

**NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION OFFICIAL RULES**

(Amended by the NNALSA Moot Court Rules Committee – November 2020)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission Statement	5
SECTION 1 – PUROPSE	5
RULE 1.1 Promoting the Objectives of the Mission Statement	5
RULE 1.2 Continued Involvement	5
SECTION 2 – GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	5
RULE 2.1 Competition Administration	5
RULE 2.2 Duly-Enacted Competition Rules	5
RULE 2.3 NNALSA Moot Court Administrator as Competition Administrator	5
RULE 2.4 NNALSA Moot Court Rules Committee	5
SECTION 3 – AUTHORITY	6
RULE 3.1 Assessing Penalties and Disqualifying Teams	6
RULE 3.2 Interpreting these Rules	6
RULE 3.3 Substantive Inquiries Concerning the Problem	6
RULE 3.4 Amending these Rules	7
SECTION 4 – INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY.....	7
RULE 4.1 Candidate for a Juris Doctorate Degree.....	7
RULE 4.2 Member of NNALSA and a Local NALSA Chapter.....	7
RULE 4.3 Members without a Local Chapter	7
SECTION 5 – TEAM ELIGIBILITY	8
RULE 5.1 NALSA Chapter Status	8
RULE 5.2 Team Composition.....	8
RULE 5.3 Submitting Registration Materials	8
RULE 5.4 Team Identification Numbers	9
RULE 5.5 Team Withdrawal	9
RULE 5.6 Team Member Substitution	9
RULE 5.7 Team Cap.....	10
SECTION 6 – DISQUALIFICATION	10
RULE 6.1 Grounds for Disqualification	10
RULE 6.2 Host School Students.....	10
SECTION 7 – TEAM COACHES	10
RULE 7.1 Restrictions	10
SECTION 8 – BREIFS	11
RULE 8.1 Brief Submission Deadline.....	11
RULE 8.2 Format	11
RULE 8.3 Service	11
RULE 8.4 Preparation	12

RULE 8.5 Scoring	12
RULE 8.6 Penalties	12
SECTION 9 – ORAL ARGUMENTS	13
RULE 9.1 Preparation and Assistance	13
RULE 9.2 Recordings.....	13
RULE 9.3 Spectators.....	14
RULE 9.4 Prohibited Behavior	14
RULE 9.5 Time Limits and Rebuttal	14
RULE 9.6 Time Violations and Penalties	15
RULE 9.7 Preliminary Rounds and Scoring	15
RULE 9.8 Elimination Rounds	15
RULE 9.9 Availability of Score Sheets	16
RULE 9.10 Ghost Teams	16
SECTION 10 – AWARDS	17
RULE 10.1 Announcement of Competition Results	17
RULE 10.2 Awards	17
RULE 10.3 Awards Trophies	17
SECTION 11 – GRIEVANCES	17
RULE 11.1 Procedure	17
RULE 11.2 Frivolous Complaint	18
SECTION 12 – HOST SCHOOL BIDDING PROCESS	18
RULE 12.1 Solicitation of Bids	18
RULE 12.2 Publication of Bids	18
RULE 12.3 Content of Bid Package	18
RULE 12.4 Procedure	19
SECTION 13 – HOST SCHOOL DUTIES	19
RULE 13.1 Partnership with NNALSA	19
RULE 13.2 Host School Compliance with these Rules	19
RULE 13.3 Assistance from NNALSA	19
RULE 13.4 Orientations.....	19
RULE 13.5 Guidebook.....	20
RULE 13.6 Timeline	20
RULE 13.7 Host School Restrictions from Fielding Competitors.....	21
SECTION 14 – PROBLEM	21
RULE 14.1 Scope	21
RULE 14.2 Problem Author	21
RULE 14.3 Bench Brief Author	22
RULE 14.4 Confidentiality of Problem, Bench Brief, and Suggested Questions Memorandum	22

SECTION 15 – JUDGES	23
RULE 15.1 Selection Criteria	23
RULE 15.2 Judges’ Orientation Session	23
RULE 15.3 Recusal of Oral Argument Judges	23
RULE 15.4 Judge’s Role	23
SECTION 16 – VIRTUAL COMPETITION.....	24
RULE 16.1 Conflicting Rules.....	24
RULE 16.2 Requesting Scores and Grievances.....	24
RULE 16.3 Technology.....	24
Appendix A: Scoring	28
Bailiff Timekeeping Sheet	31
Brief Scoring Sheet (Structure)	32
Brief Scoring Sheet (Substance)	34
Oral Argument Score Sheet Instructions	35
Oral Argument Score Sheet	36
Appendix B: Grievance Form	38

MISSION STATEMENT

The National Native American Law Student Association (NNALSA) was founded in 1970 to support Native American students in law school and promote the study of federal Indian law, tribal law, and traditional forms of governance. We strive to reach out to Native American communities, encourage Native Americans to pursue legal education, and educate the legal community about Native American legal issues.

SECTION 1 – PURPOSE

RULE 1.1 – Promoting the Objectives of the Mission Statement

The purpose of the NNALSA Moot Court Competition is to create opportunities to promote the objectives of the NNALSA Mission Statement, actively encourage the development of the oral advocacy and brief-writing skills of NNALSA members, as well as enhance substantive knowledge in the fields of federal Indian law, tribal law, and traditional forms of governance.

RULE 1.2 – Continued Involvement

NNALSA strongly encourages all Moot Court participants to actively participate in NNALSA activities as a student and beyond graduation in order to further the purpose outlined above.

SECTION 2 – GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

RULE 2.1 – Competition Administration

The competition is operated by a host school. The host school is selected by the bidding process pursuant to Section 12.

RULE 2.2 – Duly-Enacted Competition Rules

These rules have been duly enacted by the NNALSA Board of Directors as the official rules.

RULE 2.3 – NNALSA Moot Court Administrator as Competition Administrator

The Board of Directors vest authority in the NNALSA Moot Court Administrator as the Competition Administrator. The Competition Administrator shall administer the competition and these rules in partnership with the host school. The Competition Administrator is prohibited from competing while serving as Administrator of the competition.

RULE 2.4 – NNALSA Moot Court Rules Committee

a) The Rules Committee shall be comprised of the NNALSA Moot Court Administrator and at least three (3) NNALSA Board members. Pursuant to Rule 3.2 conditions, the problem author shall also serve as a de facto member of the Rules Committee. Rules Committee members shall be present at the competition and are prohibited from competing.

- b) The Rules Committee becomes active when the competition is “active.” The competition is considered “active” from the date of the problem release until the conclusion of the competition. During this time, the Rules Committee is limited to interpreting the rules and cannot amend the rules, except as permitted by Rule 3.4.
- c) The Rules Committee shall interpret the rules, respond to grievances, and resolve operational issues. The Rules Committee shall make decisions by majority agreement. When the competition is deemed active, as outlined in Rule 2.4(b), and results in a tie vote, the Competition Administrator alone must break the tie.
- d) The Rules Committee shall post all questions, answers, and decisions of the committee on the NNALSA and host school websites.
- e) The decisions of the Rules Committee and/or Competition Administrator are final.

SECTION 3 – AUTHORITY

RULE 3.1 – Assessing Penalties and Disqualifying Teams

The Rules Committee shall have sole and final discretion regarding the issuance of penalties and/or disqualification of teams for violating these rules.

RULE 3.2 – Interpreting these Rules

- a) The Rules Committee reserves the sole discretion to interpret these rules.
- b) The problem author shall be a de facto member of the Rules Committee. The problem author shall have the power to veto or modify any interpretation that they view as arbitrary and capricious or otherwise in conflict with the overall aims of the competition.
- c) All rule interpretation requests must be directed to the Competition Administrator.
- d) As set forth above, the NNALSA Moot Court Competition is run by NNALSA by law students and for law students. In keeping with that purpose and structure, only students may request interpretations of the rules and/or file grievances.
- e) Any request or grievance filed by a coach or other non-NNALSA member or non-competitor will be automatically discarded and will not be addressed.
- f) A coach or other non-competitor are prohibited from speaking to the Rules Committee on behalf of students concerning a filed grievance or the interpretation of the rules.
- g) All answers will be posted on the NNALSA and host school websites. All decisions are final.

