2013-2014
National Health Law
Moot Court Competition

OFFICIAL RULES

SPONSORS:

Southern Illinois University School of Law

Southern Illinois University School of Medicine,
Department of Medical Humanities

American College of Legal Medicine

American College of Legal Medicine Foundation
PART I. ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL COMPETITION

The National Health Law Moot Court Competition (the "Competition") is an inter-law school appellate moot court competition sponsored by the School of Law and the School of Medicine, Department of Medical Humanities, Southern Illinois University and the American College of Legal Medicine and ACLM Foundation. The purpose of the Competition is to develop the art of appellate advocacy and to encourage research in the growing field of health law and ethics. The Competition is organized by a Coordinating Committee (the "Coordinating Committee") comprised of SIU School of Law faculty and current law students appointed to the Moot Court Board of the School of Law.

PART II. THE RULES

Teams

Rule 1. Number and Composition of Teams.

Up to 32 teams from ABA-accredited law schools or law schools currently seeking ABA accreditation may participate in the Competition. Each participating school may enter one or two teams. If the Competition is over subscribed, the Committee reserves the right to place additional teams on a wait list or otherwise limit participation. Each team shall be composed of two or three students, all of whom must be full-time (day or night) law students currently enrolled in a J.D. program at the time of the Competition.

Rule 2. Substitution of Team Members.

Prior to submission of briefs, team members should be substituted for a good faith reasons only, such as an individual’s inability to meet the requirements of these rules. There shall be no substitution of team members after submission of briefs except upon written consent of the Committee.
Briefs


For schools entering only one team, the team may elect to serve as counsel for petitioner or respondent for the purposes of preparing its brief. If a school enters two teams as provided by Rule 1, one team shall represent petitioner and the other respondent for the purposes of preparing briefs.

Rule 4. Form and Length of Briefs.

(a) Format and Length of Brief.

(i) The brief shall comply with Rules 24.1 and 33.2 of the Supreme Court of the United States as to format and content, except as otherwise provided in these Rules or the Record on Appeal. Both Petitioner and Respondent’s briefs shall contain all of the items Rule 24.1 requires in a Petitioner’s brief, except that neither party’s brief need contain a formal statement of jurisdiction or list of parties. Citation form should be in compliance with the Nineteenth Edition of the Uniform System of Citation.

(ii) No information which tends to identify the school or the contestants other than the number assigned by the Committee may appear at any place in the brief or on the cover. The contestant's names or school must not appear anywhere in the brief.

(iii) Appendices may be used to recite the text of statutes, constitutional provisions, regulations and materials that are not generally available. No appendices to the brief may exceed 20 total combined pages. Do not include the Record on Appeal in the appendix.

(iv) Exclusive of the questions presented, table of contents, table of authorities, opinions below, constitutional and statutory provisions, and appendices, the body of the brief (including the statement of the case, summary of argument, argument and conclusion) may not exceed 14,000 words in length. Footnotes will be included in the word count.

(v) The brief must have pages not exceeding 8½ by 11 inches and typed matter not exceeding 6½ by 9½ inches with double spacing between each line of text except for footnotes which may be single spaced. Page numbers are not included in “typed matter.”

(vi) Briefs may be prepared by using word processing equipment. Printing by any typesetting process is not permitted for the contents or covers. The briefs may be produced by a duplicating or copying process that produces a clear black image on white paper. Briefs may be duplicated on one or
both sides of the page. The brief must be bound at the left margin or fastened with 3 staples along the left margin. The staples must securely fasten the brief and not leave sharp edges. Sloppy brief assembly may result in a penalty being assessed. The cover of the brief should be light blue for Petitioner and light red for Respondent.

(b) Computer Disk.

As set forth in Rule 5, each team must serve upon the Coordinating Committee an electronic data file version of the body of the brief (those portions listed in Rule 4(a) that make up the word count), saved to a CD, flash drive, or similar media. This will be known as the “Computer Disk.” The Computer Disk copy of the brief must be in Microsoft Word, version 6.0 or higher, or Corel WordPerfect, version 8.0 or higher. No other formats will be accepted. The Computer Disk will be used to determine compliance with the word limit set forth in Rule 4(a)(iv).

(c) Certification.

Each team submitting a brief in the Competition shall certify that such brief has been prepared in accordance with these rules and that it represents the work product solely of such team’s members. The certification is attached as Appendix A. 

**Team members must each individually sign this form by name.**


(a) Service on the Committee.

Each team must serve its Computer Disk (Rule 4(a)), seven printed copies of its brief, and the original of its Certification form (Rule 4(d)), in a single package on the Coordinating Committee on or before September 26, 2013. The Coordinating Committee address is:

Southern Illinois University School of Law
Lesar Law Building, MC 6804
1150 Douglas Drive
Carbondale, IL 62901
ATTN: Bonnie Miller
National Health Law Moot Court Competition

(b) Service of Briefs on Opposing Teams.

