

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO SCHOOL OF LAW'S
27TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CRIMINAL PROCEDURE TOURNAMENT

2015 COMPETITION RULES & REGULATIONS

I. The Competition

The University of San Diego School of Law National Criminal Procedure Tournament (hereinafter “the Tournament”) is an annual interschool appellate advocacy competition governed by the rules set forth herein.

II. The Competition Materials

The materials provided and distributed by the University of San Diego School of Law Moot Court Board (hereinafter “the Moot Court Board”) are exclusively for purposes of the Tournament. By entering the Tournament, each school agrees that the 2015 National Criminal Procedure Problem, Rules, and other Competition materials will not be used outside of the Tournament. The Problem will be released on *September 11, 2015*.

III. The Competition Rules

Rule 1. Team Registration

The Vice Chair of Tournaments and 2015 Criminal Procedure Tournament Coordinators (hereinafter collectively called “the Tournament Coordinators”) reserve the right to have a multi-tiered registration period. The Tournament Coordinators have the sole discretion to decide whether invitations will be extended during different registration periods and which schools invitations will be extended to. The Tournament Coordinators also reserve the right not to disclose which teams have been extended different invitations.

Rule 2. Number and Composition of Teams

- a) **Team Defined.** “Team” is defined as no less than two (2) and no more than two (2) persons satisfying the criteria enumerated in paragraph (d) of this section. Each such qualified person of a Team shall be deemed a member of that Team.
- b) No person may be a member of more than one Team.
- c) There are only two (2) teams allowed per school.

- d) **Student Status Required.** No Team member may hold a law degree. Members must be matriculated in a full or part time Juris Doctor or equivalent program at the law school they represent.

Rule 3. Substitution of Team Members

There shall be no replacement of Team members after signed affidavit is submitted. If a competitor is unable to continue in the competition, exceptions may be granted with the express written consent of the Tournament Coordinators. A team in a situation such as this must contact the Tournament Coordinators ASAP to have the situation considered.

Rule 4. Team Cooperation

All research for the brief and brief writing shall only be conducted by the *Team participant members* listed on the affidavit and must be **independent** of any other Team. Teams representing the same school *shall not work together* on research and writing for the brief. After the brief is filed, Teams representing the same school may conduct practice oral arguments together.

Rule 5. Outside Assistance and Coaching

- a) **Faculty or Other Assistance.** No Team shall receive outside assistance of any kind prior to filing its brief.
- b) **Team Participation.** Each brief submitted must be prepared by *members of that Team* under whose entry number the brief is submitted. No one other than those Team members may participate in any way in the preparation of that Team's brief. *Only Team members* shall perform brief editing and/or proofreading.
- c) **Coaching.** One coach may assist a Team only in the preparation of its oral argument, except as limited by paragraph (e) of this section. The coach may be a student, a faculty member, or an advisor. Coaches may coach two Teams from the same school.
- d) **“Scouting” Prohibited.** No member or coach of any Team still participating in the Tournament shall attend any practice or Preliminary Round arguments of any other school's Team(s) or receive information from any person who has attended such arguments. *Coaches or other observers of the rounds may only watch the round containing the team they attend the Tournament with.*
- e) **Oral Argument Assistance.** After the brief has been filed, Teams may receive outside

assistance in the preparation of their oral arguments. However, this assistance is limited to judging and critiquing oral argument practices. Competitors are solely responsible for argument formulation and strategy.

- f) **Sharing of Resources.** Computer time, information, research and printouts may not be shared with any other Team at any point of the Tournament.

- g) **Practicing With Other Schools' Teams.** Practice rounds with other participating schools' Teams are prohibited.

Rule 6. Affidavit

Each Team member must sign a copy of the affidavit found on the USD Appellate Moot Court Board website. The affidavit must be submitted via email to sdcrimpro@gmail.com by **August 26, 2015**.

Rule 7. Briefs – General

Each Team must submit either a petitioner or respondent brief. Each Team will be assigned to write a brief for either petitioner or respondent. However, each Team must be prepared to argue both sides of the case for oral arguments.

Rule 8. Briefs – Format

a) Form and Length.

1. Briefs must not exceed twenty-five (25) double spaced 8-1/2 x 11 inch pages with one-inch margins (excluding page numbers). Briefs should be typed and justified. The font and size of the text of all parts of the brief, including the footnotes, must be in Times New Roman 12-point. The text of all parts of each brief must be double-spaced, except that the text of the footnotes, headings and indented quotations may be single-spaced, but there must be double spacing between separate footnotes and between each heading and the body text of the brief.
2. The entire substantive body of the brief may not exceed twenty five (25) pages in length. **The 25 page limitation does not include the cover page, table of contents, table of authorities, and issues presented.** Pages must be numbered in the bottom center of every page, with the exception that the cover page should have no number. The table of contents, table of authorities and issues presented shall be numbered using lower case Roman numerals. Arabic

page numbering begins with the statement of facts. The conclusion must be on or before page twenty five (25). Any partially filled page will be counted as a full page.