RULE 3.3 – Substantive Inquiries Concerning the Problem

The Rules Committee, through consultation with the problem author, will be responsible for all substantive inquiries about the problem. All inquiries must be directed to the Competition Administrator at least 7 days before oral arguments. As set forth above, the NNALSA Moot Court Competition is run by NNALSA for law students. In keeping with that purpose and structure, only students may file substantive inquiries. Any inquiry filed by a coach or other non-competitor will be automatically discarded and will not be

addressed. All answers will be posted on the NNALSA and host school websites. All decisions are final.

RULE 3.4 – Amending these Rules

The Rules Committee and the host school (by way of consultation with the Rules Committee) reserve the right to make any necessary changes to ensure the fairness, efficiency, and appropriate administration of the competition. While the competition is active, the Rules Committee shall provide notice to registered competitors of any amended rules.

SECTION 4 – INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

RULE 4.1 –Candidate for a Juris Doctorate Degree

Only students who are Juris Doctorate degree candidates may compete. Each competitor shall be in good standing and enrolled at an ABA accredited law school during the relevant academic year.

RULE 4.2 – Member of NNALSA and a Local NALSA Chapter

Competitors must meet all of the following eligibility requirements:

- a) Competitors must be in good standing with NNALSA and their local NALSA chapter. Local NALSA chapters must also be in good standing with NNALSA. If there is no local NALSA chapter, refer to Rule 4.3.
- b) Competitors shall meet all financial obligations of membership in NNALSA as well as their local NALSA chapter before the brief submission deadline or they will be disqualified. NNALSA membership dues must be submitted to the NNALSA Treasurer. If there is no local NALSA chapter, refer to Rule 4.3.
- c) Competitors shall be active members of NNALSA and their local NALSA chapter. In their team’s registration packet each competitor shall submit a letter from their local NALSA chapter President and/or Secretary. The letter must attest to that competitor’s participation in their local NALSA chapter and interest in advancing the Mission of NNALSA. If there is no local NALSA chapter, refer to Rule 4.3.

RULE 4.3 – Members without a Local Chapter

a) If students do not have a local NALSA chapter, they must:

- 1) Submit online NNALSA membership applications and dues by the submission deadline. The NNALSA Treasurer and the Competition Administrator will work together to ensure all appropriate deadlines have been met and dues have been paid.
- 2) Submit the following with their submission:
 - I) Letter from the student attesting to their interest and activities which

advance the objectives of the NNALSA Mission Statement. The letter must be no longer than 2 pages, double-spaced, all margins 1", and 12-point Times New Roman font.

II) Letter from the Dean, Associate Dean, or a professor at the student's law school confirming that there is not a local Chapter and attesting to the student's interest or involvement in advancing the objectives of the NNALSA Mission Statement.

b) Admittance of students who apply under this rule is subject to review by the Rules Committee. Students will be notified of admittance status via e-mail within three (3) days of the receipt of the complete registration packet. The entire registration packet and costs shall be returned by postal service and notified by email if a team is not approved to compete.

SECTION 5 – TEAM ELIGIBILITY

RULE 5.1 – NALSA Chapter Status

Only law schools with active NALSA chapters may participate in the competition, with the exception of those outlined in Rule 4.3. "Active NALSA chapters" are chapters in good standing with NNALSA. Chapters with teams in the competition shall submit their chapter dues to the NNALSA Treasurer before the brief submission deadline or all of their teams will be disqualified.

RULE 5.2 – Team Composition

a) Teams shall consist of two (2) students from the same law school who meet all individual eligibility requirements in Section 4. If a team cannot be assembled from the same school, the applicants must submit a letter requesting an exception to Rule 5.2 with their registration packet. This letter will be reviewed by the Rules Committee for approval. It must include:

- 1) an explanation of why the exception is necessary;
- 2) a description of efforts to produce a team from the same school; and
- 3) an explanation of why those efforts either failed or are unreasonable.

b) The Rules Committee shall notify the applicants if their exception to the team composition is approved or denied. All registration materials will be returned via electronic delivery or postal service. The decision by the Rules Committee is final.

RULE 5.3 – Submitting Registration Materials

a) Each team must submit a complete registration packet to the Competition Administrator by the deadline in accordance with the directions provided on the NNALSA and host school site. The registration packet must include: the registration form, payment of the entry fee, letter(s) as described in 4.2(c), and any additional

requirements. With the exception of Rule 5.2, all applicants are reminded to send NNALSA membership applications, individual dues, and chapter dues to the NNALSA Treasurer before the brief submission deadline of the first Monday in January, in accordance with Rules 4.2 and 5.1.

RULE 5.4 – Team Identification Numbers

- a) When the host school and/or Competition Administrator receives complete registration packets, the host school and/or Competition Administrator will assign a number to each team and notify them of their number by e-mail. The assigned number will be the sole method of identifying the team during the competition. Competitors shall not divulge their law school affiliation to oral argument judges before the conclusion of the final round. This rule does not preclude disclosure of the competitor's names to the oral argument judges at any time.
- b) Once NNALSA has verified membership dues, Teams will be assigned the side they will be arguing from the NNALSA Moot Court Administrator.

RULE 5.5 – Team Withdrawal

- a) Teams may withdraw from the competition by submitting an e-mail message to the Competition Administrator.
- b) Withdrawing teams are not entitled to a full refund. The Rules Committee shall determine whether a withdrawing team is subject to any refund according to the following schedule:
 - 1. Teams withdrawing *before* the brief submission deadline will receive a full refund of their registration fee. A separate request must be made to receive a membership fee return.
 - 2. Teams withdrawing *after* the brief submission deadline but before **January 31**, will receive a 50% refund, minus administrative and membership fees.
 - 3. Teams withdrawing after **January 31** will *not* receive any refund.
- c) Teams who do not withdraw and who do not appear in a timely manner for oral argument rounds will be assigned a score of zero for that round.

RULE 5.6 – Team Member Substitution

- a) An official team cannot substitute a team member.
- b) A team requesting to substitute a team member must submit a letter explaining a request to the exception to Rule 5.6(a). The proposed individual to be a team member substitution must meet all individual eligibility stated in Section 4. In addition, the team shall submit a letter of support from the team coach. The request will be reviewed by the Rules Committee for approval.
- c) The Rules Committee will notify the team if their exception to a team member substitution is approved or denied. If the team member substitution is approved, the

individual must submit all required registration material as stated in Rule 5.3. The decision by the Rules Committee is final.

RULE 5.7 – Team Cap

Team participation will be capped at seventy-two (72) teams. Participation will be granted on a first come first served basis. In addition, each individual school is limited to four (4) teams per school.

SECTION 6 – DISQUALIFICATION

RULE 6.1 – Grounds for Disqualification

Teams may be disqualified from the competition by a unanimous vote of the Rules Committee. Grounds for disqualification include, but are not limited to: exhibiting blatant disregard for the procedures or requirements outlined in these rules, compromising the anonymity of the competition, plagiarism, intimidation, unwarranted contact with competition judges concerning the competition, poor sportsmanship, submitting multiple, frivolous claims against other teams, and conduct otherwise unbecoming of the NNALSA mission.

RULE 6.2 - Host School Students

- a) Host school students are disqualified and prohibited from competing pursuant to Rule 13.7. Nothing in this rule prevents the host school from providing a Ghost Team in accordance to Rule 9.10 which may participate in oral argument in the event there are an odd number of teams competing, a team withdraws from the competition before completing their assigned rounds, or a team is disqualified, leaving an odd number of teams. However, the ghost team shall not submit a written brief and shall not be eligible to advance to the elimination rounds of the competition.
- b) Host school students, if desiring to compete, may independently request special permission to compete, under Rule 13.7, with approval from the Rules Committee and NNALSA Board of Directors, however, it is highly discouraged.
- c) The Rules Committee and NNALSA are not under any obligations to allow competitors from the host school.
- d) If approved, host school students shall proceed with registration classification for non – local NALSA chapter competitors.
- e) If a member of the NNALSA Board of Directors attends the host school, the member shall recuse themselves from voting on special permissions to compete.

