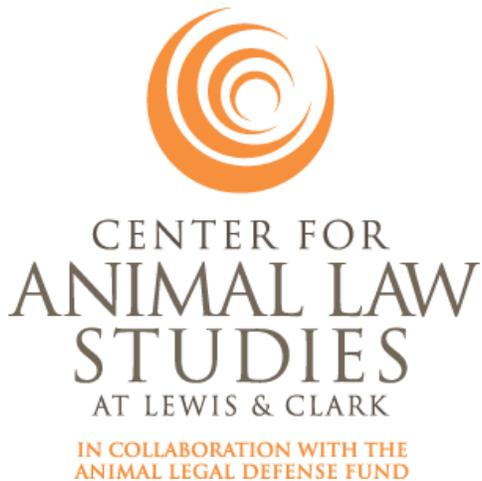




# APPELLATE MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2016 RULES

**PRESENTED BY**



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**Harvard Law School**

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## **RULE I. ORGANIZATION**

The National Animal Law Competitions (NALC) is an inter-law school competition comprised of three separate events:

- Appellate Moot Court Competition
- Closing Argument Competition
- Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition

NALC is an exciting and educational event presented annually by the Center for Animal Law Studies in collaboration with the Animal Legal Defense Fund. The purpose of the event is to provide law students an opportunity to develop knowledge in the field of animal law and to hone their written and oral advocacy skills.

## **RULE II. PARTICIPATION**

### **A. Competitor & Team Eligibility.**

The Appellate Moot Court Competition is open to the first twenty (20) teams to register and arrange payment. If the competition sells out, potential teams are encouraged to register for the waitlist as a spot may become available.

Each law school may enter up to three (3) teams, and each team is composed of two (2) law students. The two (2) students need not necessarily be attending the same law school, however, all competitors must be full- or part-time students seeking a J.D. or LL.M. at an ABA-approved law school in the United States, and who have completed at least one year of their studies.\*

*\* First year law students are eligible to compete in the Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition of the National Animal Law Competitions. Competitors from non-ABA-approved law schools may be considered at the discretion of the competition administrators.*

### **B. Substitution.**

In the event of an emergency, schools may send an alternate team member. The team must immediately notify the competition administrators of the change.

### **C. Registration.**

Registration for the 2016 competitions will open on Monday, November 2, 2015, at 11 a.m. (PST). Registrations will not be accepted before then. Registrations are processed on a first-come, first-served basis via the online registration process. To register, please visit: [www.NationalAnimalLawCompetitions.org](http://www.NationalAnimalLawCompetitions.org)



The online process will shut down automatically when the event is at capacity. To be added to the waitlist, email Competition Administrator Liberty Mulkani at [lmulkani@aldf.org](mailto:lmulkani@aldf.org). The time and date stamp of the email request will determine the waitlist order.

Teams must submit a completed registration form and arrange payment for the registration fee of \$425 (per team, not individual). Registrations may be completed by the individual competitor or by an agent acting on his/her behalf.

Should a team need to withdraw from the competition, a full is available until December 11, 2015. There will be no refunds after that date.

Because many law schools hold in-school competitions to select their representatives, specific competitor information is preferred but not necessary at the time of registration. All other fields on the registration form, however, must be complete and payment must be arranged. If not, the registration will not be valid. Specific competitor information must be supplied to Liberty Mulkani, [lmulkani@aldf.org](mailto:lmulkani@aldf.org), as soon as possible.

## RULE III. COACHING

### A. Timing.

**Do not risk disqualification! Competitors are not allowed to receive any help on the problem before their brief is submitted (briefs are due no later than January 15, 2016, by 12:00 p.m. PST). Prior to the deadline, a competitor may only discuss the problem with his/her teammate and no one else, including: professors, coaches, students, colleagues, or any other individual. Failure to meet the submission deadline will result in scoring penalties up to and including disqualification from the competition.**

Only after the briefs have been submitted and pursuant to the restrictions outlined below, may competitors receive assistance from coaches in preparation for the oral rounds.

### B. Restrictions.

Competitors *may not* receive any coaching, advice, or assistance from individuals who:

1. Are involved with the writing of the 2016 Appellate Moot Court Competition problem;  
or
2. Are serving as a judge for the 2016 Appellate Moot Court Competition.

The burden of determining coaching eligibility rests on the competitors. Therefore, competitors should first inquire whether a would-be coach was involved in authoring the problem or if he or she will be a judge for the 2016 Appellate Moot Court Competition.



### C. During the Competition.

Every effort is made to make NALC as fair as possible. Consequently, competitors and their coaches may not observe any rounds other than those in which they or their team are participating. Otherwise, all rounds are open to the public.

### D. Communication with Judges.

During the competition, competitors and coaches may not discuss the rules, problems, cases, strategy, or scoring, and may not receive any advice, feedback, or coaching from the Appellate Moot Court Competition judges. Competitors will receive feedback from the judges' panel immediately after each round; this is the only exception to the rule.

