

**2012  
FIFTH ANNUAL  
NATIONAL PRETRIAL COMPETITION**

**Schedule and Rules**



STETSON LAW

The Competition will be held on October 11–14, 2012  
at Stetson University College of Law,  
Gulfport, Florida,  
in cooperation  
with

 *The Center for Excellence in*  
**ADVOCACY**  
STETSON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW

## Schedule

Registration deadline ..... July 20, 2012

\*Problem distributed ..... August 13, 2012

Memos due 12:00 noon EST ..... September 7, 2012  
(The memos must be received by this deadline)

Supplemental Evidence released ..... September 10, 2012

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\*\*Coaches' Meeting (6:00 p.m.) ..... October 11, 2012

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Team Registration (7:00–7:15 a.m.) ..... October 12, 2012

Continental Breakfast (7:15–7:45 a.m.) ..... October 12, 2012

First Preliminary Round (8:00–11:30 a.m.) ..... October 12, 2012

Lunch (11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.) ..... October 12, 2012

Second Preliminary Round (1:00–4:30 p.m.) ..... October 12, 2012

Dinner (4:30–5:45 p.m.) ..... October 12, 2012

Third Preliminary Round (6:00–9:30 p.m.) ..... October 12, 2012

Announcement of the Quarterfinalists (as soon as possible) ..... October 12, 2012

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Continental Breakfast (8:45–9:15 a.m.) ..... October 13, 2012

Quarterfinal Rounds (9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) ..... October 13, 2012

Lunch (1:00–2:15 p.m.) ..... October 13, 2012

Announcement of the Semifinalists (2:00 p.m.) ..... October 13, 2012

Semifinal Round (2:30–6:00 p.m.) ..... October 13, 2012

Reception (6:00–6:30 p.m.)..... October 13, 2012  
Banquet/Awards Ceremony (6:30 p.m.)\*\*\* ..... October 13, 2012  
Announcement of the two teams advancing to the Final Round  
will occur during Awards Ceremony ..... October 13, 2012

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Continental Breakfast (8:00–8:45 a.m.) ..... October 14, 2012  
(for the final round teams and their coaches or advisors)  
Final Round (9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon) ..... October 14, 2012  
Presentation of Awards for final round teams (12:30 p.m.)..... October 14, 2012

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*All times are subject to change.*

**\*The problem will be made available on Stetson’s Web site, at <http://www.law.stetson.edu/pretrial>.**

**\*\*The mandatory first event** is an orientation meeting for coaches. At least one coaching representative of each team **must** attend. During the coaches’ meeting, the initial sides will be chosen.

**\*\*\***The attire for the Banquet/Awards Ceremony is business casual.

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## **A. COMPETITION COMMITTEE AND FORUM**

### **1. Competition Committee Defined**

The Competition Committee is comprised of Professor Charles H. Rose III, Associate Dean Kristen Adams, Professor Lee Coppock, and Professor Brooke Bowman, all of Stetson University College of Law. Other members may be appointed to serve on the Competition Committee. Members of the Competition Committee will not be actively affiliated with any team registered to participate in the Competition.

### **2. Powers of the Competition Committee**

- a. The Competition Committee has the sole discretion to enforce all Competition rules.
- b. The Competition Committee has the sole discretion to interpret the Competition rules. No interpretation of the Competition rules is valid unless obtained in writing from the Competition Committee.
- c. The Competition Committee has the sole discretion to answer questions about the Record and all other papers that constitute the problem.
- d. The Competition Committee has the sole power to resolve any dispute that may arise during the Competition.
- e. The Competition Committee has the power to change or supplement the Competition rules, should any changes or supplements become necessary. Changes and supplements will be communicated to participating teams as quickly as possible.

### **3. Participation of Competition Committee Members**

Unless each affected team consents, members of the Competition Committee will not judge oral arguments.

### **4. Questions and Inquiries**

Any questions or clarifications about the problem for memos should be sent to the Competition Committee **via e-mail**, by August 27, 2012, by 5:00 p.m. EST.