- b) **Brief Sections.** A brief must contain, under appropriate headings and in the order indicated:
1. A cover page; Each brief cover must have a color as follows: **Petitioner: Blue** and **Respondent: Red**
 2. A table of contents with page references;
 3. A table of authorities; authorities must be listed in the following pattern: cases (which must be alphabetically arranged), statutes, and other authorities. Each authority must include references to the pages of the brief where the authority is cited.
 4. A statement of the issues presented for review;
 5. A statement of facts relevant to the issues presented for review with appropriate references to the record;
 6. A summary of the argument;
 7. The standard of review;
 8. The argument;
 9. A short conclusion stating the precise relief sought.
- c) **Binding Guidelines.** Hard copies of briefs must be bound, and must include a clear plastic cover and sturdy back cover, in addition to the appropriately colored cover page.
- d) **Defer to Supreme Court Rules.** Except to the extent that the rules herein are inconsistent, the Rules of the Supreme Court of the United States will govern the format of the briefs. There need not be a formal statement of jurisdiction. The Rules of the Supreme Court can be found at <http://www.law.cornell.edu/rules/supct/index.html>.
- e) **Unpublished Opinions.** Unpublished opinions are not binding precedent in this Circuit.
- f) **Citations.** All citations to legal authority must be complete and in the form prescribed by the latest edition of The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation. Citations to the factual record must conform to the following format: R. at [Page #]. i.e. R at 8.

Rule 9. Briefs – Identification

Identification Number. Neither the names of Team members nor the name of their school shall appear within the brief itself. Each Team shall be assigned an identification number provided by the Tournament Coordinators. Each brief submitted must bear the identification number in the uppermost right-hand corner of the brief cover, and must clearly indicate on its cover whether it is submitted by Petitioner or Respondent.

Rule 10. Service of Briefs

- a) **Hard Copy.** Each Team must submit its original brief plus two (2) identical copies (THREE TOTAL) to the Moot Court Board. The brief and the copies must be postmarked by *October 16, 2015* and addressed to:

**University of San Diego School of Law
Attention: Appellate Moot Court Board
National Criminal Procedure Tournament Coordinators
5998 Alcalá Park
San Diego, CA 92110**

- b) **Copy Requirements.** The copies of the brief required by Rule 10(a) must be identical reproductions of the original brief. They must be reproduced by any duplicating or copying process that produces a clear black image on 8-1/2" by 11" white paper. All copies must be bound in accordance with Rule 8(b). Carbon copies may not be submitted.
- c) **Electronic Copy.** Each Team will also submit one electronic copy in portable document format (.pdf) of its brief via email no later than *October 16, 2015* at 5:00 PM PST, to the following address: SDCrimPro@gmail.com. No other formats will be accepted without prior approval. The electronically submitted brief should be one document only. The subject line of the email must contain the Team's designated number, and the body of the email must contain the name of the law school and Team members' names. The electronic copies of the briefs will be posted on the Criminal Procedure Moot Court Competition website by *October 24, 2015*, to allow participating Teams access.
- d) **Changes Prohibited After Submission.** Once the briefs have been submitted, no revisions, supplements or additions will be allowed.

Rule 11. Plagiarism

Plagiarism of any kind will result in immediate disqualification. Any use of another's work not properly identifying that source within the brief is plagiarism.

Rule 12. Oral Arguments – Time and Place

The Preliminary Rounds will take place on **Thursday, November 5, 2015** and **Friday, November 6, 2015** at the San Diego Superior Courthouse*. The Round of 16 and Quarter-Final Round will take place on **Saturday, November 7, 2015** at the San Diego Superior Courthouse. The Semi-Final and Final Rounds will be held at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (IPJ) at the University of San Diego on **Sunday, November 8, 2015**.

* Location of Preliminary Rounds is subject to change. Participants will be notified of any changes in Preliminary Rounds location.

Every Team must check in with the Tournament Coordinators before the preliminary rounds at the time and place indicated.

Rule 13. Oral Arguments – Competitors

Oral arguments are limited to the two members of the Team. Only those members arguing may sit at counsel's table during the argument. No coaches may communicate with the two members during the oral argument.

