



# NATIONAL ANIMAL LAW COMPETITIONS

PRESENTED BY:



CENTER FOR  
ANIMAL LAW  
STUDIES  
AT LEWIS & CLARK  
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE  
ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

HOSTED BY:



Harvard Law School  
Student Animal Legal Defense Fund

## LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING & LOBBYING COMPETITION 2011 COMPETITION RULES

## **RULE I. ORGANIZATION**

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

- Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition;
- Closing Argument Competition; and
- Appellate Moot Court Competition.

NALC is a fun and educational event presented by the Center for Animal Law Studies and hosted by the Harvard SALDF Chapter at Harvard Law School each year. 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 Eligibility.**

Participation in the Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition is 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 two competitors. Participants must be full- or part-time students seeking a J.D. at any ABA-approved law school in the United States.

*\* First year law students are only eligible to compete in the Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition of the National Animal Law Competitions.*

### **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 2011 competitions will open on Thursday, October 7, 2010, at 10 a.m. (PST). Registration forms will not be accepted before then. Registrations are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. The order is determined by the time and date they are received via email. Send completed forms to competition administrator Laura Handzel at [lhandzel@lclark.edu](mailto:lhandzel@lclark.edu).

Competitors must submit a fully complete registration form and arrange payment for the registration fee of \$225 (per individual competitor). The registration form is provided on the NALC website under the "Registration" option.

Should a competitor need to withdraw from the competition, a full refund minus a \$15.00 administrative fee is available until December 1, 2010. There will be no refunds after that date.

Registrations may be completed by the individual competitor or by an agent acting on their behalf.

Because many law schools hold in-school competitions to select their representatives, specific competitor information is preferred but not absolutely 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 accepted. **Specific competitor information must be supplied no later than November 15, 2010, or the spot is forfeited to a waitlisted team.**

### **RULE III. COACHING**

#### **A. Restrictions.**

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

1. Are involved with the writing of the 2011 Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition problem; or
2. Are serving as a judge for the 2011 Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition. The burden of determining coaching eligibility rests on the competitor.

If a competitor requests coaching assistance by an individual, they must first ask whether this person is acting as a judge for the 2011 Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition.

#### **B. During the Competition.**

Every effort is made to make NALC as fair as possible. Consequently, coaches and guests may not observe preliminary rounds, including those of their own competitors. This policy is in place to avoid any possibility of judges being influenced (for better or worse) by coaches and/or guests present in the room(s). Coaches may assist competitors before and after each round. The final competition round will be open to the public.

The competition administrators will strive to make arrangements to record rounds, allowing coaches, family members, etc. to review the video with the competitors after the event is over.

#### **C. 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.

## **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. During competition rounds, competitors will approach “members of Congress” for their sponsorship, co-sponsorship, their votes, etc. Competitors will lobby for the same mock bill in all rounds. There are three (3) preliminary rounds, and competitors will face all three (3) of the mock scenarios (one (1) per round). Competitors will also write and submit a proposed bill and accompanying fact sheet.

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

### **B. Bill and 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 serves 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 best overall bill and fact sheet.**

#### **1. Requirements.**

The length of the bill is discretionary, but one to five pages (1-5 pages) is appropriate. Inclusion of “findings” at the beginning of the bill is discretionary. Findings are included to be persuasive, but are sometimes attacked by legislators and opponents of a bill. The fact sheet must be no more than one-page (1-page) in length.

#### **2. Service Upon the Competition Administrator.**

Competitors must submit their written proposed bill and fact sheet as an email attachment by midnight (12 a.m.) (PST) on Monday, January 31, 2011. Send submissions to competition administrator Laura Handzel at [lhandzel@lclark.edu](mailto:lhandzel@lclark.edu).

Competitors should consult the example fact sheets and HSUS’ Citizen Lobbyist Resources available on the problem webpage for guidance.

### **C. Questions and Competition Administrators.**

Contact competition administrator Laura Handzel at [lhandzel@lclark.edu](mailto:lhandzel@lclark.edu) 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. Handzel will not

respond to questions that are answered in the rules and, if needed, can only provide minimal clarification on the problem.

Please note, Ms. Handzel works closely with fellow competition administrator Liberty Mulkani. Competitors will be receiving communications from both prior to and during the event.

## **RULE V. ROUNDS AND SCORING**

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

The proposed bill will be scored by a committee of experienced lobbyists and/or legislators before the competition.

### **B. Preliminary Rounds.**

The schedule for the preliminary rounds will be posted on the NALC website prior to the competition. Each student will participate in three (3) preliminary rounds, attempting to persuade a “member of Congress” based on the three (3) legislator profiles.

### **C. 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 participant's allotted time remain. At the three-minute (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.

### **D. Advancement to Final Round.**

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).

The four (4) competitors with the top total scores will advance to the final round. The finalists will be announced at the Saturday evening banquet.

### **E. Final Round Details.**

Background information on the “legislator” for the final round will be provided before the final round but after the preliminary rounds of the competition.

#### **F. Competitor Order.**

The four finalists will be randomly assigned a presentation order for the final round.

#### **G. Round Closed to Finalists.**

The competitors in the final round will not be permitted to view the lobbying presentations of other competitors in the round.

#### **H. Determining Placing.**

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

### **RULE VI. RESULTS**

Teams will receive oral feedback at the end of each round. Finalists will be announced at the Saturday evening banquet. Winners of the competition will be announced during the awards ceremony, following the final round on Sunday. Competitors' names and photos (unless otherwise instructed) may be posted on the NALC website.

### **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. An award will also be given for the Best Bill & Fact Sheet. The winner of the Best Bill & Fact Sheet Award may not necessarily also be a competition finalist.

### **RULE VIII. PENALTIES**

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

Contact competition administrators Laura Handzel (lhandzel@lclark.edu) or Liberty Mulkani (lmulkani@lclark.edu) with questions regarding the rules. Be sure to read the rules carefully and in their entirety before requesting clarification. Also be sure to refer back to the rules from time to time prior to the competition. The competition administrators will not respond to inquiries that are addressed in the rules.

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The Center for Animal Law Studies at Lewis & Clark, in collaboration with the Animal Legal Defense Fund, wishes you a fun and productive 2011 Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition. Best of luck to all competitors!



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