Any questions or clarifications concerning the supplemental evidence should be sent to the Competition Committee **via e-mail**, by September 24, by 5:00 p.m. EST.

Any questions or inquiries about the competition should be sent to the Competition Committee via e-mail, by September 28, 2012, by 5:00 p.m. EST. To the extent a question or inquiry affects other teams, a copy of each written question and answer will be circulated to all participating teams.

## **5. Contact with the Competition Committee**

The Competition Committee may be reached as follows:

**By mail:** National Pretrial Competition 2012  
Attn: Professor Brooke Bowman  
Stetson University College of Law  
1401 61st Street South  
Gulfport, Florida 33707

**By fax:** National Pretrial Competition 2012  
Attn: Professor Brooke Bowman  
727-343-9319

**By e-mail:** [nptc@law.stetson.edu](mailto:nptc@law.stetson.edu)

Most of the time, the rules require that the communication be via e-mail.

## **B. TEAM COMPOSITION**

### **1. Team Defined**

- a. A team consists of four persons, each of whom satisfies the criteria listed in section B(2) below.
- b. No person may be a member of more than one team.
- c. During the motion arguments, only two team members will present arguments.
- d. During the evidentiary portion, two team members will present the evidence, and two team members will serve as witnesses.
- e. All team members may participate in any other aspect of the Competition, including practice rounds, research, and drafting.
- f. Only the two team members advocating may sit at counsel table during a round.

## 2. **Qualifications of Team Members**

- a. No team member may hold a law degree from a United States law school.
- b. Each team member must be enrolled in a full-time or part-time Juris Doctorate or equivalent program at the law school they represent.
- c. Members may not hold or be enrolled in any graduate legal program, such as an LL.M. or S.J.D. program, or the equivalent.

## 3. **Replacing Team Members**

Team members may not be replaced after the team's memos have been submitted on September 7, 2012, except with the express written consent from the Competition Committee, which will require a showing of good cause.

If a substitution is needed after September 7, 2012, you must e-mail the Competition Committee at [nptc@law.stetson.edu](mailto:nptc@law.stetson.edu), before making the substitution.

## 4. **Coaches and Advisors**

- a. Each team may have one or more coaches/advisors. If the team does not have a coach/advisor, the team must designate a representative to attend the coaches' meeting on October 11.
- b. Coaches may be present during the competition, but cannot communicate with the team members until after that particular round is complete. A particular round is complete after the presentation of closing arguments.
- c. During the competition, if the coaches or advisors want to stay in the courtrooms, they must remain in the classroom portion of the courtrooms. The coaches are not permitted in the "well" and should **not** approach the bench for any reason.

## C. **MEMORANDA OF LAW**

### 1. **Sides**

- a. Each team must submit **both** a memorandum of law (memo) for the Plaintiff and Defendant.
- b. Teams will argue motions based upon the memoranda of law at the



beginning of the pretrial hearing.

## 2. Forum

The problem will be set in the fictitious State of Stetson (a state in the fictitious United States Court of Appeals for the Thirteenth Circuit). To the extent that the Competition rules are silent, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the local rules of the Middle District of Florida will apply.

## 3. Problem

- a. The hypothetical facts on which the Competition is based will be drafted by a person or group of persons knowledgeable in the field of pretrial practice.
- b. The person(s) who drafts the problem will also prepare—or supervise the preparation of—a bench memo, which will be provided to those who judge the competition rounds.
- c. Supplemental evidence may be drafted to create factual inconsistencies prior to oral argument. The supplemental evidence will be distributed to participants on September 10, 2012.
- d. The bench memo will also be provided to those who judge the memos. The competition judges will be different from those who critiqued the memos.

