



# HNBA 23rd Annual Uvaldo Herrera National Moot Court Competition

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## **RULES AND PROCEDURES**

San Francisco, California

March 15–17, 2018

### **A. ADMINISTRATION**

#### **1. Organization**

The Hispanic National Bar Association (“HNBA”) National Moot Court Competition (“Competition”) is named for the late Uvaldo Herrera, Esquire, a Mexican American attorney who served many years as an HNBA leader with an unwavering dedication and service to law students and the law. Mr. Herrera’s dedication and commitment was directed towards ensuring the enduring success of the Competition as a tool for the development of oral, written and scholarly skills of Latino law students.

The Competition is held each year in conjunction with the HNBA Corporate Counsel Conference, which meets in various cities across the nation. The 2018 Competition will be held on March 15–17, 2018 in San Francisco, California. The Competition is administered and implemented by the HNBA Judicial Council (“Judicial Council”).<sup>1</sup>

#### **2. Scope of Rules**

These rules and procedures apply to all aspects of the Competition.

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<sup>1</sup> The Judicial Council consists of federal, state and local judges, as well as administrative judges. The Judicial Council operates under its own legal structure and is not involved in the legislative advocacy or fundraising efforts of the HNBA.

### 3. Director of Competition

The Chair(s) of the Judicial Council shall, with the advice and consent of the Judicial Council, appoint a member of the Judicial Council to serve as Director of the Competition (“Director”). The Director shall be responsible for interpreting the rules and procedures of the Competition, and may consult with other parties for purposes of achieving a just decision. The Director also oversees all aspects of the Competition as set forth in these rules. A dispute concerning the Director’s interpretation of the rules or procedures of the Competition shall be heard by the Dispute Settlement Body (“DSB”).

### 4. Dispute Settlement Body

The Chair(s) of the Judicial Council shall, with the advice and consent of the Judicial Council, appoint three (3) members of the Judicial Council to serve as members of the DSB. Each member of the DSB shall be entitled to one (1) vote. The DSB shall elect a member amongst them to serve as Chair of the DSB. The DSB shall as soon as practicable resolve all controversies concerning the conduct and operation of the Competition. To the extent necessary, and solely upon the discretion of the DSB, the DSB may consult with other parties for purposes of achieving a just resolution of the issue at hand. All decisions of the DSB shall be final and non-appealable.

### 5. Registration, Deadlines, and Moot Court Problem

All applicable dates and other official news of the Competition, including registration deadlines, are communicated and posted on the HNBA website at <https://www.hnba.com>. All participants of the Competition are obligated to monitor the Competition timeline to account for changes and updates. The moot court problem for the Competition will also be posted on the HNBA website.

## **B. ELIGIBILITY**

1. The Competition is open to all HNBA Law Student Division members enrolled in a full or part-time J.D. degree program at any law school in the United States and its Territories. Participants must be HNBA members as well as HNBA-Law Student Division members at the time they register for the Competition. The HNBA registration form is available on the HNBA website at <https://www.hnba.com>.

2. The Competition is limited to 32 teams. Each team shall be selected by or with the assistance of the local Hispanic/Latino law student organization to the extent one exists at the applicable subject law school.

3. Current HNBA Law Student Division members who assist in planning or administering the Competition may not compete in the Competition.

## C. TEAMS, REGISTRATION AND FEES

1. A team must consist of at least two, and no more than three law students attending the same law school.
2. An objective of the Competition is to give as many students from different law schools a chance to participate. If more than 32 teams register, the first 32 teams to either (1) complete an online registration form and submit the required registration fee or (2) mail in the registration form and registration fee (as outlined in Section C.3 below) shall be designated as teams eligible for the Competition. All other teams shall be placed on a waiting list in the order in which they submitted their registration and fee. For online registration, the submission date of registration materials, including the date of registration fee payment (date of credit card payment, or postmark date for check submissions) will determine a team's priority on the waitlist.
3. As an alternative to online registration, the registration form may also be printed and submitted via U.S. mail or express delivery service with proof of payment and/or the registration fee. The postmark date of mailed or courier registrations will determine a team's priority. Registration fees paid by check or money order shall be made payable to the HNBA and sent to:

**Hispanic National Bar Association  
1020 19<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 505  
Washington, D.C. 20036**

