



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

DMUN XI

May 4th, 2025

Suits

BACKGROUND GUIDE



Chair: Ryan Feder
Moderator: Alexa Moszer

Suits

DALTON MODEL UNITED NATIONS XI

SUITS



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to Suits! My name is Ryan Feder, and I will be your chair for DMUN 2025. I am beyond excited to welcome you to what promises to be a thrilling and dynamic committee. I am eager to see all of you debate and how you aim to resolve turmoil both inside and outside of Pearson Hardman. Over the course of this committee, I would like to see both Jessica and Hardman's supporters band behind their respective picks for managing partner and try to find common ground when dealing with outside threats to the firm. I truly encourage you all to embrace the intensity and energy of the show and bring that same passion to your arguments, alliances, and resolutions.

I am currently a senior at The Dalton School and have competed in Model United Nations since Middle School. Outside of Model UN, I am a two-sport athlete, playing both basketball and baseball for all four years of my time in high school, and I also write for the school paper. I love storytelling, whether through writing, statistics, or spirited debate. Outside of school, I am very interested, and involved in, statistics—specifically sports analytics, a passion I have been pursuing for a couple years. Whether it's analyzing player efficiency ratings or game strategy trends, I'm always trying to learn more.

The moderator on this committee will be Alexa Moszer. Alexa, a sophomore who wrote the wonderful background guide for this committee, is just as passionate about Model UN as I am. She has been pestering me with ideas about the committee since she learned the topic and cannot wait to see you guys debate as well. Her energy and commitment to this project have been unmatched, and I know you'll all benefit from her insight and dedication.

This committee starts during season two of the show and will test each of your critical thinking skills as well as your knowledge of the Suits world. We're expecting bold moves, sharp minds, and well-dressed diplomacy. Remember delegates, leave the skinny ties behind and best of luck to you all! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out at c25rf@dalton.org. I look forward to committee and wish you all the best of luck preparing!

Sincerely,
Your Chair
Ryan Feder



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

Suits, a USA Network show created by Aaron Korsh, mimics prestigious New York City law firms, and contains many characters with secret agendas. The show addresses the colleagues at the Pearson Hardman law firm who counsel clients and represent them through various legal cases. In this crisis, we will begin in Season 2. The show features many complicated relationships and struggles for power within the law firm. In Season 2, Daniel Hardman returns to the firm which was originally Pearson Hardman. In this season, Hardman attempts to take the firm back from Jessica Pearson and Harvey Specter claiming that he has a legal right to a portion of the firm.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Jessica Pearson, a talented lawyer, was initially hired by Gordon Schmitt Van Dyke and quickly made her way up the ranks of their firm. As she was promoted and became more successful, she formed a relationship with Daniel Hardman, ultimately leading to a coup to restructure the firm. Under their leadership, the firm underwent a significant transformation, kicking out its original managing partners (Gordon, Schmitt and Van Dyke) and changing its name to Pearson Hardman, a name that now symbolizes a successful New York City law firm.

However, eventually Jessica and Harvey Specter learn that

Hardman had embezzled firm funds from Pearson Hardman for his own personal gain. In addition, they learned Hardman was secretly having an affair with Monica, an employee at the firm while his wife was battling cancer. Hardman paid for Monica's expensive gifts and vacations through the firm's embezzled money, angering Jessica. Jessica and Harvey, determined to protect the firm's integrity, confronted Hardman with the information they had and threatened to expose him. After Hardman was blackmailed into leaving the firm, Jessica Pearson, became managing partner of the firm. With her expanded leadership duties, Jessica promoted Harvey to Junior Partner.

As managing partner, Jessica decided to fire Monica, a tough but needed action. Jessica reasoned quite strongly that Monica, being a lawyer educated at Harvard, would have been fully aware that Hardman's stolen funds, which supported her extremely lavish lifestyle, were illegal. Jessica was trying to rebuild the firm after its past conflicts and believed that Monica could no longer be trusted there.

The show then starts after this series of events with Jessica and Hardman and focuses on the connection between Harvey and Mike Ross, who are key characters in the series. Because Harvey was impressed by Mike's intelligence and ability to think on his feet, Harvey hired him. Mike Ross, a college dropout, is smart and in his late twenties when hired. Mike also possesses a photographic memory which he uses a lot in scenes to come. Mike's ability to comprehend

complex legal material serves him well in Season 1, and he and Harvey grow very close. While Mike doesn't have the credentials necessary to be a lawyer, he's good at the work he does. The fact that Mike is not a member of the bar, makes the work he is doing illegal, stirring internal complications between Harvey and Jessica later on.