## 4. Format

- a. The memos may not exceed **4,800 words** on 8-1/2 x 11-inch pages with one-inch margins at top, bottom, left, and right. **Footnotes do count toward the word limit**, even though footnotes are rarely used in trial briefs or memoranda of law. Note: Most word processing programs can provide you with a word count. And deductions will be taken if the brief is over the word-count limit.
- b. Each memo must be typed, in 14-point, Times New Roman font, and be double-spaced. A team does not violate the double-spacing requirement by including written material that is properly single spaced, such as headings, block quotations, or footnotes.
- c. Each memo must include the following sections, which **do** count toward the word limit: statement of facts, summary of argument, argument with point headings, and conclusion.
- d. Each memo must also include the following sections, which **do not**

count toward the word limit: front and back cover pages, table of contents, table of authorities, questions presented, statement of jurisdiction, signature block, affidavit (see Addendum A), and appropriate appendices.

- (1) **Limit on Use of Authorities:** Teams may not use—in the memos or oral arguments—any case issued on or after July 1, 2012.
- (2) **Citations:** All citations must conform to the most current version of *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (the nineteenth edition).
- (3) **Identification:** To facilitate anonymous grading, names of the team members and the school they represent may appear only on the affidavit that must be submitted at the same time as the original memo (see Addendum A).

The affidavit should be sent as a separate attachment in the e-mail to the Competition Committee. Do not include the names of team members or the affidavit in the copies of the memos. Names of team members and the school must not appear within the memos.

Each team will be assigned an identification number the week of August 20, 2012, that is to appear in the uppermost right-hand corner of the front memo cover. That random number is the only way a team should identify itself in the memos.

## 5. Number and Service on Competition Committee

- a. Each team must submit two copies—one Word document and one PDF-file—of each of the team’s memos directly to the Competition Committee by the deadline (see contact information below). The content of the two different forms of the memos should not differ.
- b. In addition, each team must submit the affidavit, as a PDF-file (separate from the PDF-files that contain the team’s memos), directly to the Competition Committee by the deadline (see the contact information below).
- c. Send the electronic copies of the team’s memos and a PDF-file of the affidavit, as mail attachments, to [nptc@law.stetson.edu](mailto:nptc@law.stetson.edu).

- d. The memos and the affidavit must be **received** by the Competition Committee no later than 12:00 noon EST, on September 7, 2012. The Committee will post each memo on the Stetson web site (see web site location URL on page ii above), as soon as possible.

## **6. Service on Other Teams**

Teams should not send copies of their memos to any other team. As noted in paragraph C(5)(c) above, the Competition Committee will post each memo on the Stetson web site.

## **7. No Changes after Submission**

Once the memos have been submitted to the Competition Committee, no revisions, supplements, or additions will be allowed. In addition, no written material outside the memo will be accepted.

## **8. Grading**

- a. Each memo will be scored by a panel of judges knowledgeable in the areas of pretrial practice and federal civil procedure.
- b. Individuals who judge the memos will not judge the competition rounds.
- c. The team's scores (for both memos) will be averaged and that average will be the memo score for that team used throughout the Competition. However, the memo score will not be used to determine the Final Round winner.
- d. Memos will be graded for both content and style. The factors the memo judges will consider include, but are not limited to: legal substance; use of authority and extent of research; issue analysis; logic and reasoning; clarity and organization; persuasiveness; thoroughness; style; grammar; spelling; format; and compliance with Competition rules.
- e. Memo scores will not be released until after the Competition is completed. At that point, the Competition Committee will release a list that reflects each school's ranking.
- f. The minimum score on any memo will be 60.

## **D. PRETRIAL ARGUMENT PROCEDURES**

### **1. Time and Place**

- a. All oral presentations will be held on the Stetson University College of Law campus in Gulfport, Florida, on October 11–14, 2012.
- b. Pairings for the First Preliminary Round and Courtroom assignments will be provided during the coaches' meeting on October 11.
- c. Three preliminary rounds will be held on October 12.
- d. The quarterfinal and semifinal rounds will be held on October 13.
- e. The final round will be held on October 14.