4. Except as provided in these rules, each school may only register one team. Law schools seeking to enter two teams shall notify, in writing, the Director via email at [cmartin@hnba.com](mailto:cmartin@hnba.com), as well as provide registration materials for the 2<sup>nd</sup> team and clearly designate the 1<sup>st</sup> as compared to the 2<sup>nd</sup> team. If less than 32 teams register by the registration deadline, the Director shall determine which law schools will be permitted to field a 2<sup>nd</sup> team. Priority for 2<sup>nd</sup> team selections shall be determined by the date the email with the 2<sup>nd</sup> team written notice is sent to the Director. Registration fees for 2<sup>nd</sup> teams selected to participate will become due upon notification to the law school of its eligibility to field a 2<sup>nd</sup> team.
5. Registration fees are \$650 per team, and are normally non-refundable once registration has closed. A team may withdraw from the Competition after registration closes for hardship, health reasons, etc., by submitting a request in writing to the Director, vested with sole discretion in ruling on the request. If approved, a full refund, minus a \$35 administrative fee will be issued. However, refunds will not be processed until *after* the Competition. A request for a refund will not be considered if it is received less than one week before the Competition.
6. At the discretion of the Director, if fewer than 32 teams register, additional teams from law schools which had not previously registered may be allowed to register for the Competition after the registration deadline with the understanding that all other Competition deadlines shall

apply. The Director may extend an applicable deadline for extenuating circumstances, with such a decision subject to an appeal to the DSB.

7. Once a team is registered, the team may not substitute team members except as provided in this paragraph. Prior to the filing of its briefs, the Director may permit a team to substitute one or more team member(s) upon a showing of good cause. After briefs are filed, the Director may permit a team to substitute one or more team member(s) only upon a showing of extreme hardship, incapacity, or extenuating health reasons.

8. The Director will assign a team number to each team as its registration is deemed complete. Once team numbers are assigned, the sole method for identifying teams shall be by the number of each respective team. Participants, including coaches and other such related persons, shall not reveal the name of their law school to anyone involved in the planning or administration of the Competition, and must take extra care not to reveal this information to the Competition judges at any time prior to the conclusion of the Competition, including at oral argument or upon elimination from the Competition. Any breach of this obligation may result in a sanction, including elimination from the Competition.

#### **D. BRIEFS**

1. Once registered, each eligible team will be notified of whether it will represent Petitioner or Respondent in its brief. All team members must substantially participate in the preparation of the team's brief.

2. **BY SIGNING AND SUBMITTING THE ORIGINAL BRIEF AS DESCRIBED BELOW, EACH TEAM MEMBER CERTIFIES (1) THAT THE BRIEF HAS BEEN PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES OF THE COMPETITION; (2) THAT IT REPRESENTS THE WORK PRODUCT OF TEAM MEMBERS ONLY (SEE SECTION J BELOW); (3) THAT TEAM MEMBERS HAVE NOT OBTAINED, ACCESSED, OR VIEWED THE BRIEFS OR PLEADINGS OF ACTUAL PARTIES OR AMICI ON WHICH THE MOOT COURT PROBLEM MAY BE BASED; AND, (4) THAT TEAM MEMBERS HAVE NOT OBTAINED, ACCESSED, OR VIEWED ANY VERBATIM REPORT OR OTHER DOCUMENT CONTAINING ORAL ARGUMENTS CITED IN THE MOOT COURT PROBLEM.**

3. Briefs must comply with the Rules of the Supreme Court of the United States, except as modified by these rules.

- a. Supreme Court Rules 24.2, 24.3 and 24.4 do not apply.
- b. Supreme Court Rule 33 applies only for preparation of brief covers.

4. Briefs must be printed on 8 ½ by 11-inch paper with printed matter on only one side of each page. Margins must be at least one inch on all sides of the page, excluding page numbers. Briefs must be typed in a non-variable width font, such as Courier. Proportionally spaced fonts may not be used. The type size must produce 10 characters per inch; this size is usually

identified on word processing systems as 12 point or 10 cpi. Line height shall be 0.167", which produces 6 single-spaced or 3 double-spaced lines per inch. All printed matter must be double-spaced, with the exception of footnotes, block quotes, and argument headings. Briefs must either be bound at the left side in a volume or fastened with three staples along the left margin.

5. Briefs may not exceed 25 pages in length, excluding the cover page, questions presented, table of contents, table of authorities, or appendices.

6. All citations must conform to the most recent edition of *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*, published by the Harvard Law Review Association. Citations to the record shall be in the following form: (R. at #).