(i) In lieu of serving competing teams, each team will submit one electronic copy of its brief via e-mail no later than September 26, 2013, to the following address: bmiller@law.siu.edu.
(ii) The electronic copy of the brief must be in either Microsoft Word, version 6.0 or higher, Corel WordPerfect, version 8.0 or higher, or in an Adobe Acrobat PDF file. No other formats will be accepted without prior approval. *The electronically submitted brief should be one document only. The subject line of the e-mail 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.*

(iii) The electronic copies of the briefs will be posted on the National Health Law Moot Court Competition website by September 30, 2013, to allow participating teams access.

(c) Method and Timing of Service. Whenever service other than electronic service is required by these Rules, such service shall be effected by depositing the material to be served in the United States mail at an office of the United States Postal Service, first class postage prepaid and properly addressed, *postmarked on or before the deadline for such service.* Although no proof of mailing is required by these rules other than the postmark, teams are advised to obtain a receipt in case questions later arise.

Rule 6. Revision of Briefs.

A team may not revise or supplement its brief after service upon the Committee.

Rule 7. Scoring of Briefs; Penalties.

(a) Scoring Committee. A committee appointed by the American College of Legal Medicine (the "Scoring Committee") will score all briefs submitted and will select the best brief in the Competition. The brief score will be used in determining the result of each and every argument in accordance with Rule 11. Any matter serving to identify a team or its members will be excised by the Coordinating Committee prior to submission to the Scoring Committee.

(b) Penalties. The Coordinating Committee may assess such penalties, including disqualification, as it deems reasonable and appropriate in its sole discretion for failure to comply with these Rules. All briefs will be subject to uniform penalties for each type of violation, which penalties may be levied in whole or fractional points. The penalty scale for violations of Rule 4 will be in proportion with the overall range of scores of the briefs being graded.

(c) Brief Ballots and Median Substantive Score. The official brief ballots are attached as Appendix B and C. Each member of the Scoring Committee who is scoring the substantive portions of the briefs (Appendix C) will set a median of 65 out of 85 points for the briefs that member is scoring. There is no mandatory median for the formal aspects of the briefs (Appendix B).
Rule 8. Faculty or Other Assistance.

(a) General. No team may receive specific assistance in the writing of its brief or the preparation of its oral argument from anyone not a member of that team, including faculty or fellow students. This rule should not be construed to limit in any way the resource material available to the participants, except no participants may procure a copy of any pleadings or papers actually filed in any trial or appeal of any case upon which the record is founded. Contact with the actual litigants or their attorneys is prohibited and constitutes grounds for disqualification.

(b) Purpose. This rule shall not be construed to prevent general discussion of the issues raised in the record with faculty or others, the judging of practice arguments by the faculty or others, or the giving of general critiques on such arguments, provided such discussions and critiques are not designed to change the substance of briefs or oral arguments. In interpreting this rule, it should be emphasized that the purpose of the Competition is to develop the art of appellate advocacy through the participants’ own work.

Oral Arguments

Rule 9. Time and Place.

Oral arguments will take place at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois on November 1 and 2, 2013.

Rule 10. Participants in Argument.

Any two members of a team may participate in any argument, but two team members (and only two) must participate in each argument. Each member of a team must argue at least once during the two preliminary rounds.

Rule 11. Weight of Briefs and Arguments.

In all cases the scores of the competing teams will be computed by weighing the oral arguments sixty percent (60%) and the brief forty percent (40%). The oral argument score will be determined by a panel of judges without knowledge of the brief grade, and will be arithmetically weighted and combined with the brief grade by the Committee as described in Rule 12(b)(ii).

Rule 12. Number of Arguments; Elimination; Pairings.

(a) Number of Arguments. The Competition will be structured to afford each competing team two (2) arguments (preliminary rounds) prior to the elimination of any team. No team shall argue the same side of the case in the first two
preliminary rounds. No team will argue against any other team representing the same school in the two preliminary rounds nor will the same two teams be paired together in the two preliminary rounds.

(b) Pairings.

(i) Preliminary rounds. The Coordinating Committee will determine by random assignment pairings for the preliminary rounds, including assignments of the side of the case to be argued, except for adjustments necessary to comply with Rule 5(a). The Coordinating Committee will inform all contestants in advance of the identity of the other teams against which they are bracketed.