### **2. Time per Team**

- a. Each round will be limited to 180 minutes; each team will have 90 minutes. Thirty minutes of that time will be for the motion argument; the remaining 60 minutes will be for the presentation of evidence.
- b. For the motion portion of the round, each team will have 30 minutes in which to present its arguments. Up to 2 minutes of that 30 minutes may be reserved for rebuttal. The order of the arguments will be as follows:
  - i. Defendant issue 1<sup>1</sup>
  - ii. Plaintiff issue 1
  - iii. Defendant rebuttal issue 1
  - iv. Plaintiff issue 2
  - v. Defendant issue 2
  - vi. Plaintiff rebuttal issue 2

There will be no sur-rebuttal for either team.

- c. During the motion portion of the round, a bailiff will keep time for each team<sup>2</sup> and provide the following time cards: 7, 5, 3, 1, and stop.

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<sup>1</sup> During the motion arguments, two students will present the arguments—one student will argue issue 1, and the other student will argue issue 2.

<sup>2</sup> We anticipate that there will be two bailiffs in each room—one for each team.

- d. If the judge is unable to rule based upon argument and response, then the judge will inform counsel to call witnesses to settle disputed issues of fact.
- e. During the evidentiary portion, each team must call two witnesses and conduct direct examination. Opposing counsel will conduct cross examination. Re-direct and re-cross will be permitted at the discretion of the judge.
- f. The bailiffs will continue to keep track of the time during the evidentiary portion. Objections will stop the clock.
- g. At the end of the cross-examination of the second witness, the bailiffs will tell both teams how much time they have left for closing arguments. One counsel for each team will be allowed to make final arguments to the court.
- h. Nothing in this rule requires a 50/50 split of time between co-counsel.

**3. No Inferences Are Permitted in Direct Examination:** No advocate may elicit from a witness and no witness may draw any inference during a direct or re-direct examination. A witness must confine his or her answers to the facts and opinions stated in the file. Inferences may be drawn only in motions, opening statements where appropriate, and closing arguments.

- a. On direct examination, advocates must advise their witnesses that if they are asked to provide information that is not specifically provided in the file, they are to respond by stating, “No, I didn’t do (hear, see) that” or “I don’t know that,” or “I don’t have that information.”
- b. An advocate is obligated to correct the record by withdrawing testimony that presented facts outside the file. When an advocate’s witness testifies to a fact outside of the file, the advocate shall promptly ask the witness to correct the witness’s testimony by withdrawing it and stating that he or she has no first-hand knowledge of it. If the witness refuses or is unable to do so, the advocate shall move to strike the answer as being outside the file and ask the court to disregard the statement.

**4. Anonymity**

- a. All team members and individuals affiliated with a team are prohibited from speaking with the judges before a round.

- b. Although counsel may introduce themselves to the Court in the usual manner (by team number), the team's law-school affiliation may not be mentioned at any time during the competition, until the team is eliminated from the Competition.
- c. Aside from post-round critiques, individuals affiliated with the team should not speak with judges about any substantive matters, until the team is eliminated from the Competition.
- d. Further, all team members, coaches, advisors, and observers must refrain from identifying a team's school at any time and in any manner, including, but not limited to, wearing any identifying items, such as school clothing, patches, or pins, or carrying identifying material (such as a pen, padfolio, or notebook with a school logo).
- e. The bailiffs in each room will provide each team with a "Plaintiff" or "Defendant" table card that also contains the school's team number. The card should be placed on counsel table facing the judges at the beginning of the round and should remain on the table throughout the round.
- f. Judges may schedule a break between the end of the motion arguments and before the presentation of evidence. The coaches, advisors, and observers are not permitted to confer with the team members during this break. Also, team members **are not permitted** to use cell phones or other similar devices during the break.

## 5. Judges and Judging Criteria

- a. Barring unforeseen circumstances, each round will be judged by at least three persons. One judge will be on the bench; the other two judges will be off to the side.
- b. Judges will be provided with a copy of the bench memo and the problem.
- c. Oral argument judges will NOT be provided with copies of the teams' memos or memo scores.
- d. Each judge will receive a score sheet outlining the factors to be considered during the judging process; the score sheet will also identify what excellent, good, and average scores should be in each category.

