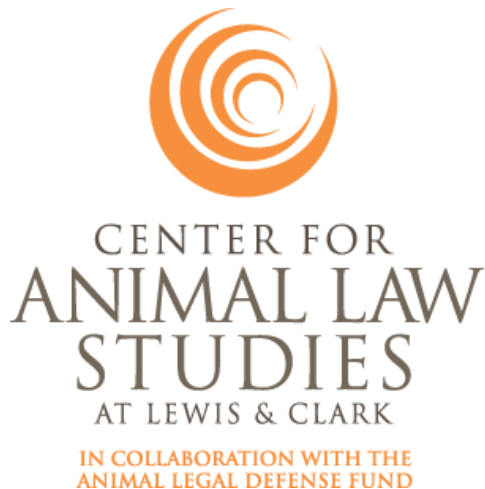




# LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING & LOBBYING COMPETITION 2016 RULES

**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 Lewis & Clark Law School's 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 hone their written and oral advocacy skills.

## RULE II. PARTICIPATION

### A. Competitor Eligibility.

Participation in the Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition is done on an individual basis. The competition will be open to the first twenty (20) students to register and arrange payment. Should the competition sell out, potential competitors are encouraged to register for the waitlist as a spot may become available.

Each law school may enter up to three (3) competitors. Competitors must be full- or part-time students seeking a J.D. or LL.M. at any ABA-approved law school in the United States.\*

\* *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 competitor. The law school or individual competitor 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. 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 waitlist order will be determined by the time and date stamp of the email request.

Competitors must submit a completed registration form and arrange payment for the registration fee of \$225 (per individual competitor). Registrations may be completed by the individual competitor or by an agent acting on their behalf.



Should a competitor need to withdraw from the competition, a full refund is available until 5:00 pm (PST) 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 bill and fact sheet is submitted (both are due no later than Friday, January 15, 2016, by 12:00 pm PST). Prior to the deadline, competitors may not discuss the problem with anyone, including professors, coaches, students, colleagues, or any other individual.**

Only after the bill and fact sheets 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 Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition problem; or
2. Are serving as a judge for the 2016 Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition.

The burden of determining coaching eligibility rests on the competitor. Therefore, competitors should first inquire whether a would-be coach was involved in authoring the problem or if he or she is a judge of the 2016 Legislative Drafting & Lobbying 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 are participating. Otherwise, rounds are open to the public.

### D. Communication with Judges.

During the competition, competitors and coaches may not discuss the rules, problem, cases, strategy, or scoring, and may not receive any advice, feedback, or coaching from the NALC judges beyond feedback provided immediately after each round. Likewise, competitors may not disclose what school they represent until the competition has concluded.



## RULE IV. COMPETITION PROBLEM

### A. Distribution and Components.

The problem consists of one (1) mock bill scenario and three (3) different mock lobbying scenarios for the bill. The lobbying scenarios include legislator profiles.

At the event, competitors will approach “members of the legislature” and/or their “staff” to request sponsorship, co-sponsorship, votes, etc. Competitors will also write and submit a proposed bill and accompanying fact sheet that will be submitted prior to the event. The four competitors reaching the final round will receive new information and instructions regarding that round at the results reception, Saturday evening, February 20, 2016.

The problem is posted on the NALC website, under “Problems.” Please visit: [www.NationalAnimalLawCompetitions.org](http://www.NationalAnimalLawCompetitions.org).

### B. Questions and Competition Administrators.

Contact 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 prior to and during the event.

## RULE V. BILL & FACT SHEET

**The written competition components are a crucial aspect of the Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition. They constitute twenty-five percent (25%) of the competitor’s total preliminary round score and also serve as the determining factor in the event of a tie. Therefore, competitors should strive to turn in the very best product possible. Note that a special award is given to the overall Best Bill and Fact Sheet.**

### A. Requirements.

The length of the bill shall be no less than one (1) page, and no more than five (5) pages. Competitors shall determine proper formatting based on their own research; however, font size should be no smaller than 12 point with one-inch margins. Inclusion of “findings” or “purpose” at the beginning of the bill is discretionary, and will be included in the final page count.

The fact sheet must be no more than one (1) page and one (1) side in length.



## B. Submission of Bill & Fact Sheet.

Competitors must submit their written proposed bill and fact sheet in two individual PDF files by 12:00 pm PST on Friday, January 15, 2016. Send files as email attachments to Liberty Mulkani at [lmulkani@aldf.org](mailto:lmulkani@aldf.org). Only the competitor's number and no other identifying information shall appear on the submissions. Failure to meet the submission deadline will result in scoring penalties up to and including disqualification from the competition.