(ii) Elimination rounds. After the preliminary rounds, the top eight (8) teams will advance and be seeded based on their win-loss record and aggregate point differential, in that order. The teams with the highest win-loss record and highest aggregate point differentials will be seeded higher. “Aggregate point differential” will be calculated as follows: For each team, the raw oral round scores for each team member will be averaged and added to the other team member’s averaged oral score, and that total will be divided by 2 and multiplied by .6 for the adjusted oral score. The team’s average brief score will be multiplied by .4 and added to the adjusted oral score, for the team’s total round score. The difference between the two teams’ total round score will be the point differential for that round (a positive number for the winning team and a negative number for the losing team). The point differential for each of a team’s rounds will be added together to make the aggregate point differential. Scores will be calculated to two decimal places (i.e., 95.33).

(iii) If two teams are tied at the end of the preliminary rounds, for purposes of both advancement and seeding, ties will be broken in favor of the team with highest aggregate point differential over its opponents in the two preliminary rounds. If two teams have the same aggregate point differential over their opponents, the tie will be broken in favor of the team having the higher brief score. If there is still a tie, the advancing team will be decided by a coin toss.

1 The Committee reserves the right at the end of the preliminary rounds to hold an additional round of no less than twelve and no more than sixteen teams, depending on the size of the Competition and availability of judges. This round will also be seeded and only performance in this additional round will be considered to determine further advancement.

2 Aggregate point differentials are computed in the manner illustrated by the following example: If team A defeated its first round opponent by a total round score of 80-75 and lost its second round argument by a total round score of 78-80, its aggregate point differential for the two rounds is +3 points (i.e., the net of the +5 point difference in its first argument and the -2 point difference in its second argument).
(iv) After the seeding described in (ii) above, advancing teams will be placed into one of two brackets and will advance through the bracket to which they were originally assigned until one team from each bracket reaches the final round. No adjustments will be made for teams from the same school.

(v) Sides in the elimination rounds will be determined by a coin toss, with the higher seeded team calling the toss.

Rule 13. Time for Arguments.

(a) Each team will have 30 minutes total to make its presentation. No advocate may argue for less than twelve or more than eighteen minutes, but teams may otherwise allocate the time between advocates as the team sees fit. Teams must inform their bailiff of the number of minutes each advocate wishes to speak.

(b) The team representing petitioner may reserve up to 5 minutes for rebuttal, but must indicate its desire to do so to the bailiff before the beginning of the round. In order to reserve rebuttal, the team representing petitioner must also verbally request reservation of rebuttal time at the beginning of its oral argument from the court. Judges will be instructed they may refuse rebuttal to any team that fails to comply with this rule. Only one member of the petitioner team may argue on rebuttal.

(c) The bailiff will hold up time cards when 5, 2 and 1 minute(s) remain of each speaker's time, and a card indicating "STOP" when time has expired for each speaker. When the bailiff calls time, the speaker must inform the court that time has expired and must refrain from making any further statements or requesting any further time. The court may permit a speaker additional time on its own motion.

(d) All issues regarding time will be in the sole discretion of the round judges, and must be brought to their attention by one or both teams before the score sheets for that round are collected.


All teams shall at all times refrain from identifying the school they represent to any judge participating in the Competition prior to or during any round in which such judge shall participate. Judges shall refrain from inquiring of the identity of the teams until the results of the round have been announced. Violation of this Rule will be grounds for disqualification in the discretion of the Coordinating Committee.
Rule 15. Results.

Results of the arguments in terms of advancing teams will be announced by the Committee after all arguments in the round (preliminary, octofinal, quarterfinal, etc.) are completed. Competitors will be provided with summary score information for individual rounds after the competition is completed.


The Competition will recognize the Best Preliminary Round Oral Advocate and Best Overall Oral Advocate. Best Preliminary Round Oral Advocate will be awarded to the individual advocate with the highest average oral scores at the end of the two preliminary rounds. All advocates who argue at least twice are eligible for this award. Best Overall Advocate will be awarded to the individual advocate with the highest average oral scores at the end of the Competition. All advocates who argue at least three times are eligible for this award. In case of a tie for either award, the Competition will recognize all tied advocates (to a hundredth of a point), who will share any monetary prizes.

The Competition will also recognize Champion, Runner-Up and Third Place Teams, Best Brief, and Second Place Brief.


No team member or faculty advisor for any team may observe any round not involving such team, until such team has been eliminated.

PART III. OTHER RULES

In addition to the Rules herein set forth, the Coordinating Committee may make any other rules and procedures deemed advisable. Participants will be advised promptly of any amendments or corrections to these Rules.

Requests for the interpretation of these Rules or the record should be addressed in writing to the one of the members of the Southern Illinois University law faculty in charge of the competition. Interpretations issued by these faculty members shall be final and binding on all competitors. The faculty members in charge of this year's Competition are:

W. Eugene Basanta
Professor
Southern Illinois University
School of Law, MC 6804
1150 Douglas Drive
Carbondale, Illinois 62901
(618) 453-8748
basanta@siu.edu

Cheryl Anderson
Professor
Southern Illinois University
School of Law, MC 6804
1150 Douglas Drive
Carbondale, Illinois 62901
(618) 453-5634
cheryla@siu.edu
Below is a list of important dates and deadlines regarding submission of briefs, certification, service of notice, etc. for the Health Law Moot Court Competition.