- e. The factors to be considered include, but are not limited to: poise and courtroom manner; analysis, organization, and clarity; thoroughness; control of argument; persuasiveness; professionalism; response to questions; and knowledge of facts and controlling law.
- f. The judge's scores for the motion argument and the evidentiary presentation will be added together to determine that judge's score for that team. The scores of all the judges from the oral presentation will be averaged to determine the oral-presentation of the team's score (worth 2/3 of that team's score for that round).
- g. The judges will be instructed that should a team's coach, advisor, or non-participating team member; family member; or other team representative approach the bench during oral argument that team will immediately forfeit the round.

## **6. Critiques**

Each judge will be requested to provide a short oral critique at the end of each round. Oral presentation scores will not be released until after the Competition is complete.

## **7. Announcements**

- a. The eight teams advancing to the Quarterfinal Rounds will be announced as soon as possible, after the Preliminary Rounds have concluded, on October 12.
- b. After the Quarterfinal Rounds have been completed, the four teams advancing to the Semifinal Rounds will be announced during lunch on October 13.
- c. After the Semifinal Rounds have been completed, the two teams advancing to the Final Round will be announced during the Banquet/Awards ceremony on October 13.
- d. All Preliminary Round awards—individual and team—will be presented during the Banquet/Awards ceremony on October 13. All teams are encouraged to attend the Banquet/Awards ceremony.
- e. The Final Round awards will be presented immediately following the conclusion of the Final Round.

## 8. Stetson's Participation

- a. Stetson may not enter a team in the Competition.
- b. If, however, a team should drop from the Competition and leave an odd number of competing teams, or should an odd number of teams otherwise be registered and ready to compete, Stetson may enter one or more bye teams in the Competition to ensure that an even number of teams competes. A bye team may not advance past the Preliminary Rounds and its members will not be eligible for any award. Members of the bye teams will not write a memo; the memo score used for a bye team will be the average of all memos submitted by teams in the Competition.

## 9. Exhibits

Exhibits and other similar devices **may** only be used during the evidentiary portion of the argument. Only hard copy exhibits, i.e., flip charts, foam board, posters, etc., are allowed; no electronic exhibits. If the team is bringing exhibits, the team **is responsible** for bringing everything its members need to display the exhibit(s) (for example, an easel or markers).

## 10. Using the Supplemental Evidence During the Motion Arguments

The Supplemental Evidence, received after the team's memos are submitted, may not be used in the motion arguments without permission from the Chief Judge. If a direct question by the Court requires reference to one or more of the depositions, then and only then may the advocate being questioned refer to a deposition. The reference should be in the following manner: "*If called to testify here today, I anticipate that the testimony would be . . .*".

## E. SEQUENCE OF ORAL ROUNDS/ADVANCEMENT

### 1. Scoring Breakdown

- a. Except for the Final Round, scores for each round will be determined by counting the team's memo score as one-third, the motion argument as one-third, and the presentation of evidence as one-third. In other words, the memo score will be one-third of the score and the oral presentation will be two-thirds of the score. Specifically, the scoring will be as follows:
  - (1) The memos will be scored out of 100 points. Each team's memos will be read by multiple judges and the scores will be



averaged to create the memo score used in the competition.

- (2) The oral presentation will be scored out of 200 points, 100 points for the motion arguments and 100 points for the evidentiary presentation. The judges' scores from the oral presentations will be averaged to create the oral presentation for that round.
- (3) Here is an example of how the scores for a round will be calculated:
  - (a) Team A's memo score (out of 100 points):
    - i. Team A's plaintiff's memo received the following scores: 90, 85, and 92.
    - ii. Team A's defendant's memo received the following scores: 80, 78, and 85.
    - iii. Team A's memo score is: 85 (the average of the six scores).
  - (b) Team A's oral presentation score (out of 200 points):
    - i. Team A's oral presentation scores for the motion and evidentiary hearing combined were: 180, 195, and 174.
    - ii. Team A's oral presentation score for the round would be: 183 (the average of the three judges' scores).
  - (c) Team A's score for that round would be 268 (or the memo score of 85, plus the oral presentation score of 183).
- b. The judges of the oral presentations will not have read the teams' memos and will not know the teams' memo scores.
- c. In the Final Round, the winner will be determined solely on the scores from the oral presentation.