Rule 14. Oral Arguments - Number of Arguments; Eliminations; Pairings

- a) **Preliminary Rounds:** There will be four (4) Preliminary Rounds in which each Team shall argue two (2) rounds as Petitioner and two (2) rounds as Respondent. In no event shall Teams be paired against the same opponent for both Preliminary Rounds in the same day. The University of San Diego Moot Court Board shall, through a seeding process, pair Teams. The Moot Court Board shall not disclose the seed rankings at any time.
- b) **Round of 16:** The sixteen (16) highest scoring Teams from the Preliminary Rounds shall advance to the Round of 16. Each Team will argue once during the Round of 16. Teams shall be paired by the Moot Court Board through a seeding system with the Team with the highest combined Preliminary Round score paired against the lowest combined Preliminary Round score. In each pairing, the Team with the highest combined score in the Preliminary Round shall argue the side of their preference. The Moot Court Board shall not disclose the seed rankings at any time.
- c) **Quarter-Final Rounds:** The eight (8) highest scoring Teams from the Round of 16 shall advance to the Quarter-Final Rounds. Each Team will argue once during the Quarter-Final Round. Teams shall be paired by the Moot Court Board through a seeding system with the Team with the highest combined Round of 16 score paired against the lowest combined Round of 16 score. In each pairing the Team with the highest combined score in the Round of 16 shall argue the side of their preference. The Moot Court Board shall not disclose the seed rankings at any time. The Quarter-

Final Rounds will be head-to-head with brief score no longer factored into the scoring.

- d) **Semi-Final Rounds:** The four (4) winning Teams from their respective Quarter-Final Round shall advance to the Semi-Final Rounds. Each Team will argue once during the Semi-Final Round. Teams shall be paired by the Moot Court Board through a seeding system with the Team with the highest oral argument score from the Quarter-Final Round score paired against the Team with the lowest oral argument score from the Quarter-Final Round. In each pairing the Team with the highest oral argument score in the Quarter-Final Round shall argue the side of their preference. The Moot Court Board shall not disclose the seed rankings at any time. The Semi-Final Rounds will be head-to-head with brief score no longer factored into the scoring.
- e) **Final Round:** The two (2) winning Teams from their respective Semi-Final Round will advance to the Final Round. The Teams in the Final Round will argue only once, either as Petitioner or Respondent. The Team with the highest scoring oral argument score from the Semi-Final Round will decide which side to argue for the Final Round. The Final Round will be head-to-head with brief score not factored into the scoring.

Rule 15. Oral Argument Timing

- a) Oral arguments must be limited to a total of Fifteen (15) minutes per person per Team.
- b) Petitioners may reserve up to five (5) minutes for rebuttal by designating to the time-keeper prior to the commencement of the rounds **and** requesting rebuttal time from the judges during the argument of first counsel for the Petitioner and being granted that time by the judges.
- c) If the Petitioners do not follow the procedure by failing to request rebuttal time from the judges, no time will be granted unless the judges present in the courtroom decide to grant such time. **No appeal will be accepted regarding procedural deficiency on the part of the petitioners that resulted in no rebuttal time.**
- d) The rebuttal time may be deducted either from the first or second counsel for the Petitioner, but only the counsel from whose initial argument rebuttal time has been deducted will be allowed to give rebuttal. This time may be waived by the Petitioners following the close of Respondents' argument. Counsel for Petitioner will argue their case in its entirety at the outset, followed by counsel for the Respondent.

Rule 16. Identification Prohibited

Although competitors may each identify themselves to the Court by first and last name, **the Team's law school affiliation must not be mentioned at any time before, during, or after the oral arguments.** In addition, no school folders, letterhead, clothing or other paraphernalia with

one's law school affiliation is to be present and/or worn at any time during the course of the Tournament. These requirements serve to safeguard the absolute equality of the judging process as well as simultaneously ensure the complete anonymity of the competitive process.

Rule 17. Contact with Judges Is Prohibited

All participants are prohibited from speaking with the judges before their respective rounds and/or mentioning the school they come from at any point during the oral argument competition rounds.

Rule 18. Spectators

Spectators are permitted to observe the oral argument of a friend or family member. *Spectators are prohibited from watching rounds in which their friend or family member is not participating.* Team members are strictly prohibited from receiving any information about other Teams from anyone.

All preliminary rounds spectator names must be communicated to the Coordinators via email at sdcrimpro@gmail.com by **Monday, November 2, 2015**, for placement on the Hall of Justice security guest list. The Moot Court Board will confirm that spectators have been placed on the guest list. Unconfirmed spectators will not be able to watch the Preliminary Rounds.

