



To: Participants and Coaches in the National Online Moot Court Competition

From: Rob Galloway

Re: Bulletin 2
Last Minute Information

Date: January 18, 2022

We are ready for this week's competition. Here are a few last minute details:

1. We will conduct the competition on the Zoom platform, using breakout rooms for courtrooms. The list of assigned courtrooms are included in the pairings documents.
2. Teams should check in 20 minutes before their round. They do so by going to their assigned courtroom.
3. A South Texas student will serve the Clerk of Court function. If a team wishes to do its own timekeeping, it may do so. If a team does so, communications during the round may only be made through the chat function and are limited to the time signals contemplated by Rules 5.008, 5.009, and 5.010 of the Rules.
4. Section 6 of the Rules has been modified to accommodate the smaller entry. Teams were randomly paired. The top four teams will receive byes to the quarterfinal round with the remaining team paired against one another (5 v. 12, 6 v. 11, 7 v. 10, 8 v. 9). A copy of the modifications is attached to this memorandum.
5. Judges will score electronically, but have been provided with the attached ballot so they may make notes during the round. The ballot has the criteria that will be scored on the electronic ballot.
6. The judge instructions are attached.
7. Pairings for Friday's rounds and byes will be announced by email as soon as they are calculated Thursday evening.
8. Let us know if you need anything. Good luck.

Pairings and Advancement

- 6.001 Each team will argue four preliminary rounds.
- 6.002 ~~The preliminary rounds will consist of 8 groupings of round-robin competitions with 5 teams arguing against one another in 4 rounds.~~ In the preliminary rounds, each team will argue twice as Petitioner and twice as Respondent.
- 6.003 ~~The top 16 advocacy programs will be seeded based on the three-year total (2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20) of the rankings for the Hunton Andrews Kurth Moot Court National Championship.~~ **Pairings will be randomly drawn.**
- 6.004 ~~Teams will be placed in one of 8 groupings for the preliminary rounds. The top 16 seeds will be assigned to their appropriate grouping—the 16th seed will be assigned to the grouping with the 1st seed; the 15th seed will be assigned to the grouping with the 2nd seed; etc. The remaining, unseeded teams will be randomly assigned.~~
- 6.005 ~~If a school has two teams competing in the Competition, that school's team with a higher brief score will receive the school's seed for purposes of pairings and the school's team with a lower brief score will be randomly assigned as an unranked team.~~ The pairings will ensure that two teams from the same school may not face one another until the championship round.

6.006 The preliminary rounds will be scored by judges recruited by the participating teams. Each participating team must select eight full-time faculty members or instructors, adjunct faculty members or instructors, or licensed attorneys with at least three years' practice and/or judicial clerkship experience, to serve as judges for the preliminary round oral arguments. Judges are expected to score the preliminary rounds fairly and professionally. The judges may not moot teams or discuss the problem with team members or advisors after gaining access to the confidential judging materials. Each judge will hear one oral argument. A school that sends two teams must designate five judges per team. Because the team will be subject to penalties for the judges not participating, it is imperative that trustworthy volunteers are selected.

6.007 In the preliminary rounds, each team's round score will be computed by weighing the oral argument two-thirds (66.67%) and the brief score one-third (33.33%). In these rounds, the winner will be team with the higher round score. If a tie exists after the oral argument and brief scores are considered, the team winning the oral argument portion will be declared the winner of the round. In this situation, the margin of victory for the winning team will be zero, and the margin of loss for the losing team will be zero.

- 6.008 ~~The two highest ranked teams in each grouping after the preliminary rounds will advance to the Elimination Rounds~~ **Teams will be ranked** based on the following criteria: (1) win/loss record, (2) highest cumulative margin of victory, and (3) brief score., ~~except that if two teams are tied with the same win/loss record after the preliminary rounds, then, in that circumstance, the winner of the head-to-head round between the two tied teams will advance to the Elimination Rounds.~~ **The top four teams will receive a bye in the Octofinal Round. The remaining teams will be paired against one another based on seeding (5 v. 12, 6 v. 11, 7 v. 10, 8 v. 9).**
- 6.009 Judges may not tie the teams' overall oral-argument scores in the Elimination Rounds. Each judge must declare a winner on the ballot.
- 6.010 The octofinal round will be held on Friday, January 21, 2022. The teams paired in the octofinal round will argue against one another in two arguments with each team arguing once as petitioner and once as respondent. Different judging panels will be used for each of the two rounds and each round will have three judges. The winner of each round will be the team that receives the higher argument score on a majority of the ballots submitted by the oral argument judges. The brief will not count. If each team wins three judge ballots, the winner will be the team with the higher point total on all six oral argument ballots. If teams have the same point total on the six ballots, the winner will be the team with the higher brief score. The winners of the octofinal round will advance to the quarterfinal round.
- 6.011 The quarterfinal round will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2022. The teams paired in the quarterfinal round will argue against one another in two arguments with each team arguing once as petitioner and once as respondent. Different

judging panels will be used for each of the two rounds and each round will have three judges. The winner of each round will be the team that receives the higher argument score on a majority of the ballots submitted by the oral argument judges. If each team wins three judge ballots, the winner will be the team with the higher point total on all six oral argument ballots. If teams have the same point total on the six ballots, the winner will be the team with the higher brief score. The winners of the quarterfinal round will advance to the semifinal round.

6.012 The semifinal round will be held on Saturday, January 22, 2021. The teams paired in the semifinal round will argue against one another in one argument. A coin flip will be held to determine which team has the choice of sides. The winner of each round will be the team that receives the higher argument score on a majority of the ballots submitted by the oral argument judges. Should an even number of judges participate in a round, the Committee will randomly select one judge's ballot that will not be counted in determining the winner of the round. The winners of the semifinal round will advance to the championship round.

6.013 The championship round will be held on Saturday, January 22, 2022. The teams paired in the championship round will argue against one another in one argument. A coin flip will be held to determine which team has the choice of sides. The winner of each round will be the team that receives the higher argument score on a majority of the ballots submitted by the oral argument judges. Should an even number of judges participate in a round, the Committee will randomly select one judge's ballot that will not be counted in determining the winner.