



CENTER FOR
ANIMAL LAW
STUDIES

AT LEWIS & CLARK

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

2009 NATIONAL
ANIMAL LAW COMPETITIONS:

HOSTED BY:

The Center for Animal Law Studies at Lewis & Clark,
in collaboration with the Animal Legal Defense Fund

&

Student Animal Legal Defense Fund at Harvard Law School

CLOSING ARGUMENT RULES

RULE I. ORGANIZATION

The National Animal Law Competitions are an inter-law school event comprised of:

1. An Appellate Moot Court Competition and a Closing Argument Competition held annually at Harvard Law School in Cambridge, MA; and
2. A Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition held annually at George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C.

The purpose of these competitions is to provide law students an opportunity to develop an expertise in animal law and to hone their written and oral advocacy techniques.

RULE II. PARTICIPATION

A. Participation is on an individual basis. The competition will be open to the first sixteen (16) students to register. Registration fees must be paid by the time registration closes or spots will be forfeited. Participants must be full- or part-time students seeking a J.D. at an ABA accredited law school in the United States or Canada who have also completed at least one year of their studies.

B. Participants should submit a fully completed registration form and pay the registration fee of \$200 by the registration deadline, January 5, 2009. Should a participant withdraw from the competition, no refunds will be granted after the registration deadline.

RULE III. TRIAL RECORD

The trial record will consist of a transcript of testimony, documents received in evidence and jury instructions.

RULE IV. FORMAT OF PRELIMINARY ROUND

A. Using the trial record, each participant will prepare a closing argument for *either* the plaintiff or the defendant to be delivered to a panel of six (6) jurors. The participant need only prepare a closing argument for one side (again, plaintiff or defendant) and present this argument in both the preliminary round and, should he or she advance, the final round. Each participant will be allowed a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes to present their arguments.

B. There will be one preliminary round during which each participant will present a closing argument to a panel of jurors. Participants will not be permitted to sit in on other closing arguments during the preliminary round and will be called into the room on an individual basis.

C. At the commencement of each presentation, the participant shall inform the jurors for which party they are delivering their closing argument. The participant will then be allowed a few moments to prepare for delivery of his or her argument. When the jurors are ready to begin, the Bailiff/Timekeeper will announce that the participant may begin and the 15-minute time period will commence.

D. The Bailiff/Timekeeper will display a green card until only three minutes remain of the participant's allotted time. When three minutes remain, a notice will be given (a separate card reading "3" will be displayed). When one minute remains, a yellow card will be displayed. When the participant's time has expired, a red card will be displayed. The participant must conclude promptly upon display of the red card.

E. Following the presentation of each argument, the jurors will complete an evaluation for each participant. At the conclusion of the preliminary round, the jurors will also rank the top four participants who will move onto the final round.

F. The same six jurors will score each of the participants in the preliminary round.

RULE V. VISUAL AIDS AND PROPS

All visual aids used must be approved by the Competitions Administrator(s) at the Meeting with Competitors to be held on Friday evening. Approval will be given to visual aids and props which do not misstate the facts or the jury instructions (law). Visual aids and props may include posters, boards, enlarged photographs, or other items. Students may not use power point projections, and are also prohibited from using any photographs not provided in the competition problem.

RULE VI. SCORING

A. The jurors will be asked to rate each participant on a scale of 1 to 10, with these numbers representing the following:

- 1-2: Below average performance
- 3-4: Minimum level of acceptability
- 5-6: Average performance
- 7-8: Good performance
- 9-10: Outstanding performance

B. The jurors are to consider the following factors in assigning a rating to each participant:

- (a) Use of facts (1-10 points). Selecting and using the strongest facts effectively, including the ability to address negative facts. Stating facts accurately and not misrepresenting them.

- (b) Use of jury instructions (1-10 points). Educating the jury as to the criteria to be used in rendering a verdict. Effectively weaving in discussion of the jury instructions with the facts.
- (c) Persuasive content of presentation (1-10 points). Whether the presentation is persuasive, creative and memorable.
- (d) Demeanor (1-10 points). Demonstration of a professional level of confidence, delivery, pronunciation, diction, use of eye contact, appearance, overall effectiveness of the advocate.
- (e) Effective use of visual aids (1-10 points).

RULE VII. ADVANCING TO THE FINAL ROUND

- A. At the conclusion of the preliminary round, the total score for each participant will be calculated. The total score will be the sum of the scores given by each of the six jurors. The top four (4) participants will advance to the final round.
- B. In the event of a tie, the tie will be resolved by consideration of the rankings given by the jurors. The rankings will be evaluated by assigning to them the following points:

1st = 5, 2nd = 4, 3rd = 3, 4th = 2, 5th = 1, no ranking = 0 points.

The participant with the highest rankings will advance. For instance, if participants A and B each have 24 points but participant A was ranked 3rd by three jurors and 4th by three jurors (for a total of 15 points) and participant B was ranked 2nd by one juror, 3rd by 4 jurors and 5th by 1 juror (for a total of 17 points), participant B will advance to the final round.

RULE VIII. FINAL ROUND

- A. The four finalists will be randomly assigned a presentation order in the final round.
- B. The participants in the final round will not be permitted to view the closing arguments of other participants in the round.
- C. Six (6) jurors will hear and score all arguments in the final round.
- D. Upon completion of the final round, the competition winner will be determined by considering the total score given to each participant in the final round only. In the event of a tie, the rankings given to each participant will determine the winner. See *infra* Part VII (B).

RULE IX. AWARDS

The winner of the competition will receive an individual plaque, as well as a plaque for display by his or her law school. Semi-finalists will receive individual plaques. Winners' names and photos (unless otherwise instructed) may be posted on the NALC website.

RULE X. PENALTIES

Penalties, including disqualification, may be assessed for failure to comply with the rules or deadlines set pursuant to these rules.

RULE XI. INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES

Requests for interpretation of these rules should be made at the earliest date possible. Competitors will receive prompt notification of any new rules, as well as revisions to or interpretations of existing rules. All competitors shall be bound by any changes, effective at the time of notification.

Please address questions about the National Animal Law Competitions to:

Laura Handzel, J.D.
Competition Administrator
Center for Animal Law Studies at Lewis & Clark,
in collaboration with Animal Legal Defense Fund
Email: lhandzel@lclark.edu
Phone: (503) 768-6960