7. Each team shall submit an electronic version of both its original brief and a "clean" brief to the attention of the Director, in care of the HNBA National Office as outlined in Section E.1 below. Team member names and the name of their law school shall appear solely on the original brief in the lower right hand corner of the cover, and shall include the signature of each team member.<sup>2</sup> The "clean" brief submitted to the Director shall include only a team number on the cover page, without any team member names, law school names, signatures, or any other identifying information anywhere within the brief, including the use of pseudonyms. Beyond the exclusion of such identifying information, the clean brief shall be an identical reproduction of the original brief.

8. Team members may not, *in their briefs or oral arguments*, rely on any briefs and/or pleadings filed with any trial or appellate court by the actual parties or *amici* on which the moot court problem is based.

9. Team members may not use, or in any way rely on, any verbatim report, transcript, recording or other document containing the oral argument of the actual parties or *amici* on which the moot court problem is based.

10. This is an open universe competition. Accordingly, except as limited herein (see Sections D.8 and D.9 above), briefs may include citation to sources beyond those cited in the moot court problem.

11. However, at oral argument, team members are not prohibited from citing the case upon which the moot court problem is based, and similarly, there is no prohibition on citing trial court and appellate decisions leading up to the case on which the moot court problem is based. Competition judges will be advised that questions relating to the case on which the moot court problem is based will be acceptable during oral argument.

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<sup>2</sup> In the event a team member is absent from the law school at the time of the submission of the brief, the cover page with the additional signature(s) may be provided in counterparts, so long as all signatures are submitted prior to the deadline for the submission of briefs.

## **E. FILING AND SERVICE OF BRIEFS**

1. Filing with the Judicial Council: Each team shall submit to the Director, in care of the HNBA National Office, two electronic versions of its brief (one original brief with the signatures and other identifying information on the cover page, and one “clean” brief with no identifying information whatsoever other than the team number assigned by the Director, as described in Section D.7 above) via email to [cmartin@hnba.com](mailto:cmartin@hnba.com), on or before the deadline for brief submission as posted on the HNBA website. A team’s failure to file its brief in the time prescribed in these rules shall result in a two-point penalty for each day the brief is filed late, up to a maximum of 20 points of the team’s final brief score.
2. Service on other teams: The HNBA National Office will provide Competition participants via email, a copy of all submitted “clean” briefs (Petitioner and Respondent) one week following the deadline for brief submission, or one week after their briefs are filed beyond the deadline date. No team which has not yet filed its brief will be provided with the other team’s submitted briefs.
3. Once submitted, a brief may not be altered, exchanged or re-submitted.

## **F. ORAL ARGUMENTS**

1. Oral arguments will take place on the dates and times designated on the HNBA’s website.
2. Two team members shall participate in each round of oral argument. For teams consisting of three members, each team member must participate in at least one of the two preliminary rounds of oral argument, although only two members may participate in any given round. Only team members participating in a particular round may sit at counsel table during the argument.
3. Each team shall receive 25 minutes for oral argument, including rebuttal (for Petitioner teams only). Team members may divide the 25 minutes as they wish, except that no team member may reserve fewer than 10 minutes for his or her main argument, and Petitioner may not reserve more than 5 minutes for rebuttal. Each team is responsible for informing the Clerk present in the courtroom, prior to the beginning of the argument, how its time will be divided. The Clerk will notify team members and Competition judges when 5 minutes and 1 minute of the allotted time remain, and when time is up. The Competition judges may, in their sole discretion, extend any speaker’s time, with due consideration that other rounds of competition may be delayed by so doing.

4. Only Petitioners may reserve time for rebuttal. Only one advocate may argue rebuttal, but that advocate may rebut issues addressed by either Respondent.

5. Team members must identify themselves to the Competition judges only by team number and which side they represent. Participants must not reveal the name of their law school to Competition judges. If a particular judge knows or is familiar with the law school or student(s) arguing at the round, the judge shall recuse himself or herself, and promptly inform the Director. The Director will then appoint another Competition judge. Any team that mentions its law school's name will receive a 10-point deduction against its oral argument score for that round. Repeated violations may result in more severe sanctions, at the discretion of the DSB.

6. The Clerk designated by the Director will administer each oral argument round. The Clerk will distribute score sheets to the Competition judges, call the court to order, keep time during the argument, collect the Competition judges' score sheets, and transport them to the scoring room. Clerks shall not disclose the Competition judges' scores or comments to anyone other than the Director and such persons as designated by the Director to receive such information.

7. Observation at the Competition shall be limited to only those involved in a particular round in the courtroom during that round. The phrase "those involved in a particular round" is limited to Competition personnel, Competition judges, team members competing in the round ("the competing students"), coaches, family members, friends, and classmates of the competing students, so long as the family members, friends, and classmates are not themselves competing. No other persons (e.g., other teams' members and their classmates, friends, family members, or coaches) shall be allowed to view arguments in which they are not considered "involved" for purposes of this rule. This rule does not apply to the final round of the Competition or to teams that have been eliminated in previous rounds. This rule does not apply to other HNBA members not involved in the Competition as described above.