Over the course of Season 1, Harvey becomes a mentor to Mike and teaches Mike how to always solve cases and how law works. Harvey and Mike's relationship is built off of mutual respect and trust, although it is often tested when Mike struggles to comply with some of Harvey's less ethical moves. Overtime, their friendship is known as sibling-like, demonstrated through Harvey's willingness to do things that jeopardize his own career for Mike.

In Season 2, Hardman re-emerges in the show after his wife's death. It has been five years since Hardman was blackmailed to leave the firm and Hardman comes back claiming that he is a changed and better man. Hardman attempts to rekindle relationships with employees of the firm in order to challenge Jessica's leadership. He attempts to publicly oust Jessica and make her seem like the villain. This conflict between Jessica and Hardman is seen between the members of the firm and many characters are caught in between choosing to side with Jessica or Hardman. One of these characters is Louis Litt, who, initially uncertain about where his loyalties lie, finds himself being tempted and manipulated by Hardman.



COMMITTEE AGENDA/PRESENT SITUATION

Currently, Hardman is trying to take over Pearson Hardman and return to his old role. Using tricks like buying food for the associates and inviting them to events, Hardman gets employees of the firm on his side. Hardman also forms alliances with other senior partners and undermines Jessica's leadership. Hardman attempts to use the idea of a merger with Rosen & Zane to try and take away power from Jessica and give it to himself and other investors and partners. Hardman reaches out to this firm and gives them the opportunity to merge even if Jessica does not agree. Hardman also goes after partners that Jessica has alienated and attempts to turn them further against Jessica.

On the other hand, Jessica attempts to rally support among partners that are loyal to her. She knows that, although Hardman has an offer from Rosen & Zane, he has not done everything legally and with integrity. She plans to expose his manipulative tactics and create enough doubt to undermine his authority. In the meanwhile, conflict occurs internally between Harvey and Jessica because Jessica finds out at the end of Season 1 that Mike is a fraud. Jessica knows that if Mike's secret gets out, it will cause bad press for their firm so she attempts to discreetly fire Mike through Harvey.

Throughout the time that Daniel Hardman is attempting to regain his old role at the firm, internal and external conflict occurs. Employees of the firm recognize that the firm is deeply divided and there is tension between people who have remained loyal to Jessica

and those who have been swayed by Hardman's manipulations. This inner conflict leads to external conflict when clients begin to lose confidence in the firm and threaten to potentially pull their business. This poses a financial threat and a threat to the firm's reputation.

CHARACTER/DELEGATE LIST

Harvey Specter

Harvey is a corporate lawyer working at Pearson Hardman. Throughout the show he works closely with Jessica and works to undermine Hardman. Harvey is motivated by the fact that if Hardman took over, Harvey would lose his current position but if Jessica wins he will be promoted. Mike Ross, is Harvey's employee and companion from when Harvey hired him in the be-

inning of the season. Even though they argue over how to accomplish cases occasionally, Mike and Harvey work as a team to close deals. Harvey is a mentor to Mike. Harvey has many connections within the world of law and utilizes them to take advantage of people and blackmail them. Originally Harvey worked for the New York District Attorney which is where he met Donna for the first time. Donna becomes Harvey's secretary and when Harvey found out the man he was working for was breaking the law, he left the DAs office to join Jessica. Along with him came Donna who works for Harvey as his secretary.

Mike Ross

Mike Ross, hired as a first year associate by Harvey Specter, is a fraud who claims he is a lawyer and attended Harvard Law school. Mike is known for his eagerness to help others and his strong ethics. In the first season, Mike and Harvey develop a strong friendship and ally with each other. However in the end of the first season, Jessica, Harvey's boss discovers that Mike is a fraud and tells Harvey to fire him. After Jessica learns that Mike doesn't have a law degree, she gives Harvey the benefit of the doubt that he didn't know about Mike being a fraud (even though he did). Harvey tries to follow Jessica's orders to fire Mike but fails too because he likes Mike too much. Instead, he tells senior associate Louis Litt that Jessica is taking a liking to the new associate. This will ensure that Louis gives Mike grunt work for a case; if Jessica were to pursue firing him

after that, it would lead to too many questions. Jessica is furious and wants Mike gone regardless, but Harvey says he will expose the fact that she knew about Mike's lack of a law degree which would definitely get her ousted as managing partner if Daniel returning doesn't. In the end, Mike is not fired and continues on at the firm. In season 2, Mike also begins dating Rachel, but complications arise when Harvey and Donna tell Mike he is not allowed to tell Rachel his secret about being a fraud. Eventually, Mike tells Rachael the truth and they enter a relationship.