SECTION 7 – TEAM COACHES

RULE 7.1 – Restrictions

- a) Team coaches may participate in preliminary and general discussions of the problem or issues presented, judge practice oral arguments, and give critiques, strategy advice, or feedback to team members only after the brief submission deadline.
- b) Team coaches are prohibited from serving as competition judges or helping prepare the competition problem.

c) During the preliminary rounds, team coaches may observe only rounds in which their teams are participating so long as their activity is not disruptive to the round.

SECTION 8 – BRIEFS

RULE 8.1 – Brief Submission Deadline

Briefs are due on the first Monday in January.

RULE 8.2 – Format

a) Briefs shall be no longer than 36 double-spaced pages, formatted for standard 8.5” x 11” paper. Margins must be 1 1/4 inch on the left and one inch on the right, top, and bottom, including footnotes. Indented quotations may be single-spaced.

b) Typeface must be 12-point Times New Roman font.

c) Footnotes may be 10-point Times New Roman font. Footnotes may not be employed to compress more than a reasonable amount of material into thirty-six pages. Excessive or abusive use of footnotes will be penalized as outlined in Rule 8.6(b).

d) Cover pages must conform to the relevant United States Supreme Court rules regarding form except that only the team’s identification number shall be used and no names, addresses, or school affiliations shall be disclosed. The brief shall not be signed.

e) Each brief shall have the following sections in this order: table of contents; table(s) of authorities; questions presented; statement of the case (subdivided into a statement of the proceedings and a statement of the facts); summary of argument; argument; and conclusion. Only the language of applicable constitutional provisions, statutes, or regulations may be included in appendices. The 36-page limit prescribed in Rule 8.2(a) does not include the table of contents, table(s) of authorities, or appendices.

f) Briefs cannot contain team members’ names or schools. In addition to their briefs, teams must file a signed certificate of service (on a separate piece of paper) indicating their names, addresses, team identification number, and filing date. This certificate can either be in hard copy or electronic copy (with an electronic signature). Briefs received without a certificate of service will be deemed to not have been filed. No reply brief is permitted.

g) Citations must conform to rules in either the latest edition of The Bluebook, a Uniform System of Citation, or the current edition of the Association of Legal Writing Directors Citation Manual (ALWD). Only one form of citation rules can be used within one brief.

RULE 8.3 – Service

a) Each team shall submit their brief online in .PDF format by the brief submission deadline as set forth in Rule 13.6(d). Briefs from teams from the same law school must be submitted separately.

- b) Teams are prohibited from revising their brief after submission to the competition.
- c) All briefs will be posted on the host school's moot court competition website at least two (2) weeks prior to oral arguments. Judges are under no obligation to read them. Competitors are strongly discouraged from referring to passages in the other competitors' briefs during oral arguments.

RULE 8.4 – Preparation

- a) Only team members can prepare and write briefs. Team members must strive to contribute equally to the brief writing and no one can prepare the brief by themselves.
- b) Between the release of the problem and submission of the team's brief, teams are prohibited from receiving substantive or stylistic assistance, including assistance from or comparison with other competing teams.
- c) A team may receive secretarial or clerical assistance, provided that such assistance is strictly limited to typing, assembling, filing, and other logistical preparation of the brief.
- d) This rule does not preclude a faculty advisor or sponsor from selecting students to form a team, provided that each team member participates in preparing and writing the brief and follow Rule 8.4(b) regarding substantive or stylistic assistance.

RULE 8.5 – Scoring

- a) Each brief will be anonymously scored by the same panel of three judges selected by the host school and/or Competition Administrator.
- b) Brief judges may not judge any team's practice rounds or otherwise discuss the problem with participants, team faculty advisors, coaches, or other persons directly associated with preparing teams for competition. Each brief judge shall spend the same amount of time on each brief. Brief judges shall meet all deadlines imposed by the host school and/or Competition Administrator.
- c) Brief scores will be tabulated according to Appendix A: Scoring.

RULE 8.6 – Penalties

- a) Briefs are not to be longer than thirty-six (36) pages. Any excess pages will be redacted before scoring.
- b) Excessive or abusive use of footnotes will be penalized 5-10 points.
- c) Briefs submitted after the brief submission deadline will be penalized by point deductions as listed in the chart below. The team will be disqualified from the competition and forfeit their registration fee if the brief is turned in over 24 hours after the deadline. No membership dues will be returned.

Times	Point Deductions
12:00am – 5:59am	5 points deducted
6:00am – 11:59am	10 pointes deducted
12:00pm – 5:59pm	15 points deducted
6:00pm-11:59pm	20 points deducted
After 11:59pm	Not accepted

d) Plagiarism is not tolerated and is grounds for disqualification from the competition. Each member of the team assumes the responsibility for the accuracy and content of their team’s brief. The Board of Directors and host school will report violations to the violating team’s law school.

e) Penalties for other rule violations in submission or format will be administered according to the procedures adopted by NNALSA.

SECTION 9 – ORAL ARGUMENTS

RULE 9.1 – Preparation and Assistance

a) Teams may prepare and/or practice their oral arguments and receive substantive and stylistic critiques and assistance (from anyone, including faculty members and members of other teams) only after they file their briefs. This rule shall not limit the class of persons eligible to offer said critiques, but if these individuals and other teams are outside the law school of the team seeking assistance, they are subject to the following restrictions:

- 1) The teams shall not, under any circumstances, reveal their team numbers to practice judges or to each other;
- 2) The teams shall not reveal which side they briefed; and
- 3) The judges of practice rounds shall not be registered to judge and may not register to judge the competition.

RULE 9.2 – Recordings

a) Teams may make audio or video recordings of their oral argument rounds if they use their own equipment but no special accommodations will be made for those teams. Teams must work with the assigned bailiff to record the oral argument. At the end of the round, the bailiff will deliver the recording to the tabulation room where it will be held until the end of the competition. Recordings must be labeled only with the team identification number. Neither NNALSA nor the host school assumes any responsibility for loss or damage to the recording.

b) To the extent that any Rules within Section 16 conflict with Rule 9.2, Section 16 shall control.

RULE 9.3 – Spectators

- a) Space permitting, non-competitors, are allowed to watch any round of the competition, with the exception of coaches as set forth in Rule 7.1(c). However, spectators are not allowed to share information with competitors or team coaches. Competitors are not allowed to ask for or receive information from spectators.

- b) Until they are eliminated from the competition, competitors may not observe or receive any information about other teams' oral argument rounds. Competitors shall not observe other teams' oral argument rounds during preliminary rounds even if they have a "bye."

- c) Spectators shall take care not to disturb oral arguments while entering or leaving the room.

- d) To the extent that any Rules within Section 16 conflict with Rule 9.3, Section 16 shall control.

RULE 9.4 – Prohibited Behavior

- a) Team members shall not communicate with the oralist at the podium.

- b) Disruptive conduct at counsel table is prohibited.

RULE 9.5 – Time Limits and Rebuttal

- a) Time limits will be strictly enforced. Each team must argue for a total of 26-30 minutes.

- b) Each oralist must argue for at least 13 minutes and no more than 17 minutes.

- c) Bailiffs will serve as timekeepers and keep written time records. At the appropriate times, bailiffs will display cards to indicate when 5 minutes, 2 minutes, 1 minute, and 30 seconds remain. Bailiffs will display a "Stop" card and orally declare "Stop" when no time is remaining.

- d) Neither oralists nor judges are permitted to request or grant additional speaking time.

- e) Oralists and teams who go over or under the allotted time will be penalized in accordance with Rule 9.6, with evidence of time violations taken from the bailiff's records.

- f) The statement of "thank you" by a student competitor after a bailiff orally declares "Stop" will not constitute the competitor going over the prescribed time limit.

- g) Appellant can reserve up to 4 minutes (included in the required 13-17 minutes outlined above in Rule 9.5(a)) for rebuttal and must notify the bailiff before the round and notify

the court at the beginning of the round. Judges may not allow any additional time beyond the allotted 4 minutes.

h) The purpose of a rebuttal is to respond to the Appellees'/Respondents' arguments, and it is inappropriate to introduce new arguments. No surrebuttals by Appellees/Respondents are permitted. The whole rebuttal is to be argued by one oralist.

