

Board of Barristers – Appellate Advocacy

Official Ballot

Prelim I

Prelim II

Prelim III

Round 16

Quarter

Semi

Final

Judge Name: _____

Time: _____ Room: _____

Please read the guidelines on the back which correspond to specific content areas before filling out your ballot.

Petitioner Team # _____

Petitioner #1 Name _____

Score 100 points for each content area
400 points maximum for each speaker

_____ Knowledge of Subject Matter (0-100)

_____ Response to Questions (0-100)

_____ Forensic Skill & Courtroom Demeanor (0-100)

_____ Organization, Logic & Clarity of Argument (0-100)

_____ **#P1 TOTAL POINTS**

Comments:

Petitioner #2 Name _____

Score 100 points for each content area
400 points maximum for each speaker

_____ Knowledge of Subject Matter (0-100)

_____ Response to Questions (0-100)

_____ Forensic Skill & Courtroom Demeanor (0-100)

_____ Organization, Logic & Clarity of Argument (0-100)

_____ **#P2 TOTAL POINTS**

Comments:

Total Petitioner Team Points: _____

(both speakers #P1 & #P2)

Respondent Team # _____

Respondent #1 Name _____

Score 100 points for each content area
400 points maximum for each speaker

_____ Knowledge of Subject Matter (0-100)

_____ Response to Questions (0-100)

_____ Forensic Skill & Courtroom Demeanor (0-100)

_____ Organization, Logic & Clarity of Argument (0-100)

_____ **#R1 TOTAL POINTS**

Comments:

Respondent #2 Name _____

Score 100 points for each content area
400 points maximum for each speaker

_____ Knowledge of Subject Matter (0-100)

_____ Response to Questions (0-100)

_____ Forensic Skill & Courtroom Demeanor (0-100)

_____ Organization, Logic & Clarity of Argument (0-100)

_____ **#R2 TOTAL POINTS**

Comments:

Total Respondent Team Points: _____

(both speakers #R1 & #R2)

Scoring Guidelines

Board of Barristers – Appellate Advocacy

Scoring Advocates:

Please score each speaker on a 100-point scale for each of the four different categories described below. Excellent advocates should earn the equivalent of an A (90-100), good advocates should earn a B (80-89), satisfactory advocates should earn a C (70-79), and poor or unsatisfactory advocates should earn a D or F (0-69). Accurate scores assist us to distribute orator awards and rank teams.

Knowledge of Subject Matter (100-point scale)

- Demonstrates thorough knowledge of the record
- Directs the Court to important points in the record
- Clearly identifies and focuses on the central constitutional issue
- Understands relevant constitutional doctrines and applies them clearly
- Demonstrates thorough knowledge of the cases in the Table of Authorities
- Provides case citations to support arguments
- Only uses cases outside the Table of Authorities solely to the extent that they are quoted and cited within the official cases.

Response to Questioning (100-point scale)

- Does not evade the Court's questions and answers questions clearly
- Answers questions with authority, identifying relevant rules and/or case names
- Fits relevant questions into overall analysis and presentation
- Makes clear transition back to argument after answering a question
- Listens carefully to the Court's questions
- Answers questions directly, starting with "Yes, Your Honor" or "No, Your Honor"
- Addresses questions posed by the Court to opposing counsel
- Uses questions to advance an argument by connecting responses to larger issues

Forensic Skills and Courtroom Demeanor (100-point scale)

- Demonstrates proper respect and courtesy toward the Court and opposing counsel
- Projects an image of professionalism in appearance and presentation
- Begins presentation with "May it please the Court," stays within the time limits, and ends with a specific conclusion
- Maintains eye contact and talks to the Court in a conversational manner rather than reading from notes
- Uses correct pronunciation and grammar, uses appropriate vocabulary, and avoids distracting "ahs," "ums," or "ers"
- Speaks in a conversational but formal style, with good inflection and clear voice
- Exhibits a professional stance at the podium and uses gestures effectively and appropriately for appellate argument

Organization, Logic and Clarity of Argument (100-point scale)

- Provides brief overview or "road map" of argument
- Presentation is well organized and focused on the constitutional question certified by the Court
- Clearly distinguishes central from marginal issues
- Arguments are clear and direct
- Central issues are clear to the Court when the advocate finishes
- Respondent does respond to the constitutional and legal arguments presented by petitioner
- Petitioner, in rebuttal, addresses and rebuts the constitutional and legal arguments presented by respondent
- Petitioner does NOT introduce new constitutional or legal issues in the rebuttal