## RULE IV. COMPETITION PROBLEM

### A. Distribution and Components.

The problem, which consists of the Memorandum Opinion, the Complaint and the Briefing Order, is posted on the NALC website, under "Problems." Please visit: [www.NationalAnimalLawCompetitions.org](http://www.NationalAnimalLawCompetitions.org).

### B. Questions and Competition Administrators.

Contact Competition Administrator Liberty Mulkani, [lmulkani@aldf.org](mailto:lmulkani@aldf.org), with questions. Be sure to read both the problem and the rules in their entirety before requesting clarification. Also be sure to refer back to the rules from time to time prior to the competition. Ms. Mulkani will not be able to respond to questions that are answered in the rules and, if needed, can only provide minimal clarification on the problem.

Ms. Mulkani works closely with fellow Competition Administrator Lindsay Kadish. Competitors will be receiving communications from both administrations prior to and during the event.

## RULE V. THE BRIEFS

### A. General.

The written brief is a crucial aspect of the Appellate Moot Court Competition. It constitutes 40% of the preliminary round score and also serves as the determining factor in the event of a tie. *See* Rule VII. Therefore, competitors should strive to turn in the very best product possible. Note that a special award for Best Brief is given at the awards ceremony.

Each team will write only one brief, which must be written by those arguing the problem. *See* Rule II(B). Teams will choose whether they will write for Appellant or Appellee (as identified by the court in the Briefing Order instructions), but will argue both sides of the problem during the preliminary rounds. *See* Rule VI(B)(2). The use of work produced by any person other than a



teammate in preparing the brief is strictly prohibited. Prior to submitting the brief, competitors may not receive assistance from anyone. *See* Rule III(A).

## B. Length and Form of Briefs.

### 1. **Content of Briefs.** Briefs must contain, under appropriate headings, and in the order indicated:

- a. a table of contents – with page references;
- b. a table of authorities – cases (alphabetically arranged), statutes, and other authorities – with references to the pages of the brief where they are cited;
- c. a statement of the issues presented for review;
- d. a statement of the case briefly indicating the nature of the case, the course of proceedings, and the disposition below;
- e. a statement of facts relevant to the issues submitted for review;
- f. a summary of the argument – which must contain a succinct and accurate statement of the arguments made in the body of the brief, and which must not merely repeat the argument headings;
- g. the argument – which must contain:
  - i. the parties’ contentions and the reasons for them, including any public policy considerations, with citations to the authorities and to the parts of the record on which the appellant relies; and
  - ii. for each issue, a concise statement of the applicable standard of review (which may appear in the discussion of the issue or under a separate heading placed before the discussion of the issues); and
- h. a short conclusion stating the precise relief sought.

### 2. **Form of Brief.**

- a. **Cover.** The cover of the appellant’s brief must be blue; the appellee’s, red. The front cover of the brief must contain:
  - i. the number of the case centered at the top;
  - ii. the name of the court;
  - iii. the title of the case;
  - iv. the nature of the proceeding (e.g., Appeal, Petition for Review) and the name of the court, agency, or board below;
  - v. the title of the brief, identifying the party or parties for whom the brief is filed; and





**CERTIFICATION OF AUTHENTICITY**

We hereby certify that our brief is the product solely of the undersigned and that the undersigned have not received outside assistance of any kind in connection with the preparation of our brief.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Team Member A Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Team Member A Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Team Member B Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Team Member B Name



## C. Submission of Brief and Certification.

### 1. Submission to the Competition Administrator.

Briefs must be submitted as follows:

- a. Each team shall submit an electronic copy of their brief by 12:00 p.m. PST on Friday, January 15, 2016. The electronic submission, a single PDF file, must be sent as an email attachment to Liberty Mulkani at [lmulkani@aldf.org](mailto:lmulkani@aldf.org). Only the team's number and no other identifying information shall appear on submissions.
- b. Each team shall also submit an electronic copy of the certification signed by both members. The electronic submission, a single PDF file, must be sent as an email attachment to Liberty Mulkani at [lmulkani@aldf.org](mailto:lmulkani@aldf.org). To avoid penalty, Ms. Mulkani must receive the certification via email no later than 12:00 p.m. PST on Friday, January 15, 2016.

### 2. Service of Briefs on Opposing Teams.

All team briefs will be posted on the NALC website. Briefs will be accessible by clicking on a team's number.

### 3. Revision of Briefs.

Briefs may not be revised after submission.

## RULE VI. THE ORAL ARGUMENT

### A. Rounds.

The schedule for the preliminary rounds will be posted on the NALC website after registration closes, and the teams will be notified via email when it is posted. The schedule, however, is subject to change at any time.

Each team will compete in two (2) preliminary rounds that will take place on Saturday, and each team will receive comments and feedback from judges at the close of each round. Teams may not witness the rounds of other competitors until the final round, which will be open to competitors, coaches, and the public.

Four (4) teams will progress to the semi-final round (*see Rule VII for scoring rules*) that will take place Sunday morning. In the semi-final round, the side each team will argue and whom they will argue against is randomly assigned.