RULE 9.6 – Time Violations and Penalties

The bailiff's time records will be used to tabulate penalties stemming from time violations:

- a) Oralists failing to speak for the requisite 13 minutes will be penalized.
 - 1. If they speak less than 12 minutes 30 seconds, they shall be penalized 5 points.
 - 2. If they speak between 12 minutes 30 seconds and 13 minutes, they shall be penalized 2 points.
 - 3. Oralists exceeding the 17-minute time limit will be penalized. If they speak more than 17 minutes 30 seconds, they shall be penalized 5 points.
 - 4. If they speak between 17 minutes and 17 minutes 30 seconds, they shall be penalized 2 points.

RULE 9.7 – Preliminary Rounds and Scoring

- a) Each team will compete in at least two preliminary rounds.
- b) During preliminary rounds, each team is required to argue the Appellants'/Petitioners' side at least once and the Appellees'/Respondents' side at least once.
- c) Teams shall be randomly paired against different teams in each preliminary round.
- d) Teams from the same school may be paired against one another only if no alternative is available.
- e) Each team's oral argument-round score will be calculated according to the criteria set forth in Appendix A: Scoring.

RULE 9.8 – Elimination Rounds

- a) At the conclusion of the preliminary rounds, the 16 teams with the highest cumulative score as outlined in Appendix A: Scoring shall advance to the elimination rounds.
- b) In the event of a tie, advancing teams will be determined based on the tie- breakers outlined in Appendix A: Scoring. Teams will be seeded according to highest and lowest cumulative score as outlined in Appendix A: Scoring. The team in first position (with the highest cumulative preliminary score) will be paired with the team in 16th position (the 16th highest cumulative preliminary score), and so forth so that the eighth position team will be paired with the ninth. A coin toss shall determine which team decides whether to

argue on or off brief, unless the teams have already argued against each other, in which case they shall argue the opposite sides from which they previously argued. The Competition Administrator, under the supervision of a majority of the Moot Court Rules Committee, will randomly assign which team is to call the coin toss.

c) Each team's cumulative elimination-round score shall be calculated as set out in Appendix A: Scoring.

d) Teams will be eliminated according to the results of their head-to-head match-up. In the event of a tie, advancing teams will be determined based on the tie-breakers outlined in Appendix A: Scoring.

e) The eight (8) teams that win in the first elimination rounds shall advance to the quarterfinal round. A coin toss shall determine which team decides whether to argue on or off brief, unless the teams have already argued against each other, in which case they shall argue the opposite sides from which they previously argued.

f) The four (4) teams that win in the quarterfinal round shall advance to the semi-final round. A coin toss shall determine which team decides whether to argue on or off brief, unless the teams have already argued against each other, in which case they shall argue the opposite sides from which they previously argued.

g) The two (2) teams that win in the semi-final round shall advance to the final round. A coin toss shall determine which team decides whether to argue on or off brief, unless the teams have already argued against each other, in which case they shall argue the opposite sides from which they previously argued.

h) The winning team of the final round shall be declared the competition winner.

i) The coin toss will occur live, 10 minutes prior to each round in the same Zoom room where the parties will present their oral arguments. Teams may temporarily leave the room after the coin toss to prepare for their arguments, until the scheduled argument time.

RULE 9.9 – Availability of Score Sheets

a) At the conclusion of the final preliminary round, score sheets will be available from the Competition Administrator.

b) To the extent that any Rules within Section 16 conflict with Rule 9.9, Section 16 shall control.

RULE 9.10 – Ghost Teams

The host school shall provide a ghost team. Before the conclusion of the competition, the identity of ghost teams will not be revealed to anyone except members of the host school's coordinating committee and the Rules Committee. The ghost team does not need to prepare a brief and regardless of their performance they are not eligible to advance to

the elimination rounds or win a best oralist award. Judges will not be informed of the identity of the ghost teams.

SECTION 10 – AWARDS

RULE 10.1 – Announcement of Competition Results

- a) Results of the brief competition will be announced at the conclusion of the competition.
- b) The sixteen (16) teams advancing to the elimination rounds will be announced after the conclusion of the preliminary rounds.
- c) Except for the preliminary and final rounds, results of each round will be announced when all scores are received and tabulated.
- d) The winners of the final round will be announced at the conclusion of the competition.

RULE 10.2 – Awards

First, Second, and Third place awards shall be presented in the following categories:

- a) Best Overall Advocates: Awarded to all four (4) semi-finalist teams. First and second place will be awarded based on the final round.
- b) Best Written Advocates: Awarded to the top three (3) teams based on average brief scores. The top brief will be published in the American Indian Law Review, University of Oklahoma.
- c) Best Spoken Advocate: Awarded to the top three (3) oralists based on cumulative oral argument scores from the preliminary rounds. The top award in this category is to be named the “G. William Rice Best Oralist” award.

RULE 10.3 – Awards Trophies

The host school and/or Competition Administrator shall provide the award trophies for each award category.

SECTION 11 – GRIEVANCES

RULE 11.1 – Procedure

- a) Only student competitors (“the complainant”) may file a Grievance Form (Appendix B)(the Form may also be found on the competition website). The complainant must clearly state the entire grievance or complaint in the space provided. Grievances or other inquiries from non-student competitors are not allowed.
- b) The complainant shall submit a completed Grievance Form to the Competition Administrator via email within twenty (20) minutes after the final Preliminary Round.

Any grievances during the elimination rounds should be made immediately to the Competition Administrator. No grievance forms will be accepted after the conclusion of the competition.

c) The Competition Administrator will bring the complaint before the Rules Committee for a decision. The Rules Committee may request those involved to answer questions or give information concerning the complaint. Any questions or information gathered must be done in the presence of the full Rules Committee.

d) The Rules Committee will make a decision in accordance with Rule 2.4(c). The Rules Committee will answer complaints before the announcement of the advancing teams. The concerned parties will then be notified. Decisions affecting the structure of the competition or causing a delay will be communicated promptly to all competitors, judges, and bailiffs. The decisions of the Rules Committee and/or the Competition Administrator are final.

RULE 11.2 – Frivolous Complaint

Teams that are found to be filing frivolous complaints will lose ten (10) points per frivolous complaint. The determination of a frivolous complaint is at the discretion of the Competition Administrator.

SECTION 12 – HOST SCHOOL BIDDING PROCESS

RULE 12.1 – Solicitation of Bids

The Board of Directors shall accept bids at any time.

RULE 12.2 – Publication of Bids

Chapters are strongly encouraged to compile bid packages that are accessible via the NNALSA website. Chapters will prepare their bid package to be presented electronically to the NNALSA general membership on the NNALSA website. Formal announcement of the bid process will be the first Monday of November. The deadline for bid packages will be December 31st of that year.

RULE 12.3 – Content of Bid Package

a) Bid packages shall include:

1. letter from the prospective problem author as outlined in Rule 14.2(a);
2. letter in support of the bid from the law school administration; and
3. a designated student representative to be the NNALSA Moot Court administrator.

b) Bid packages may contain details of pledged sponsorship, support from law school faculty and prospective judges, a description of law school facilities, areas of local

interest, social events, and other relevant information. Host schools may choose to run a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) program in conjunction with the competition.

RULE 12.4 – Procedure

- a) Prospective host schools are encouraged to professionally present and promote their bid packages to the general membership in order to garner support for their bids.
- b) The general membership shall vote on host school bids according to procedures set forth by the Executive Board and/or the bylaws.
- c) The NNALSA President will announce the winning bid at the earliest official NNALSA event after the votes have been counted and recorded according to the Board of Directors and/or the bylaws.
- d) Once the bid has been awarded, and before the end of the Annual Meeting, the host school and the Moot Court Rules Committee will meet to discuss the administration, rules, and schedule of the competition.

SECTION 13 – HOST SCHOOL DUTIES

RULE 13.1 – Partnership with NNALSA

NNALSA and the Host School shall work together to ensure a successful competition.

RULE 13.2 – Host School Compliance with these Rules

The Host School shall comply with these rules.

RULE 13.3 – Assistance from NNALSA

If the Host School has difficulty meeting their objectives, deadlines, or goals, the Host School shall contact the Competition Administrator, who shall immediately bring the problem to the attention of the Rules Committee. Together, the Rules Committee, Competition Administrator and Host School will decide the course of action necessary to preserve the fairness and integrity of the competition.

