

## **Widener Law Distinguished Jurist Moot Court Competition** **RULES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 1) The Widener Law Distinguished Jurist Moot Court Competition is open to all students of the Widener University School of Law **EXCEPT** first year students, present members of the Moot Court Honor Society Executive Board, and those students that have been precluded from participating in Moot Court Honor Society competitions.
  - a. Students participating in a Moot Court Interscholastic Competition in the Spring semester are not required to compete in the Widener Law Distinguished Jurist Moot Court Competition. However, if any such student wishes to compete in both, **so long as participation in the Distinguished Jurist Competition does not conflict with his or her Interscholastic Competition**, he or she may do so.
- 2) Oral arguments will be conducted with one team representing the Petitioner and one team representing the Respondent. The arguments will be conducted on the following dates:

Preliminary Rounds: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 and Thursday, March 22, 2012

Round of 16: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 (if necessary)

Quarter-finals: Thursday, March 29, 2012

Semi-final Round: Monday, April 2, 2012

Final Round: Wednesday, April 4, 2012

**All rounds will begin at 6:00 p.m.** at the Widener Delaware Campus  
**(rooms to be announced).**
- 3) All dates and times are **subject to change**. Notice will be given in the event that changes become necessary.
- 4) Participants must submit a completed "Time Preference Sheet" for the Preliminary Round. This is the only round in which you will have the ability to notify the Moot Court Executive Board of a time preference. These preferences, however, cannot be guaranteed. This form **must** be submitted with the completed brief by 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> in the Moot Court Offices in Polishook Hall.
- 5) **Signing up obligates you to compete.** Failure to write the brief or attend the scheduled oral argument will result in disqualification and revocation of membership of the Moot Court Honor Society. In addition, the student will be

permanently barred from membership in the Society and from competing in any future competition sponsored by the Society.

- a. Upon failure to appear for a scheduled oral argument, the student will have forty-eight (48) hours to file a written explanation with Benjamin Gifford, Distinguished Jurist Competition Chairperson, and Meghann Jeuell, President of the Moot Court Honor Society. If the Executive Board determines that the explanation is meritorious, the above stated penalties regarding revocation of membership and/or ineligibility to participate in future Moot Court Honor Society activities will not be enforced. There will be **no review** of the Executive Board's decision.
- 6) Each brief shall be written in favor of the position that corresponds with the first letter of the team's anonymous number. ("**P**" for **P**etitioner or "**R**" for **R**espondent).
  - 7) Four copies of the completed brief must be submitted to the Moot Court Office in Polishook Hall by 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 12, 2012. Any brief submitted after this time will not be accepted and the penalties stated in section five (5) will be enforced.
  - 8) Brief Requirements:
    - a. All citations should conform to the most recent edition of *A Uniform System of Citation* (the *Bluebook*)
    - b. Briefs must be in Times New Roman, 12-point font. Briefs not in this format will be subject to penalty.
    - c. The brief shall have margins consisting of one inch on each side.
    - d. Typed matter in the brief must be double-spaced—except footnotes, argument headings, and extended quotations, which may be single-spaced. Footnotes, argument headings, and single-spaced quotations must appear in the same size font as the rest of the brief.
    - e. The brief must include the following:
      - i. Two cover pages which should contain the caption and the team's anonymous number
        1. The first cover page should contain the names of both members of the team and the team's anonymous number
        2. The second cover page should contain **only** the team's anonymous number
      - ii. Table of Contents

- iii. Table of Authorities
- iv. Questions Presented
- v. Statement of Facts (Maximum three pages)
- vi. Discussion
- vii. Short Form Conclusion

f. **NOTE:** The Discussion and Conclusion sections of the brief are limited to twenty (20) total pages.

**Failure to comply with any of the requirements listed in this section will result in an automatic 10-point deduction from the total brief score, per violation.**

- 9) This is a closed packet problem. Competitors are **not** permitted to perform outside research, and are limited to the cases contained in the record, Black's Law Dictionary and the Bluebook. **Any brief that cites or uses outside material will not be graded and the team will receive a zero (0) for the written portion of the competition.** You may cite to cases that are cited within the cases listed, but only as a parenthetical. (E.g. *citing ABC v. EFG*, or *quoting ABC v. EFG*, etc).
- 10) All cases provided in this problem shall be considered current and valid law for the purposes of this competition.
- 11) **Competitors may not receive outside help in writing the brief.** Any team who is found to have received outside assistance shall be immediately eliminated from the competition. Any team who is found to have plagiarized shall be immediately eliminated from the competition and a copy of the brief shall be submitted to the Dean of Students for the appropriate sanction pursuant to Widener School of Law Code of Conduct Part 5, Art. II sec. 202(b).