Jessica Pearson

In season 2, Jessica Pearson plays a pivotal role as the managing partner of Pearson Hardman. When Daniel Hardman returns to the firm, claiming his position, Jessica's leadership is challenged. Jessica is forced to navigate the complex dynamics of Hardman's return, attempting to secure loyalty from her colleagues in case Hardman takes over.

Donna Paulsen

In Season 1, Donna is introduced as Harvey Specter's trusted legal secretary, but as the series progresses, Donna's importance evolves beyond just being the person who keeps Harvey organized, she also influences many of his decisions. Donna is an integral part of the firm, frequently making decisions that impact both Harvey's career and the entire firm's reputation. In season 2, Donna finds an old memo

she had personally signed in 2008. The memo is a critical piece of evidence that could potentially incriminate Harvey in an ethical violation. The complication arises because Donna has no memory of signing the memo. In an attempt to protect Harvey, Donna decides to shred the memo. However once Jessica and the rest of the firm finds out, Jessica insists on firing her and Harvey works to hire her back.

Louis Litt

Louis is one of the key figures caught in the middle of the conflict. He harbors resentment toward Jessica, as he feels overlooked and underappreciated, and is tempted by the opportunity to rise higher under Hardman's leadership. Louis even looks at other law firms for job opportunities because he does not feel respected for his work. At one point, Louis even goes so far as to align himself with Hardman, though this loyalty is not absolute. Louis's personal desires and insecurities make him an unreliable ally, and his eventual return to Jessica's side is a major turning point in the season.

Daniel Hardman

Daniel Hardman, was the co-founder of Pearson Hardman. He is an attorney and was the former managing partner before Jessica Pearson and Harvey Specter ousted him from the firm by threatening to expose his extramarital affair with an attorney at the firm to his wife Alicia, who was dying of cancer. In season 2, Hardman claims he is

a “changed man” who isn’t power hungry, however over the course of the season we see him attempt to form alliances with members of the firm and take control.

Rachel Zane

In season 2, Rachel Zane is a paralegal at Specter Litt and the daughter of Robert Zane. Rachel has never been good with taking tests, so she never gets a high enough LSAT score for Harvard. Unable to get into law school, she decided to begin working as a paralegal at Pearson Hardman. Rachel is junior at the firm so she often is forced to do Louis’s dirty work.

Robert Zane

Robert Lucas Zane, is Rachel Zane’s father and a name partner at Rand, Kaldor & Zane. Robert is known for his integrity and approaches cases differently than Harvey. When Hardman returns to Pearson Hardman in Suits Season 2, Zane’s loyalty is questioned. Zane has long been an ally of Jessica Pearson, and Hardman’s return represents a direct challenge to Jessica’s leadership. Robert is forced to choose sides, meaning either aligning with Hardman or continuing his loyalty to Jessica, whom he respects. Although Robert initially tries to stay neutral in the power struggle, his long friendship and professional trust with Jessica lead him to ultimately side with her. Robert and Harvey also have their own conflict as they have to go against each other in a gender discrimination case in season 2.

Travis Tanner

Travis Tanner is a rival lawyer to Harvey and is known for his aggressive tactics. In the past, Harvey and Travis have been rivals and Tanner sees Harvey as a threat. Travis is known for his arrogance and . Throughout the series, Tanner remains a significant threat to Harvey and Pearson Hardman, especially when the firm is already dealing with internal turmoil. Tanner works on Hardmans behalf to help Hardman sue Person Hardman and accomplish his goal of resuming his role at the firm.

Allison Holt

Allison Holt is a lawyer and partner at Bratton Gould. In season 2, Daniel Hardman and Jessica Pearson hired Allison to handle the lawsuit that was alleging fraud against Harvey and Pearson Hardman. Harvey and Allison would typically argue over Allison’s method of investigation. Allison receives a deal to settle the deal for \$5 million for the firm and disbar Harvey. Jessica, who is allied with Harvey, told Daniel to fire Allison because Jessica believed that Allison did not trust Harvey and therefore they would not be able to win the case. Allison had also been taking senior associates and partners from Pearson Hardman and recruiting Louis to join Bratton Gould. Overall, Allison is not trusted by members of Pearson Hardman and is a competitor with them.

Jack Soloff

Jack Soloff is a corporate attorney and partner at Pearson Hardman. Jack Soloff is very ambitious and often clashes with Harvey. In attempts to climb the corporate ladder, he undermines Jessica’s decisions publicly for his own advantage. When Hardman comes, he has a plot to get Jack to side with him, involving Hardmans’ typical manipulative tactics.