RULE 13.4 – Orientations

The Competition Administrator and host school are required to hold competitors', judges', and bailiffs' orientations before the start of the competition, in order to, among other things, clarify rules and answer any questions. The orientations are to be directed by the NNALSA Moot Court Rules Committee members who are NNALSA Board members. If needed, the Rules Committee may require host school representatives to support holding orientations. Competitors shall be present at their respective orientation session.

RULE 13.5 – Guidebook

The Host School, with the assistance of the Competition Administrator, shall keep a guidebook for planning and organizing the competition. Each host school will transfer the guidebook to the Competition Administrator after the competition ends and before the Annual Meeting. At a minimum, the guidebook must contain the following:

- a) A list of all judges who participated in the competition, as well as judges who were contacted but unable to participate.
- b) A checklist of all host school actions and completion dates for those actions.
- c) A copy of all form letters used by the host school in connection with the competition.
- d) A timeline for completion of actions necessary to organize and operate the competition.
- e) A logbook of problems, challenges and successes encountered in organizing and operating the competition, as well as how each was overcome or attained.
- f) The host school's suggestions for improvement and success of the next competition.
- g) A complete and detailed report of the host school's budget and all fundraising efforts, including contact information for sponsors. The report should include a note regarding which efforts were most successful and why they were successful.
- h) Contact information for all members involved in planning the competition, including all professionals, especially those with expertise in Indian law, who were consulted or who gave advice on how to organize and operate the competition.

RULE 13.6 – Timeline

- a) The host school and/or Competition Administrator shall announce the dates of the competition by September 15.
- b) The host school and/or Competition Administrator shall release the problem by the first Friday of November.
- c) Team registration will be due the first Friday of December and teams will receive their confidential team numbers after registration closes and the Competition Administrator confirms NNALSA membership and dues payment.
- d) Briefs are due by the first Monday in January. Briefs must be submitted by this date pursuant to Rule 8.1.
- e) The host school shall release CLE information by December 15, if applicable.

RULE 13.7 – Host School Restriction from Fielding Competitors

- a) The host school is prohibited from fielding competitors from their school. In the interest of ethics and fairness, students from the host school are disqualified from competing. Nothing in this rule prevents the host school from providing a Ghost Team in accordance to Rule 9.10 which may participate in oral argument in the event there are an odd number of teams competing or a team withdraws from the competition before completing their assigned rounds, or a team is disqualified leaving an odd number of teams. However, the ghost team shall not submit a written brief and shall not be eligible to advance to the elimination rounds of the competition.
- b) If a student from the host school wishes to compete, the student must independently request special permission from the NNALSA Moot Court Rules Committee and the NNALSA Board of Directors. If the student's request is approved, the host school and the approved student are strictly prohibited from discussing anything related to the competition.
- c) It is the policy of NNALSA to strongly discourage competitors from the host school to avoid even the appearance of impropriety, maintain ethical standards, and prioritize resources to hosting the competition.

SECTION 14 – PROBLEM

RULE 14.1 – Scope

The problem will address timely issues in federal Indian law and/or tribal law and governance and must follow the format of a national moot court competition by providing an even number of issues that may be argued in an appellate court-like structure.

RULE 14.2 – Problem Author

- a) The problem will be authored by a full-time faculty member of the host school. The author shall have a Juris Doctorate degree and specialize in Indian law. The author shall submit a letter to the NNALSA membership announcing their intent to author the problem which must be included in the host school's bid package. The author is encouraged to participate in the bidding process outlined in Section 13.
- b) If the author cannot fulfill the authorship duties, the host school must replace the author with an alternate in accordance with the criteria in Rule 14.2(a). Both the author and the host school shall submit the substitution to the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee will then post the substitute author's letter of intent to the NNALSA and host school websites.
- c) The host school and/or Competition Administrator, in conjunction with the author, shall choose a panel of at least three (3) of the author's peers to review the problem before the official problem release. The review panel may make comments and suggestions and the author will have a chance to incorporate any changes, if they choose, before the official problem release.

- d) The author shall strive to draft a problem with issues evenly divided for team competition.
- e) The author shall give the completed problem to the Competition Administrator three (3) days before the official problem release. The Competition Administrator must make the appropriate arrangements with the host school's information technology department before the problem release to ensure that the problem is posted to the host school's website on the release date.
- f) The author will write a 1-page suggested questions memorandum, which will be given to judges at their orientation session. The memorandum will have an equal number of questions for Appellants/Petitioners and Appellees/Respondents.

RULE 14.3 – Bench Brief Author

- a) The bench brief author(s) shall preferably be the Problem Author. If the author cannot write the bench brief, the host school and/or Competition Administrator shall appoint a person or persons to author the bench brief. A person with a Juris Doctorate degree and who specializes in Indian law shall edit the bench brief. It is preferred that the same panel that reviews the problem shall review the bench brief before it is disseminated to the oral argument judges. However, if the bench brief author is unable to disseminate the bench brief to the same review panel, the bench brief author is allowed to select three (3) equally qualified individuals to review.
- b) The bench brief author shall not participate as a judge in the oral argument portion of the competition.
- c) The bench brief will be mailed via postal service or e-mailed to the oral argument judges at least two (2) weeks before the first round of oral arguments.
- d) Copies of the bench brief will also be made available to judges at their orientation session.
- e) The bench brief will also be distributed to the brief judges as part of their judging package.

RULE 14.4 – Confidentiality of Problem, Bench Brief, and Suggested Questions Memorandum

- a) Before its official problem release, the problem will not be made available to anyone except the following:
 - 1. Competition Administrator; and
 - 2. Any non-competing members of the host school's planning committee who are designated to receive the problem by the NNALSA Moot Court Rules Committee.

b) Neither the bench brief nor the suggested questions memorandum will be available or shown to competitors, team faculty advisors, coaches, or other persons associated with preparing a team for competition until those documents are officially released by the host school and/or Competition Administrator after the competition and after the briefs have been returned to the teams.

SECTION 15 – JUDGES

RULE 15.1 – Selection Criteria

- a) Competition judges must fit one of the following categories:
1. Passed a federal, state, and/or tribal bar exam, and is a current member of a bar in good standing;
 2. Currently a sitting judge or served as a judge for at least 2 of the previous 5 years;
 3. Law school graduate with a J.D. degree; or
 4. Full-time law professor.
- b) Team faculty advisors, coaches, or other persons directly associated with preparing the teams are ineligible to be competition judges.

RULE 15.2 – Judges’ Orientation Session

- a) All oral argument judges must attend the judges’ orientation session administered by NNALSA Rules Committee and the host school, unless special arrangements are made with the host school and/or Competition Administrator.
- b) The judges will be oriented to the facilities, instructed on rules and scoring procedures, and given copies of the bench brief.

RULE 15.3 – Recusal of Oral Argument Judges

- a) If a judge knows a competitor or feels for any reason that they will not be able to fairly and impartially judge a round, the judge shall recuse themselves at their own discretion.
- b) If a judge decides to recuse themselves, they shall immediately inform the bailiff before the round begins.
- c) The bailiff shall immediately notify the host school and/or Competition Administrator to promptly exchange judges.

RULE 15.4 – Judge’s Role

- a) All oral argument rounds except the final round will be judged by a panel of three (3) oral argument judges selected by the host school and/or Competition Administrator. The final round shall be judged by a panel of no fewer than five (5) oral argument judges selected by the host school and/or Competition Administrator.

b) Judges do not have discretion in authorizing time extensions. If the speaker exceeds the maximum time discussed in Rule 9.5(a), a mandatory penalty will apply pursuant to Rule 9.6.

SECTION 16 – VIRTUAL COMPETITION

RULE 16.1 – Conflicting Rules

To the extent that any other rules conflict with this Section, this Section shall control.