## 12) Oral Argument Guidelines

- a. Time allotment per team per round:

Preliminary Round:	20 minutes
Round of 16:	20 minutes
Quarterfinal Round:	20 minutes
Semifinal Round:	30 minutes
Delaware Final Round:	30 minutes

During the twenty-minute rounds, each competitor must argue for **at least seven (7) minutes**. Competitors must each argue for **at least ten (10) minutes** during the thirty-minute rounds.

- b. Petitioner may request **rebuttal time** at the beginning of his or her argument if so desired. **In all rounds, only one of the two-team members may present a rebuttal argument.**
- c. Petitioner rebuttal time allotment per round:

Preliminary Round:	4 minutes
Quarterfinal Round:	4 minutes
Semifinal Round:	5 minutes
Final Rounds:	5 minutes

**13)** In the preliminary round each advocate will argue for the side that corresponds with the position for which the brief was written. **Advocates who advance to subsequent rounds must be prepared to argue either position (Petitioner or Respondent) during the remaining rounds of the competition.** Notification of advancement and of which position each team will argue will be given via email at least twenty-four (24) hours before each subsequent round.

**14) Head-to-head competition begins with the Quarterfinal round.** The position that the advancing advocates will argue will be announced by email at least twenty-four (24) hours before their next round. The Widener Law Distinguished Jurist Moot Court Competition winner and finalist will be announced at the conclusion of the Final Round. Awards will be distributed to the finalists.

**15) Overall Scoring Guidelines:**

- a. The Moot Court Executive Board will grade the submitted briefs. Briefs will be anonymous.
- b. Brief scores will be weighed with oral scores in the following manner to determine the winners:

	<u>BRIEF</u> <u>ORAL</u>	
Preliminary Rounds	50%	50%
All other rounds	0%	100%

**16)** The judges will provide feedback on oral argument performance immediately following the competition rounds. The panel of judges shall determine

competitors' oral argument score without knowledge of their brief grades. Neither the oral argument nor brief scores shall be announced. Members will not have access to their score sheets. Any ties in the Preliminary, Quarterfinal, and Semifinal rounds shall be broken by using the brief scores; the team with the higher brief score will advance. If brief scores are equal, the Moot Court Executive Board retains sole discretion to break the tie. **All advancement decisions made by the Executive Board are final.**

- 17) This is a closed packet problem. Competitors are **not permitted** to perform outside research. Competitors may, however, read general materials to gain a better understanding of the area of law.
- a. **Any brief that cites or uses outside material will not be graded and the team will receive a zero (0) for the written portion of the competition.** You may cite to cases that are cited within the cases listed, but only as a parenthetical. (E.g. *citing ABC v. EFG*, or *quoting ABC v. EFG*, etc).
  - b. Any research or case law used in oral argument outside the scope of the above-mentioned rules **will result in immediate disqualification.** Concerns about competitor use of outside information during competition rounds should be brought to an Executive Board member's attention immediately. An Executive Board investigation and determination will be made in a timely manner. **All decisions of the Executive Board are final.**
  - c. All cases provided in this problem shall be considered **current and valid** law for the purposes of this competition.
- 18) Any problems that may arise before, during, or after a competition round shall be brought to the attention of Benjamin Gifford (Distinguished Jurist Competition Chairperson) immediately. If Benjamin is not available, please notify Meghann Jeuell (Moot Court President) about the problem so that it may be rectified in a timely manner. Failure to notify the Executive Board of any problems that occur during the competition will cause forfeiture of review by the Board.
- 19) All members of the Moot Court Honor Society are required, pursuant to the by-laws, to compete in good faith.
- a. "Good faith" is defined as: an honest or sincere intention to fulfill one's obligation. A member who intentionally prevents him or herself from advancing to the next round of the competition will be deemed to have acted in bad faith and will receive a demerit from the Society pursuant to Section Nine of the Moot Court Honor Society bylaws. Furthermore, failure to compete in good faith will result in an Executive Board review of the respective member's eligibility to receive academic credit for the semester.

**20) Attendance at the Final Round is mandatory for all Moot Court Honor Society members.**

**21) Any questions regarding the Rules and Responsibilities of the Widener Law Distinguished Jurist Moot Court Competition should be directed to Benjamin Gifford, Distinguished Jurist Competition Chairman:**

Phone: (302) 229-6769

Email: [bgifford.iv@gmail.com](mailto:bgifford.iv@gmail.com)

**Thank you for competing and good luck!**