Paul Porter

Paul Porter, who has been working at Pearson Hardman for a long time is a part of both Jessica and Hardmans schemes for power. Paul is known for his office being moved down a floor every year which is a symbol of weakness. Given that Paul is a known ally of Hardman, when Hardman returns to the firm Harvey, working for Jessica tries to get Paul on Jessica’s side. Harvey takes Paul to lunch one day where they engage in conversation. Paul voices his concerns about Jessica and Harvey results in using aggressive tactics to get Paul to comply. Paul defends himself by saying “Harvey, I may have been knocked down to the 46th floor, but bankruptcy is on the rise. My influence in this firm is not nothing”. Paul works to side others in the firm against Jessica because he sees Hardman coming back to the firm as beneficial for him given his previous demotions. However, later in the season, Paul Porter’s loyalties become a point of contention. He is part of the group of partners who are influenced by Hardman’s promises, but he is ultimately caught in the middle of the firm’s power struggles. As Jessica

tries to solidify her position as managing partner, Porter is someone who can potentially tip the balance of power.

Katrina Bennett

Katrina was hired by Harvey to work as a senior associate, eventually she became Louis's go to associate. They worked on many cases together, including when Louis Litt resigned for a short period of time from Pearson Hardman because of tax evasion. Katrina helps Louis poach one of the firm's clients so that Louis could work at Robert Zane's firm and eventually Katrina could come work there too. Once Jessica and Harvey find out about this deal, they fire her on the spot. Even though there was some previous conflict between Rachel and Katrina, when Katrina is fired for trying to help Louis, Rachel asks her dad (Robert Zane) to hire Katrina at his firm. Robert agrees and she leaves Pearson Hardman to go to his company.

Edward Darby

Edward Darby is a lawyer at Darby International in London and during the time of conflict at Pearson Hardman, he attempts to position himself as an available merger. Edward attempts to ally with Jessica, however Harvey does not trust him or wants to merge firms with him. Darby has many connections in the legal world and is good at his job. His presence at Pearson Hardman, riles up the dynamics between employees, especially Jessica and Harvey.

Dana Scott (Scottie)

Dana Scott, called by Scottie in the show, met Harvey during their time together at Harvard law. Scottie was first in the class and Harvey was fifth, creating a rivalry between them. Harvey and Scottie occasionally are romantically involved. They also occasionally go head to head on a case. Scottie works for Edward Darby so when Darby International attempts a merger and works with Person Hardman, it complicates Harvey and Scottie's relationship.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Who are the potential allies that you can collaborate with?
2. What side of the Jessica and Hardman conflict are individuals likely to support, and in what ways might they offer assistance?
3. What strategies can Jessica employ to restore unity within the firm, safeguard its reputation, and effectively counteract Daniel Hardman's influence?
4. What is your character's perspective on this issue, and how might they contribute to fostering resolution and stability?
5. What is the best approach to engage potential allies who may be contemplating a shift in loyalty?
6. What initiatives can be implemented to boost morale across the firm and expose any covert

strategies being employed by Hardman?

PROCEDURE

Structure of Committee

This committee will follow all standard rules and procedures of Model UN. Delegates will be expected to be able to write three types of in-committee legislation in addition to crisis notes:

Directives

Directives are the most common piece of legislation in committee. They will generally be written to address a crisis update (in clause format) and are sponsored by at least one delegate. Upon submission to the chair, delegates can motion to introduce directives and then vote. If a majority of the committee votes in favor, the directive will pass. The dais will inform delegates as to the amount of signatories and sponsors necessary to introduce a directive at the start of the committee. An important thing to note when writing directives is that details are crucial; the more specific and thorough a directive is, the more likely it will be to succeed.

Press Releases

Press releases are used to express the sentiments of the committee on a certain topic. They are introduced and voted upon in the same way as directives and communiques. Press releases have minimal impact on the committee, and thus should not

be used too often.

Crisis Notes

Crisis notes are a unique way for individual (or for a joint crisis, several) delegates to use their portfolio powers to push their own agendas. Your portfolio powers are generally exclusive authority granted to you over some sort of resource or entity. Crisis notes are usually covert, and affect the committee without publicly revealing a delegate's motivations or agenda, though other delegates on committee will be informed of the effects of notes in crisis updates. Remember that your crisis notes should reflect your character's personal positions and ambitions, although you can use them to influence events in favor of your side in general. The most important thing to do is staying true to your character's policy. Specificity is especially important in crisis notes-- the more thorough you are, the more likely it is that a crisis will grant your requests.

If at any time you wish to work with other delegates covertly, you may create a joint crisis note. Joint crisis notes allow you to combine your resources with that of another delegate to perform actions on larger scales. They can be immensely useful if your character wishes to do something but lacks the authority or resources.