RULE 16.2 - Requesting Scores and Grievances

a) In accordance with Rule 9.9, teams may request their oral argument scoresheets through e-mail to nationalnalsa.mootcourt@gmail.com or by entering the Competitor’s Zoom Lobby where a NNALSA Rules Committee Member will be stationed and request the scores by verifying the individualized team code given to teams prior to the competition. If done in the Competitor’s Zoom Lobby, the Moot Court Volunteer will create a private breakout room for teams to present their individualized team code. The scoresheets will then be emailed to the verified email address that was provided during registration for the competition.

b) All grievances shall be sent through email to nnalsamootcourtgrievances2021@gmail.com. The grievance form can be found in Appendix B of these rules. If any participant has questions regarding grievances, they may use the Competitor’s Zoom Lobby where a Moot Court Volunteer will answer any questions.

RULE 16.3 – Technology

We understand there may be concerns about a virtual competition. We emphasize that UND NALSA and NNALSA have been working with Moot Court Advocacy Programs across the country to make this as seamless a transition as possible.

a) Training Competitors and Practice Rounds

1. Understanding that the 2021 NNALSA Moot Court Competition may be the first virtual competition many teams have attended, UND will be hosting a practice round on **Thursday February 25, 2021**. Teams will be able to sign up to participate on UND’s Moot Court webpage. Teams will be paired randomly. However, no team will go against the same team in the practice round as in either of the preliminary rounds. The practice round will be unscored and will be benched by UND NALSA volunteers trained on the problem, and able to ask questions. The practice rounds will not be recorded and limited to five minutes per team. The purpose of the practice round is for teams to gain comfort with the Zoom system and work out any technology related issues before the competition begins.

2. Competitors will also receive a video instructing them on how to use Zoom. Teams may email nationalnalsa.mootcourt@gmail.com with technological questions at any time prior to the competition. If teams have questions regarding

technology after the Practice Round, they may enter the Competitor's Lobby to ask the UND NALSA volunteer before the competition starts the following day.

b) Communications

1. Communications will be sent to each team through one designated email that is listed in the team's registration. These communications will include information such as the competition schedule, Zoom links and passwords, and requested score sheets. Communications will only be sent to emails provided by the teams before the competition. The Moot Court Administrator will not respond to emails which have not been pre-registered before the competition in order to avoid fraudulent communication.

2. Each day of the competition there will be a Competitor's Zoom Lobby where UND NALSA volunteers and/or student members of the Rules Committee will be located virtually for teams to come at any time to ask questions or raise concerns. If teams have a private question, the volunteers will create a private breakout room for the team to speak privately. Questions must be made by student members of registered teams only.

c) Presentation and Round Attendees

1. Competitors should, to the maximum extent possible, compete from a quiet place with limited distractions and where the background is clear and organized. If possible, teams are encouraged to compete from their law school on a single Zoom account rather than each competitor or coach logging on to the Zoom meeting. However, Competitors will not be penalized for competing in their homes. Competitors are expected to present in professional attire and to conduct themselves at all times in a professional manner. Competitors may sit or stand during their arguments. Competitors are encouraged to wear headphones with a built-in microphone in order to reduce background noise. There may not be anything within the background of a student competitor to implicate their school affiliation, whether the background is virtual or not. Team members and coaches shall only include their names, and no other information, within their Zoom name. The host school will provide a virtual background for individuals to use if they wish.

2. Attendance at each round will be limited to three (3) Zoom logins per team. The limit accounts for the competitors and one (1) coach. Each participant will need to have their own Zoom login. In addition, each login will need to be registered with the host school before the competition begins. Coaches must keep their cameras off at all times.

3. No spectators, of any kind, are allowed in any of the rounds. The final round will be streamed for viewing through a reliable platform.

d) Honor Code

Teams will be required to certify at the beginning of each round that there will be no cheating. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (i) reading off of any notes that are not printed and in-front of the competitor (*i.e.* competitors may not read from a computer or tape notes to the wall); (ii) competitors communicating in any way with any person not competing during the round; (iii) looking up information during the round (*i.e.*, competitors may not look up answers via google); and (iv) feigning technological difficulties to gain time. Teammates may communicate with each other through text, handwritten notes, or any other non-distracting method while the other team argues. Teammates may not communicate with each other in any way while either is arguing.

e) Technological Difficulties

1. Competitors will connect to the Zoom room with their computer and will use their phone for audio. Each competitor must keep their video on for the duration of the round. However, each competitor not arguing must keep their audio on mute. In the case that the video fails or freezes, the competitor may complete their comment. When the competitor has finished their comment, the competitor shall ask the bailiff to stop the time, and at that point the competitor will have up to 8 minutes (with the bailiff timing) to get their video working again. Each team may have two (2) technological difficulty “pauses”, but will only receive the one 8-minute cure period. If the internet video connection goes out a second time, teams receive what is left of the previous 8-minute period to cure (*i.e.* a single pool of time). If the video fails a third time, or if the team is unable to cure within 8 minutes, then the team must continue the oral argument over the phone they used to call in. Judges will be instructed not to reduce points for technology failures. Competitors will receive training on how to operate Zoom prior to the start of the competition. During a technological difficulty, a competitor may communicate with a teammate or coach only for the purpose of resolving the difficulty. No communication on any aspect of the competition round is allowed.

2. Judges, like competitors, will receive training on Zoom before the competition. The judges, like the competitors, will call-in to the Zoom room in addition to using their computer for video. If a judge’s internet connection falters, **the round will not be stopped**. The judge will continue listening and asking questions over the phone they used to call in for audio.

3. Bailiffs will visually indicate to competitors their remaining time. If the bailiff’s internet connection falters, the bailiff will immediately call-in to the Zoom room and will give time indicators orally rather than visually. If the bailiff has to state the time orally, competitors will gain an additional 10 seconds per oral warning to restate and regain the momentum of their argument.

4. If the Zoom room itself crashes, the bailiff will immediately stop the timer. The competitors will immediately return to the Competitor’s Zoom Lobby. If the host is able to repair the connection within 15 minutes, the host will do so. After the room is reinstated, the host will inform the Moot Court Administrator to send the competitors back to the original Zoom link (the judges will likewise be informed

in their Zoom Lobby). If the host is unable to repair the connection within 15 minutes, then the bailiffs assigned to that room will set up a new Zoom room and will act as the host for the remainder of the round. The Moot Court Administrator will instruct the competitors and judges to join the new link hosted by the bailiff. The competitor who was disrupted by the crash will gain an additional 30 seconds to restate and regain the momentum of their argument.

f) Recordings

1. All recordings by teams are prohibited. NNALSA and the host school will record each round. Teams may request recordings from the Moot Court Administrator at the end of the competition. Neither NNALSA nor the host school assumes any responsibility for technologically difficulties resulting in the failure of a round to record. No grievances may be filed based upon recordings.

Appendix A: Scoring

Brief Scoring:

- 1) Scoring will be divided by category: structure and substance.
- 2) Every brief will be scored by the same 3-judge panel for each category.
- 3) Final brief score will be determined by adding the categories together. This will be the score used during the Oral competition.
- 4) Structure Scoring will be based on grammar, punctuation, and spelling. This category will also include logical organization, proper bluebook, Uniform System of Citation, or the current edition of the Association of Legal Writing Directors Citation Manual form.
- 5) Substance Scoring will be based on the correct usage of the facts, relevant appellate decisions, and understanding of the Indian law issues. This category will also include effective anticipation of major counter-arguments, proper analysis and application of legal principles, effective use of relevant materials, and a statement of the case that foreshadows the legal arguments to come.
- 6) The Formula:
 - A = Structure: Score 1 + Score 2 + Score 3
 - B = Substance: Score 1 + Score 2 + Score 3
 - A + B = Final Brief Score

Preliminary Rounds:

- 1) The Pairing of the Preliminary Rounds: The preliminary rounds will be paired using the Final Brief Score. After the Brief Scoring has concluded the briefs will be ranked from highest to lowest and divided into four groups of roughly equal size. Group 1 will be the top quarter of brief scores, Group 2 the second quarter, Group 3 the third quarter, and Group 4 will be the lowest quarter of brief scores.

In Round 1 teams from Group 1 will be randomly paired against teams from Group 4, and teams from Group 2 will be randomly paired against teams from Group 3.

In Round 2 teams from Group 1 will be randomly paired against teams from Group 3 and teams from Group 2 will be randomly paired against teams from Group 4.

Each team will argue once for the Appellant/Petitioner and once for the Petitioner/Respondent.