## **G. ORAL ARGUMENT PROCEDURE**

1. Prior to the commencement of the preliminary rounds, immediately after the orientation, each team shall identify to the Director the designated team member who will be the contact person ("designated contact person") for communication between the Competition and the team. This designated contact person is required to provide a cell phone number and represents that he or she will be available to receive information immediately when something critical arises, and assumes full responsibility for communicating such information to all pertinent team members and/or for showing up to represent the team when necessary. As a courtesy, the Director will strive to have teams advancing to the quarter-final rounds, semi-final rounds, and final rounds notified of such advancement through the designated contact person.

However, the onus is still on each team to review postings outside the judges' room to ascertain team advancement and other important communications.

2. Oral argument rounds will consist of preliminary rounds, quarter-final rounds, semi-final rounds, and a final round.

3. Each team will argue twice in the preliminary rounds, once "on-brief" and once "off-brief." Teams will be assigned to the *first* of the preliminary round "brackets" based on their final brief scores. In the event of a tie in the final brief scores, the Director shall determine a team's placement based on the order in which the two tied teams registered. The number of brackets will depend on the number of teams entering the Competition. The maximum number of brackets is 16, since the maximum number of teams is 32. Brackets will be designated with letters (e.g., Bracket A, Bracket B, etc.).<sup>3</sup> The team with the highest final brief score will be assigned to Bracket A, while the team with the second highest final brief score will be assigned to Bracket B, and so on. Ultimately, the team with the sixteenth highest score will be assigned to Bracket P (the final bracket). Thereafter, the remaining teams will fill in the brackets in reverse chronological order based on their final brief score. Accordingly, Bracket A will include the teams with the highest final brief score and the lowest final brief score, while Bracket P will include the teams with the sixteenth and seventeenth highest final brief scores.<sup>4</sup> Teams will be assigned to the *second* of the preliminary round "brackets" based on their final brief scores (which will count for 50%) and on their average score from the first preliminary round (which will count for 50%). No team should argue against the same team in both preliminary rounds, and teams finding themselves in that situation should immediately notify the Director.

4. Uneven Teams: If necessary, due to an uneven number of teams, the Director may enter a "moot team" to ensure that every team has the opportunity to argue both sides of the case in the preliminary rounds. The "moot team" will not be identified as such to the Competition judges. The "moot team" will not prepare a brief and will not be eligible to advance in the Competition. At the discretion of the Director, a team may also be randomly selected to argue without an opponent.

5. Based on the scoring formula described in Section H below, the 8 teams with the 8 highest overall scores from the preliminary rounds will advance to the quarter-final rounds. For

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<sup>3</sup> Thus, the highest possible bracket would be the 16<sup>th</sup> letter of the alphabet, Bracket P.

<sup>4</sup> To further illustrate, assuming there are 32 teams and thus 16 brackets, the brackets will be assembled as follows, with 1 signifying the team with the highest final brief score: Bracket A (1 v. 32), Bracket B (2 v. 31), Bracket C (3 v. 30), Bracket D (4 v. 29), Bracket E (5 v. 28), Bracket F (6 v. 27), Bracket G (7 v. 26), Bracket H (8 v. 25), Bracket I (9 v. 24), Bracket J (10 v. 23), Bracket K (11 v. 22), Bracket L (12 v. 21), Bracket M (13 v. 20), Bracket N (14 v. 19), Bracket O (15 v. 18), Bracket P (16 v. 17).



the quarter-final rounds, the Director will pair teams by power-match.<sup>5</sup> The Director may, at the Director's sole discretion, alter matches to prevent teams from arguing in the quarter-final round against their preliminary round opponents.

6. The winning team from each of the four quarter-final rounds will advance to the semi-final rounds. The Director will power-match teams for the semi-final rounds (see footnote 5). The winning team from each of the two semi-final round arguments will advance to the final round.

7. A coin toss will determine whether Petitioner or Respondent will argue in the quarter-final, semi-final and final rounds. The team that wins the coin toss will select which side to argue. The coin will be tossed by the Director or the Director's designee in front of the judges' room. The coin toss will ordinarily be held shortly after the scores have all been computed and the teams advancing to the next rounds have been identified. The various times for the coin toss will be posted outside the judges' room. If an advancing team fails to have a team member or designated contact person at the coin toss, the team against whom the absent team is to argue will win the coin toss by default.