Two (2) teams will progress to the final round (*see Rule VII for scoring rules*) that will take place Sunday in the late morning, or early afternoon. In the final round, the side each team will argue is randomly assigned.

## **B. Order and Timing of the Oral Arguments.**

### **1. Time Allowed for Arguments.**

Oral argument will be limited to a total of thirty (30) minutes per team, fifteen (15) minutes for each team member, except as discussed below. Judges, at their discretion, may interrupt arguments to ask questions but may not allow additional time, except that judges may allow a few seconds at the end of an argument to finish answering a question and/or to briefly conclude. If allowed to conclude after time has expired, competitors must finish within ten (10) seconds.

The appellants for each question, by advance stipulation, may reserve up to five (5) minutes of the allotted thirty (30) minutes for rebuttal. Rebuttal time will be subtracted from the arguing team member's time allotment.

At the commencement of each round, the competitors will be allowed a few moments to prepare. Competitors will relay whether they would like all available time warnings (seven (7), five (5), and three (3) minute marks), or fewer. When everyone is ready, the bailiff or timekeeper will announce that the first party may begin.

The bailiff or timekeeper will display a green card until only one (1) minute remains of the competitor's allotted time. Additional signals will be given as relayed by the competitor at the start, at the seven (7), five (5), and three (3) minute marks. When one (1) minute remains, a yellow card will be displayed. When the competitor's time has expired, a red card will be displayed, signaling that the competitor must conclude promptly.

### **2. Order of Arguments.** The order of the arguments will be as follows:

First Round:

Teams argue for Appellant or Appellee as listed in the schedule.

Second Round:

Teams argue for Appellant or Appellee as listed in the schedule.

Semi-Final Round:

The side each team will argue and whom they will argue against is randomly assigned, and the teams will be notified at the Saturday evening results reception.

Final Round:

The side each team will argue is randomly assigned, and the teams will be notified after the semi-final rounds.



## **RULE VII. SCORING**

### **A. Briefs.**

A well-written brief is crucial to the Appellate Moot Court Competition. *See* Rule V (A). A panel of experienced animal law scholars and/or practitioners will score all briefs submitted. The panel will determine the overall best brief, earning its authors the Best Brief award announced at the awards ceremony on Sunday afternoon.

The brief score will be combined with the preliminary round scores to help determine a team's advancement to the semi-final round.

Total brief scores will be calculated by the average score of three separate graders who are reading for content, thoroughness of research, depth of analysis, persuasiveness of argument, clarity of writing, inclusion of public policy, grammar, format, correct Bluebook citation, spelling, syntax, punctuation, capitalization, length, proper certification, ability to follow requirements, etc.

### **B. Oral Arguments.**

A panel of three (3) judges will score the oral arguments. Judges will consider a variety of factors including organization, preparation, courtroom presentation, handling of questions, and legal reasoning. Each team will compete in two preliminary rounds and will receive comments and feedback from the judges at the close of each round. The score for each team in a particular preliminary round is the total of the three (3) scores given to each team member by the three (3) judges of that round.

### **C. Advancement to the Final Rounds.**

At the conclusion of the two preliminary rounds, a total score for each team will be calculated. The total score will be calculated as follows:

40% - the team's total brief score

30% - the first preliminary round

30% - the second preliminary round

The four (4) teams with the top total scores will advance to the semi-final rounds. In the event of a tie, the team with the greater number of "wins" from the judges in the preliminary rounds will advance. Any persisting tie will be decided by the teams' brief scores.

In the semi-final round, the side each team will argue and whom they will argue against will be randomly assigned.

The winners of the semi-final and final rounds are determined solely by the scores each team received from that specific round. Scores from the briefs and preliminary rounds are not included in this determination, except in cases where there is a need to implement a tie-breaking mechanism.



#### **D. Results.**

Teams will receive oral feedback at the end of each round. An announcement will be made at the Saturday evening event stating which teams will advance to the semi-final rounds. Finalists will be announced shortly after the semi-final rounds conclude. Winners of the competition will be announced during the awards ceremony, following the final round on Sunday. Competitors' names and photos may be posted on the NALC website.

### **RULE VIII. AWARDS**

The winning team of the competition will receive two individual plaques, as well as a plaque for display by their law school. The team placing second will receive two individual plaques. The two semi-finalist teams will receive individual certificates. There will be additional individual certificates given for the Best Oral Advocate, as well as for the team with the Best Brief.

Winners' names and photos may be posted on the NALC, CALS and ALDF websites.

### **RULE IX. PENALTIES.**

Penalties, including disqualification, may be assessed at the discretion of the administrators for failure to comply with any rule or deadline set pursuant to these rules.

### **RULE X. 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.

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**The Center for Animal Law Studies at Lewis & Clark, in collaboration with the Animal Legal Defense Fund, wishes you an exciting and productive 2016 Appellate Moot Court Competition. Best of luck to all competitors!**