If after dividing the whole number of teams by 4 there are three teams remaining, then the Ghost Team shall be paired against a Group 4 team.

If after dividing the whole number of teams by 4 there are two teams remaining, then Group 2 and Group 3 will each have one additional team and in Round 2 one team

from Group 2 will be randomly seeded against one team from Group 3 instead of Group 4.

If after dividing the whole number of teams by 4 there is one team remaining, then the Ghost Team should be paired against a Group 4 team and Group 1 should be one team larger. In Round 2 one team from Group 1 will be randomly paired against the Ghost Team instead of a team from Group 3.”

Solely for purposes of calculating a win or loss against the ghost team, the ghost team will be assumed to have a brief score equal to the average of all briefs in Group 4.

- 2) At the conclusion of the two Preliminary Rounds, the cumulative total of the teams’ oral argument scores will be calculated with the Final Brief Score according to part (a) below. Teams are ranked on the basis of their win/loss record, meaning whether the team received a higher or lower score than the opponent team, respectively. Within the win/loss ranking, the team Total Cumulative Score will rank the team among teams with the same win/loss record. A tie in a preliminary round will be treated as better than a loss but not as substantial as a win.
 - a. Oral argument scores will be calculated by adding together the final oral argument scores from each of the preliminary rounds. These oral argument scores will be combined with the Final Brief Score according to the chart below:

Round	Oral	Brief
After preliminary	60	40
After 16	70	30
After 8	80	20
After 4	90	10
Championship Round	100	0

- 3) The preliminary round scores are against the field; meaning that the top sixteen teams from the field will advance to the elimination rounds, based on the team’s win/loss record and Total Cumulative Scores.
- 4) In case of a tie, the following tie-breakers shall be used in order to determine the advancing teams and their seeds:
 - a. Best Brief (based on Final Brief Score)
 - b. Best Oral Score (highest team score for a single round)
 - c. Opponent Difficulty (based on the cumulative oral scores of opposing teams. The higher “OD” wins the tie-break)

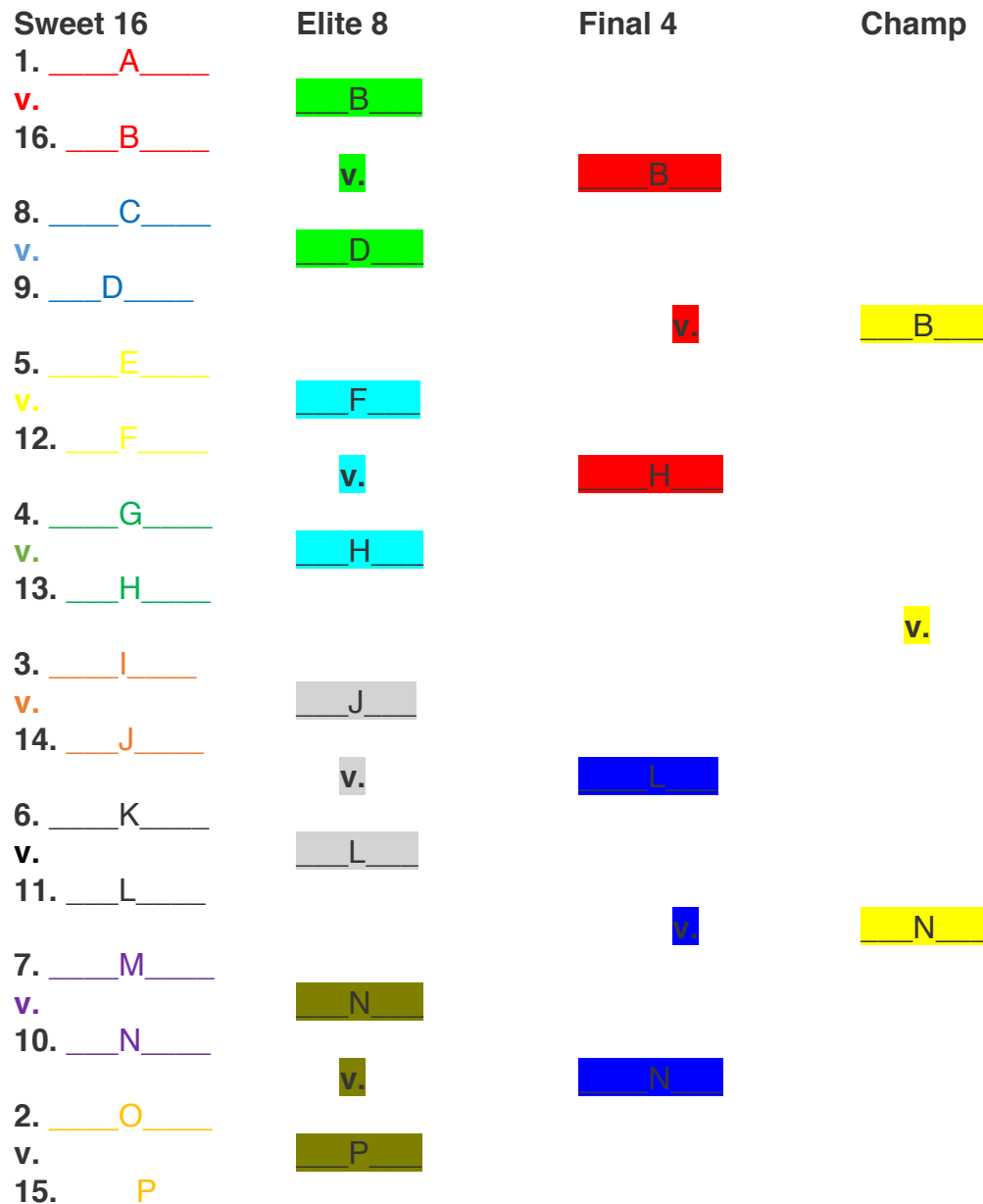
Elimination Rounds:

- 1) Teams will be seeded based first on their win loss record, then on Total Cumulative Score from preliminary rounds, and then using the tie-breaker criteria laid out in part 4 above.
- 2) Bracketing will pair 1 v. 16; 2 v. 15; 3 v. 14; 4 v. 13; 5 v. 12; 6 v. 11; 7 v. 10; 8 v. 9.

- 3) Teams will advance in each elimination-round based on the results of their head-to-head matchups. These rounds are not against the field.
- 4) The winner of each head-to-head matchup will be determined based off the scaled set of brief scores by round laid out on Page 29, unless there is a tie.
- 5) In case of a tie, the following tie-breakers shall be used in order to determine the advancing teams:
 - a. Best Brief (based on Final Brief Score)
 - b. Best Individual Oralist from that Round.

At no point in the competition will the bracket be broken if teams from the same school end up paired against one another. The teams must argue against one another.

Example Bracket:



Bailiff Timekeeping Sheet

Round _____ Room _____
Petitioner Team # _____ v. Respondent Team # _____

Instructions: *This information will be used to determine whether the competitors complied with the rules, so it is important to be accurate. Before each round begins, the teams must notify you as to how they plan to divide up their time. Use that to determine when to give the time remaining warnings. Be sure to note the actual stop time for each competitor.*

Petitioner 1 _____
Time Allotted (13-17 minutes) _____
Start Time: _____

Petitioner 2 _____
Time Allotted (13-17 minutes) _____
Start Time: _____

Time for
5 min Warning _____
2 min Warning _____
1 min Warning _____
30 sec Warning _____
Stop Time _____

Time for
5 min Warning _____
2 min Warning _____
1 min Warning _____
30 sec Warning _____
Stop Time _____

Actual Stop Time _____

Actual Stop Time _____

Rebuttal _____
Time Reserved _____
Start Time _____
Time for
2 min Warning _____
1 min Warning _____
Stop Time _____
Actual Stop Time _____

Respondent 1 _____
Time Allotted (13-17 min) _____
Start Time: _____
Time for
5 min Warning _____
2 min Warning _____
1 min Warning _____
30 sec Warning _____
Stop Time _____
Actual Stop Time _____

Respondent 2 _____
Time Allotted (13-17 min) _____
Start Time: _____
Time for
5 min Warning _____
2 min Warning _____
1 min Warning _____
30 sec Warning _____
Stop Time _____
Actual Stop Time _____

Bailiff Printed Name _____
Bailiff Signature _____

**Brief Score Sheet
(Structure)**

Team # _____

Judge # _____

Instructions: Please score the brief using the categories below. Each category is worth 25 points (whole numbers only, please), for a total possible score of 50 points. We have provided you with some suggested guidelines to consider in assigning points for each category. You are not required to make written comments, but we have provided space should you wish to do so. Please note that this score sheet has a reverse side.