PROBLEM AND RULES POSTED ELECTRONICALLY AT www.law.siu.edu/healthlawmootcourt August 6, 2013

ENTRY FEE DUE September 4, 2013

DEADLINE FOR WITHDRAWING September 10, 2013

DEADLINE FOR SERVICE OF BRIEFS ON CMTE. September 26, 2013

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS BEGIN November 1, 2013

COMPETITION ENDS November 2, 2013

TEAMS LEAVE November 2 or 3, 2013

SCORES AND RESULTS POSTED ELECTRONICALLY December 15, 2013
Appendix A: Team Certification

We hereby certify that the brief for ____________________ (school name) Law School is the product solely of the undersigned, that the undersigned have not received any faculty or other assistance in connection with the preparation of the brief other than as permitted by Rule 8, and that the Computer Disk submitted herewith truly and accurately represents the contents of the body of the brief as provided for in Rule 4(b) of the Rules of the National Health Law Moot Court Competition.

__________________________________
(Team member’s name)

__________________________________
(Team member’s name)

__________________________________
(Team member’s name)
# Appendix B:
## 2013-2014 NATIONAL HEALTH LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION

### Official Brief Ballot (Formal Requirements)

* * * *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team Number:</th>
<th>Judge:</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>Points Given</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

## I. Formal Requirements

### A. Cover of Brief

- Is it correctly set up and is color correct?

### B. Table of Contents

- Are the brief sections in the proper sequence?
- Does the brief contain all necessary parts?

### C. Table of Authorities and Citation Form

- Is there a proper division of cases between federal and state? Is there a sensible division and arrangement of statutes and secondary sources? -- 1

- Are citations to legal authorities correct?
  - 0 or 1 error - 5 points; 2 or 3 errors - 4 points; 4 or 5 errors - 3 points; 6 or 7 errors - 2 points; 8 or 9 errors - 1 point; 10 or more errors - 0 points -- 5

### D. Overall Appearance of Brief

- Overall, does the brief appear neat and polished in terms of typing and physical presentation? If an Appendix is attached, is it in neat and polished form and does it contain appropriate materials? -- 3

- Are there few, if any, typographical errors? -- 2

**TOTAL** (15) ______
Appendix C:  
2013-2014 NATIONAL HEALTH LAW 
MOOT COURT COMPETITION 
OFFICIAL BRIEF BALLOT  
(Legal Analysis and Style)

For guidance, please see Point Ranges explanation attached.

*   *   *   *

Team Number: _______  
Judge: 

<table>
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<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>Points Given</th>
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</table>

I. Legal Analysis and Argument  

A. Preliminary Matters  

1. Questions Presented  
   Are the issues phrased such that the answer naturally favors the party propounding them? Do they include the essential facts of case appropriately described?  
   (5) _____

2. Statement of the Case; Statement of the Facts  
   Are the facts stated in as favorable a way as possible without leaving out material facts? —3  
   Overall effectiveness —3  
   (6) _____

3. Summary of Arguments  
   Development, persuasiveness and conciseness. Does the summary condense the argument without merely restating the headings?  
   (6) _____

B. Structure and Substance of Analysis  

1. Argument Structure  
   Is the structure logical and thus indicative of the issues? Are the arguments organized in a clear and persuasive manner? Do the arguments follow logically, compelling a conclusion in the writer's favor?  
   (10) _____
### II. Style

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<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>Points Given</th>
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</table>

Is the brief clear and unambiguous? Has there been proper word choice by the writers? Does the brief look polished from re-drafting and re-writing? Has there been an excessive use of quotations or cites? Has the brief effectively used the allotted space?

**TOTAL (See Point Ranges attached)**

(85)
POINT RANGES

In evaluating the legal analysis and style of the briefs, our rules provide that you must set 65 out of 85 total points as the median score for the briefs you are evaluating. To help you create a reasonable point distribution, here is how we would expect the scores to range, given our experience with students who compete in national moot court competitions.

- **80-85 points** (exceptional briefs that display great depth of analysis and great style): 10-20% (no more than one or two briefs)

- **70-79 points** (strong briefs with solid analysis and good style): 25-40% (about three or four briefs)

- **60-69 points** (briefs lacking depth with some style problems but overall acceptable): 25-40% (about three or four briefs)

- **50-59 points** (below average briefs that needed better research and writing): 20-30% (about two or three briefs)

- **Below 50 points** (briefs with poor style and poor understanding of the legal argument): 0-20% (no more than one or two briefs)

The numbers are based on judges scoring between 10 & 12 briefs each. If you score more or fewer, please adjust the ranges accordingly.