Rule 19. Scoring – Brief Scoring

- a) **Scoring Committee.** An appointed committee will score all briefs submitted. Any matter serving to identify a Team or its members will be excised by the Tournament Coordinators prior to submission to the Scoring Committee.
- b) **Penalties.** All briefs shall be subject to uniform penalties for each type of violation, which may be levied with fractional points.

Rule 20. Scoring – Oral Argument Scoring

- a) **Weight of Briefs and Arguments.** The oral score shall be determined by a panel of judges, *without the knowledge of the Team's brief score.* The oral score shall be combined with the brief score as set forth below to determine the Preliminary and Round of 16 scores.
- b) **Round Scoring.** Scores for all competing Teams during the Preliminary, Quarter-Final and Semi-Final Rounds shall be computed as follows:

Preliminary Round
(Average Brief Score) x .35

(Average Oral Score) x .65

Round of 16 Round

(Average Brief Score) x .25

(Average Oral Score) x .75

Quarter-Final Round

(Average Oral Score)

Semi-Final Round

(Average Oral Score)

- c) Final Round scores are computed solely based on the oral scores awarded to the competitors by the Final Round judges bench.

Rule 21. Criteria for Advancement

Advancement in the competition shall take place according to the following criteria:

- a) **Preliminary Rounds:** Approximately thirty-six (36) Teams are scheduled to compete in the Preliminary Rounds. The sixteen (16) Teams with the top scores as computed above will advance to the Round of 16. In the event of a tie, the Team with the highest average oral score will advance.
- b) **Round of 16:** Sixteen (16) Teams will compete in the Round of 16. The eight (8) Teams with the top scores as computed above will advance to the Quarter-Final Rounds. In the event of a tie, the Team with the highest average oral score will advance.
- c) **Quarter-Final Rounds:** Eight (8) Teams will compete in the Quarter-Final Rounds. The Quarter-Final Rounds will be head-to-head, so the Team that has the higher score than the other respective competing Team will advance to the Semi-Final Rounds.
- d) **Semi-Final Rounds:** Four (4) Teams will compete in the Semi-Final Rounds. The Semi-Final Rounds will be head-to-head, so the Team that has the higher score than the other respective competing Team will advance to the Final Round. The two Teams that do not advance to the Final Round will be ranked Third Place and Fourth Place according to their Quarter-Final Round score.
- e) **Final Round:** Two (2) Teams will argue in the Final Round. The winner of the Final Round will be determined solely on oral scores of the Final Round bench judges. The Teams will be ranked First Place and Second Place.

Rule 22. Tournament Awards

At the conclusion of the preliminary rounds on **November 6, 2015**, the following awards will be given:

- Top five (5) Best Brief for the Petitioner;
- Top five (5) Best Brief for the Respondent;
- Top ten (10) best Individual Oralists in the Preliminary Rounds.

Teams must be physically present at the Awards Reception in order to receive their award(s). Awards will not be distributed after the Awards Reception unless the Team receives prior approval from the Tournament Coordinators.

At the conclusion of the Final Round on **Sunday, November 8, 2015**, the following awards will be given:

- First, Second, Third, and Fourth Place Teams.

After the conclusion of the competition, the following will be posted on the official competition website:

- Awards Recipients
- Lists of Round of 16 Finalists
- Top 10 Oralists in the Preliminary Round

Rule 23. Discretion of Tournament Coordinators

- Interpretation of Rules.** The University of San Diego Appellate Moot Court Vice Chair of Tournaments and Tournament Coordinators have sole discretion to make all necessary interpretations of these Rules. No interpretation of these Rules is valid unless obtained in writing from the Vice Chair or tournament coordinators who represent the opinion of the Board.
- Application of Rules.** The University of San Diego Appellate Moot Court Board Vice Chair of Tournaments and Tournament Coordinators have sole discretion to interpret and apply tournament rules, to assess penalties, or to disqualify any Team for failure to abide by any of the Rules of the Competition.
- Substantive Inquiries.** The University of San Diego Appellate Moot Court Vice Chair of Tournaments and Tournament Coordinators have sole discretion to answer substantive inquiries concerning the Problem.
- Request for Rule Clarification.** A team may make a request for clarification or interpretation of these Rules. Any such request must be emailed by a team member or team coach to sdcrimpro@gmail.com with the subject line stating “Rule Clarification

and the rule needing clarification. The Vice Chair of Tournaments and Tournament Coordinators will respond to requests by e-mail. All clarifications and interpretations will be posted on the USD Appellate Moot Court website at <http://www.usdmootcourt.com/tournaments/national-criminal-procedure-tournament/>.