Poor	Fair	Competent	Good	Exceptional
1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25
Must improve technical skills; needs help in persuasive writing	Lacks polish; needs improvement; citations need work	Professional and respectful; did not overuse passive voice; no significant flaws in spelling, grammar, punctuation, or citation.	Particularly solid brief; Logically makes sense; No obvious structural errors	Unique; extremely well put together; makes excellent logical sense; perfect or near perfect citations; advanced writing skills

CATEGORY 1: Style and Professionalism

Score _____
(1 – 25)

- Does the brief use proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation?
- Is the brief well-written (i.e. word choice, sentence structure, ease of reading)? Is the brief respectful to the court and to opposing counsel?
- Does the brief correctly cite the decisions and the record? (Citations must conform to the latest edition of the Bluebook, the Association of Legal Writing Directors Citation Manual (ALWD), or a Uniform System of Citation).
*** Only one form of citation may be used within the brief.
- Is the brief neat and technically precise?

CATEGORY 2: Technical Requirements

Score _____
(1 – 25)

- Does the brief contain the correct cover? Cover pages must conform to the relevant United States Supreme Court rules regarding form except that only the team’s identification number shall be used, and no names, addresses, or school affiliations shall be disclosed. The brief shall not be signed.
- Does the brief contain the required sections? (in order):
 1. Table of Contents
 2. Table of Authorities Questions Presented
 3. Statement of the Case (subdivided into statement of proceedings and statement of the facts)

4. Argument Conclusion

- Competitors may include, at their option, a Summary of the Argument (placed between the statement of the case and the argument) and an Appendix (only to include the language of applicable constitutional provisions, statutes, or regulations).
- Are the margins correct? Margins must be 1 ¼ on the left and 1” on the right, top, and bottom, including footnotes. Indented quotations may be single-spaced, the rest should be double-spaced.
- Typeface must be 12-point Times New Roman font. Footnotes may be in 10-point Times New Roman font. Footnotes may not be employed to compress more than a reasonable amount of material into thirty-six pages. Excessive or abusive use of footnotes will be penalized as outlined in Rule 8.5(b).

Subtotal _____

Determine whether any penalties must be assessed:

1. Is the brief longer than thirty-six pages (Not including the cover page, table of contents, table of authorities, or appendices)? If the brief is longer than thirty-six pages, it must be given a score of zero.
2. Excessive or abusive use of footnotes will be penalized 5 – 10 points. _____

TOTAL SCORE _____

Comments:

**Brief Score Sheet
(Substance)**

Team # _____

Judge # _____

Instructions: Please score the brief using the categories below. Each category is worth 25 points (whole numbers only, please), for a total possible score of 75 points. We have provided you with some suggested guidelines to consider in assigning points for each category. You are not required to make written comments, but we have provided space should you wish to do so. Please note that this score sheet has a reverse side.

Poor 1-5	Fair 6-10	Competent 11-15	Good 16-20	Excellent 21-25
Must improve understanding of issues; Needs help in persuasive writing	Lacks polish; needs improvement; misunderstood some issues or failed to present the client's position satisfactorily	Adequate presentation and representation of client's position; persuasive writing is adequate	Particularly solid brief; effective ideas; above average understanding of the law	Unique, extremely persuasive and outstanding use of authority; advanced understanding of the law

CATEGORY 1: Table of Contents, Introduction, and Questions Presented Score _____
(1 – 25)

- Are the issues framed concisely and intelligibly? Do the headings advance the argument?
- Does the brief use the “Questions Presented” as an advocacy opportunity?
- If so, does it strike the right balance between advocacy and accuracy?
- Does the introduction summarize the argument persuasively?

CATEGORY 2: Statement of the Case Score _____
(1 – 25)

- Does the Statement of the Case avoid distorting or misusing the facts?
- Does the Statement of the Case include only relevant material?
- Does the Statement of the Case foreshadow the legal arguments?

CATEGORY 3: Legal Argument Score _____
(1 – 25)

- Does the brief use relevant decisions?
- Does the brief strike a balance between application of legal principles and factual case comparisons?
- Does the brief effectively anticipate major counter-arguments? Are the arguments and organization lucid and logical?
- Is the argument persuasive?

TOTAL SCORE _____

Comments:

National NALSA Moot Court Competition
Oral Argument Score Sheet Instructions

Round _____ Room _____ Judge _____

Team ID # _____ Petitioner/Respondent (Circle One)
 Oralist 1 _____ Oralist 2 _____

Instructions: *The actual score sheet is a separate page. Please complete one score sheet per team. Please evaluate each oralist in each of the five (5) categories by assigning a point value from 1 – 10 for a maximum score of 50 points. Please only use whole numbers in your scores. We have provided below some suggested guidelines to consider in assigning the points for each category.*

You are not required to make written comments, but we have provided space should you wish to do so. Please feel free to give constructive critiques, but do not disclose your scores or your rankings to any of the oralists. The advancement of any team is based upon the oral argument scores as well as the team’s brief, which was scored earlier.

TIMING IS CRITICAL. PLEASE TRY TO START YOUR ROUND PROMPTLY AT THE DESIGNATED TIME AND CONCLUDE YOUR COMMENT TIME NO LATER THAT THE CUT-OFF TIME.

Please do not, at any point, inquire what school the competitors are from.

Scoring Guidelines:

Poor	Fair	Competent	Good	Excellent
1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10
Needs improvement; misunderstood some issues or failed to present client’s position satisfactorily	Solid effort; effective ideas, but needs polish and better development of ideas and arguments	A few errors; maintained quality of argument; focused on pertinent issues	Adequate presentation and representation of client’s position; no significant flaws in the argument	Consistent and well-organized; very persuasive and high-quality presentation; effective in advocating client’s position

National NALSA Moot Court Competition
Oral Argument Score Sheet

Round _____ Team ID _____ Petitioner/Respondent
 (Circle One)

Oralist 1 _____ Oralist 2 _____

Oralist 1

Oralist 2

Category 1: Opening

Introduces self, identifies client and relief sought
 Identifies issues in a persuasive way
 Provides a road map of argument
 Provides theory of case and organizing theme
 Transitions smoothly into first issue

Category 2: Presentation of Merits

Focused on the important issues
 Made well-reasoned arguments
 Organized arguments well
 Demonstrated mastery of facts
 Exhibited knowledge of relevant precedent and policy
 Effectively maintained a theme

Category 3: Response to Questions from Bench

Stopped talking immediately when judge spoke
 Responded effectively and returned to argument
 Was prepared for likely questions
 Responded to questions respectfully

Category 4: Conclusion, Rebuttal, Time Management

Structured argument to concentrate on strongest points
 Adjusted presentation as needed in response to time signals
 To the degree time permitted, made effective use of closing
 Used rebuttal effectively (as opposed to a “canned” speech)

Category 5: Style and Demeanor

Presented the argument smoothly and confidently
 Minimized the use of notes
 Maintained eye contact and appropriate gestures
 Avoided distracting fillers (i.e. “umm”; “uhh” etc.)
 Avoided unnecessary shifting or fidgeting
 Observed appropriate courtroom etiquette

Subtotal:

Penalties *(Consult Bailiff's Timesheet)*
Spoke less than 13 minutes? More than 17 minutes?
Deduct 2 points if violation was 0-30 seconds
Deduct 5 points if > 30 seconds

TOTAL:

Comments for the oralists:

**Appendix B
Grievance Form**

Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

My concern rests with:

_____ The general operation of the NNALSA Moot Court Competition

_____ The action or failure to act of _____
(NAME)

_____ Other. Please explain: _____

Grievance, Complaint, or Concern:

I would consider this Grievance, Complaint, or Concern resolved if:

Signed: _____ Dated: _____