## **2. Preliminary Rounds**

- a. Three Preliminary Rounds will be held.
- b. Each team will argue in each Preliminary Round.
- c. Initial pairings will be randomly determined during the coaches' meeting on October 11.
- d. During the first two Preliminary Rounds, teams will argue once for each side.

- e. For the third Preliminary Round, the seating will be random.
- f. Each team will be scored on a combination of its average memo score and average oral score (see E(1)(a) above).
- g. Each team's score will be compared to its opponent's score in that round, and the differential will be determined.
- h. When determining which teams advance, the teams with the best win-loss records will advance to the Quarterfinal Rounds.
- i. In the event of a tie in win-loss records, the team winning the highest percentage of judges' ballots during the three Preliminary Rounds will advance.
- j. If a tie occurs on ballots, the team with the highest positive point differential over its opponents during the three Preliminary Rounds will advance.
- k. If a tie occurs on the point differential, the team with the highest memo score will advance.

### **3. Quarterfinal Rounds**

Teams advancing to the Semifinal Rounds will be ranked 1 through 8, based upon their combined Preliminary-Round scores. The first-ranked team will compete against the eighth-ranked team; the second-ranked team will compete against the seventh-ranked team; the third-ranked team will compete against the sixth-ranked team, and so forth. A coin toss will determine which side the teams will represent in the Quarterfinal Rounds. The first-, second-, third-, and fourth-ranked team will call the coin toss.

### **4. Semifinal Rounds**

Teams advancing to the Semifinal Rounds will keep the order of their rankings, based upon their combined Preliminary-Round scores. The highest ranked team will compete against the lowest ranked team, and the second-highest ranked team will compete against the third-ranked team. A coin toss will determine which side the teams will represent in the Semifinal Rounds. Teams 1 and 2 will call the coin toss.

### **4. Final Round**

- a. The winners of each Semifinal Round will advance to the Final Round.

- b. If the winners of each Semifinal Round represented different parties, the teams will flip sides for the Final Round.
- c. If the winners of each Semifinal Round represented the same parties, a coin toss will determine which side the teams will represent in the Final Round. The higher ranked team will call the coin toss.
- d. The winner of the Final Round will be determined solely on the basis of oral presentation in the Final Round. The judges will caucus to determine the winning team and the best oralist in the Final Round. The judges are not obligated to use score sheets during the Final Round.
- e. The winner of the Final Round will be designated the winner of the Fifth Annual National Pretrial Competition.

## **F. AWARDS**

The following awards will be presented at the Banquet/Awards ceremony on October 13:

- Two semifinalist teams;
- Best memo for both sides;
- Best advocate preliminary round 1 (to be eligible for a best oralist award, the oralist must participate in both portions of the oral presentation—i.e., argue a motion and present evidence);
- Best advocate preliminary round 2 (to be eligible for a best oralist award, the oralist must participate in both portions of the oral presentation—i.e., argue a motion and present evidence);
- Best advocate preliminary round 3 (to be eligible for a best oralist award, the oralist must participate in both portions of the oral presentation—i.e., argue a motion and present evidence);
- Best advocate quarterfinal round (to be eligible for a best oralist award, the oralist must participate in both portions of the oral presentation—i.e., argue a motion and present evidence); and
- Best advocate semifinal round (to be eligible for a best oralist award, the oralist must participate in both portions of the oral presentation—i.e., argue a motion and present evidence).

The following awards will be presented at the Awards ceremony following the Final Round on October 14:

- First Place

- Second Place
- Best overall advocate

## **G. OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE**

### **1. Assistance on Memos**

- a. A team may receive only the following assistance on the memo:
  - (1) Team members may discuss with their coach/advisor and with others affiliated with their school (so long as other rules contained herein are not violated) general principles of Federal Civil Procedure. The coach may not dictate which Federal Rules of Civil Procedure apply.
  - (2) The coach/advisor may not provide general guidance on the overall organization or assist with the actual writing of the memo. Only members of the team may edit the memos and correct citation format.
- b. A team may not hold oral practice rounds before its memos are submitted to the Competition Committee.