Competitors should consult the example fact sheets available on the problem webpage for guidance.

## RULE VI. LOBBYING

### A. Format.

During competition rounds, competitors will approach "members of the legislature" and/or their "staff" to request sponsorship, co-sponsorship, votes, etc. Competition judges will play the role of "Representative/Senator" and the timekeeper will play the role of "staff." Please note, because judges and timekeepers are playing fictitious characters, he or she is not necessarily expressing personal opinions during competition rounds.

Competitors should approach each round as he or she would a real-life lobbying endeavor. This means competitors should expect the unexpected and prepare just as they would for actual lobbying. Competitors should bring any items he or she might want to present to a "Representative/Senator" or "staff members" to competition rounds. Competitors can draw from their own research, and their own life experience, when communicating with judges; however, whether in written documents, or during the lobbying rounds, competitors are not allowed to fabricate levels of public or private support, polling numbers, or other statistics to persuade or prove a point.

It is permissible for competitors to extrapolate likely outcomes based on real-life information generally available to the public. To use an example, if the competitor's proposed legislation focuses on animal cruelty issues, it would be permissible to look at past animal cruelty-related legislation and extrapolate those polling numbers to the current problem. However, the competitor must base his or her extrapolation on actual numbers based on real polls and other data. Although this is a fictional problem, it is essential that competitors tether their arguments to credible information as opposed to simply making up information that benefits or supports their position. This rule also applies to the fabrication of facts from real or fictitious persons, organizations, agencies, etc. For example, the competitor may not create a fact sheet with logos from fictitious organizations or names of individuals to support their position. However, the competitor may extrapolate a position of actual organizations or individuals (even if not used in the problem) if the statement or position can be supported with factual and reliable existing sources. For example, if true, it is permissible for the competitor to state to a legislator that a particular nationally known organization has supported similar bills in Illinois and California, so your analysis indicates it is likely they will also support this legislation.



## **B. Timekeeping.**

Competitors will have ten (10) minutes to present in each round. A timekeeper will display a green card until only three (3) minutes of the competitor's allotted time remain. At the three (3) minute mark, a notice will be given (a card displaying the number three (3) will be displayed). 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.

## **C. Preliminary Rounds.**

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

Competitors will lobby for the same mock bill in all preliminary rounds. There are three (3) preliminary rounds during which competitors will face all three (3) of the mock scenarios - one (1) scenario per round. Competitors will receive feedback from the judges ("members of the legislature" and "staff") immediately after each round.

## **D. Final Round.**

The top four (4) competitors will advance to the final round (*See* Rule VII), and will be randomly assigned a presentation order. At the results reception, the four finalists will receive new information and instructions.

The competitors in the final round will not be permitted to view the lobbying presentations of their fellow finalist competitors. Otherwise, the rounds are open to the public.

# **RULE VII. SCORING**

## **A. Bill and Fact Sheet.**

A committee of experienced lobbyists, legislators, attorneys, and/or professors will score the submitted bill and fact sheet before the competition. A number of factors will be considered for scoring including language clarity, persuasiveness, precision in drafting, and design (fact sheet only).

## **B. Advancement to Final Round at the Competition.**

At the conclusion of the three (3) preliminary rounds, a total score for each competitor will be calculated. The total score will be calculated as follows:

- 25% - based on the competitor's proposed bill & fact sheet; and
- 75% - based on the competitor's combined oral scores from each of the three (3) preliminary rounds (25% per round). Oral scores are based on a competitor's persuasiveness, clarity of message, ability to respond effectively to questions, and knowledge of the laws related to, or impacting, their proposed bill.



The four (4) competitors with the top total scores will advance to the final round. This announcement will be made at the Saturday night results reception.

### **C. Final Round Scoring**

Upon completion of the final round, the competition winner will be determined by considering the total score given to each competitor during the final round. In the event of a tie, the competitors' bill and fact sheet scores will determine the outcome.

## **RULE VII. AWARDS**

Awards will be given to the top four (4) finalists as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> Place, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Finalists. The winner of the competition will receive an individual plaque, as well as a plaque for display by his or her law school. The competitor placing second will receive an individual plaque and the two (2) additional finalists will receive certificates. A certificate will also be given for the Best Bill & Fact Sheet. The winner of the Best Bill & Fact Sheet Award may not necessarily be a competition finalist.

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

## **RULE VIII. PENALTIES**

Scoring penalties, up to and including disqualification, may be assessed at the competition administrators' sole discretion for failure to comply with any rule or deadline set pursuant to these rules.

## **RULE IX. 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 Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition. Best of luck to all competitors!**

