Robert to reconsider their positions; fighting each other could very well lead to mutual destruction. Members of the once unified firm now find themselves, not just considering their future, but the longevity of their professions. As the firm's leaders structure strategies to navigate their financial woes, associates find themselves torn between their loyalty to their superiors and the need to secure their professional livelihoods. The ensuing bankruptcy forces rapid changes and weighty decisions that may change the course of their careers. The decision to pull out of this spiral will require strategic thinking and perhaps even setting aside personal grudges. This provides opportunities for unlikely alliances and innovative problem-solving.

Questions to Consider

1. What needs to be done to keep the firm afloat?
2. How can the firm regain the confidence of its clients and general public?
3. Are mergers or consolidations with other firms a viable option?
4. Where might efforts be focused to repair the damage done to the firm's reputation?
5. How can associates help in mitigating the effect of financial instability?
6. Will the firms consider outside help to restore financial stability, or do they view it as an admission of defeat?
7. Will bankruptcy lead to the resurrection of the old firm, or will it permanently seal its divide?
8. Should your character prioritize the safety of their career over the survival of the company?

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