### **2. Affidavit**

- a. Each team member must sign a copy of the enclosed affidavit, which must be submitted with the original memo to the Competition Committee.
- b. By signing the affidavit and submitting the memos to the Competition Committee, each team member certifies that the memo has been prepared in accordance with the Competition rules, and that it represents the work product solely of such team's members.
- c. A blank affidavit is attached as Addendum A.

### **3. Assistance on Oral Argument**

A team may be assisted in the preparation of its oral argument, except as limited by section G(4) below.

### **4. No Collaboration with Other Teams**

No member or coach of any team still eligible to participate or actually participating in the Competition may attend any practice or argument of

another team or receive information from any person who has attended such practice or argument. In addition, while a team is still active in the Competition, no team member, coach, or other person affiliated with the team may “scout” other active teams.

## **H. CHALLENGES AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

### **1. Memos and Pre-Oral Argument Challenges**

- a. Any memo or pre-oral argument challenge or complaint must be submitted via e-mail to the Competition Committee no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on September 28, 2012.
- b. Should the allegedly offensive conduct occur between September 29 and the start of the first Preliminary Round, the challenge or complaint should be submitted within 24 hours of its discovery, via e-mail.
- c. The challenge or complaint should be directed to the Competition Committee and should specify in as much detail as possible the nature of the challenge or complaint. No other person should be copied on the challenge or complaint.
- d. After reviewing the challenge or complaint, the Competition Committee will, if necessary, contact other affected teams and issue a ruling.
- e. The ruling of the Competition Committee will be final and may not be appealed.

### **2. Oral Arguments and Other Competition Challenges**

- a. Challenges or complaints concerning any oral argument or conduct during the Competition must be reported to the Competition Committee within 10 minutes of the conclusion of the round in which the allegedly offensive conduct occurs.
- b. Challenges or complaints that occur during the Competition that do not relate to a particular oral argument should be reported to the Competition Committee as soon as possible, but in no event later than 15 minutes before the next-scheduled oral argument round.

### **3. Conflicts of Interest**

A judge’s alleged conflict of interest should be reported to the Competition Committee before that particular round commences. Otherwise, the

conflict is deemed waived.

#### **4. Penalties**

Penalties may range from warnings, to point deductions, to disqualification, depending on the nature and severity of the offense. Multiple offenses by a single team will warrant more severe penalties.

#### **5. Waiver**

Failure to comply with the procedures in this section (section H) will waive the challenge or complaint.

### **I. MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **1. Use of Problem**

The problem for this Competition may not be used by any participating school, for any reason, including intra-school competitions, without the express written consent of the Competition Committee.

#### **2. Scores**

- a. Scores will not be made available, either orally or in writing, until the Competition is completed.
- b. After the Competition, each team representative will be provided a spreadsheet containing the judges' scores from the oral rounds. This is in addition to the list that reflects each school's ranking on the memos.
- c. The goal is that the scores will be made available to each team at the Banquet/Awards ceremony after the Semifinal round. If this is not possible, the scores will be e-mailed to a team representative within a week of the competition.

#### **3. Professionalism**

All teams should conduct themselves ethically and professionally.

#### **4. Costs**

All costs associated with the Competition should be borne by the schools or by individual team members. Stetson will not reimburse participants for costs associated with the Competition.

**ADDENDUM A**

**AFFIDAVIT**

We have read the National Pretrial Competition Rules. Our submitted memos were prepared in accordance with the Competition Rules, and we have not received any unauthorized assistance.

School: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please print your names below**

Team Members: (1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

(4) \_\_\_\_\_

Coaches: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signatures (1) \_\_\_\_\_

of team  
members:

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

(4) \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Memo Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Plaintiff memo  
word count: \_\_\_\_\_

Defendant memo  
word count: \_\_\_\_\_