## **H. SCORING AND ADVANCEMENT**

1. The Chair(s) of the Judicial Council will recruit at least four (4) judges ("brief judge(s)") to score participants' briefs, with half the brief judges scoring Petitioners' briefs, and the other half scoring Respondents' briefs. All briefs provided to the brief judges will be "clean" briefs. Brief judges will assign scores based on the criteria outlined on the attached Brief Score Sheet. For each team, the judges' score for that team's brief will then be averaged, resulting in one average score per brief. After scoring by the brief judges, any assessed penalties will be deducted, resulting in the Final Brief Score. The Director will direct that Final Brief Scores be calculated before oral arguments begin.

2. All oral argument scoring will be based on the criteria outlined on the attached Oral Argument Score Sheet. Each Competition judge is to fill out the Oral Argument Score Sheet and provide a score for each team member who argues, for a total of 2 Oral Argument Score Sheets for each round, one per team. Under no circumstances may the Director or any member of the DSB serve as a Competition Judge.

3. Depending on the number of volunteers, the recommended number of judges to sit on a panel shall be as follows: for preliminary rounds – two (2); for quarter-final rounds – two (2); for semi-final rounds – three (3); for the final round – three to five (3–5).

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<sup>5</sup> Power-match means that the team receiving the highest combined brief and oral argument scores from the preliminary rounds will be paired against the team with the lowest combined brief and oral argument scores from the preliminary rounds, and so on, until all 8 teams are matched up.

4. In calculating the scores at the conclusion of the preliminary rounds, brief scores and oral argument scores will count equally. Thus, after the two preliminary rounds, each team will receive a combined team score consisting of 50% brief score, 25% averaged oral argument score from both advocates on-brief and 25% averaged oral argument score from both advocates off-brief. The 8 teams with the highest combined score will advance to the quarter-final rounds. If more than 8 teams qualify for the quarter-final rounds, the team with the higher oral argument score will determine which team will proceed to the quarter-final round. If there is a tie in that score as well, then the team that will proceed to the quarter-final round will be determined based on the team with the higher brief score.

5. In the quarter-final rounds, each team will receive a combined team score consisting of 25% brief score and 75% averaged oral argument score from both advocates in the quarter-final round. Oral argument scores from prior rounds will not be considered, except in the case of a tie. Teams will advance to the semi-final round by straight elimination.<sup>6</sup> If more than 4 teams qualify for the semi-final rounds, the higher brief score will determine which team(s) will proceed to the semi-final round. If there is a tie in the brief score as well, then the team that will proceed to the semi-final round will be determined based on prior round scores as noted above.

6. In the semi-final rounds, each team will receive a team score consisting solely of the oral argument score from both advocates in the semi-final round. Oral argument scores from prior rounds will not be considered, except in the case of a tie. Teams will advance by straight elimination (see footnote 6). The team with the higher combined team score in each semi-final round will advance to the final round. If more than 2 teams qualify for the final round, the higher brief score will determine which team will proceed to the final round. If there is a tie in the brief score as well, then the team that will proceed to the final round will be determined based on prior round scores as noted above.

7. In the final round, each team will receive a team score consisting solely of the oral argument score from both advocates in the final round. Oral argument scores from prior rounds will not be considered except in the case of a tie. The team with the higher combined team score in the final round will be deemed the HNBA Moot Court National Champion.

8. Only the Chair(s) of the Judicial Council, the Director, the DSB, and HNBA staff working on the Competition will have access to brief and oral argument scores and team rankings.

9. Teams may formally request their scores from the Director for educational purposes after the Competition has concluded by communicating the request to [cmartin@hnba.com](mailto:cmartin@hnba.com). Scores will only be available for the 60 day period after the Competition has concluded.

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<sup>6</sup> Straight elimination means that from the two teams that compete against one another, the one with the higher combined team score will advance to the next round, notwithstanding that another team may have a higher combined score than the advancing team.

## **I. AWARDS**

1. Awards shall be presented to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place Petitioner brief and to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place Respondent brief. The awards for best briefs shall be based on the Final Brief Score.
2. 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> place oral advocate awards shall be presented and shall be based on the average individual scores from the preliminary rounds.
3. Awards for overall winning team, 2<sup>nd</sup> place team, 3<sup>rd</sup> place team, and 4<sup>th</sup> place team shall also be presented. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place teams shall be determined based on average of the scores in the semi-final round.

## **J. OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE**

1. Teams may not receive any assistance from anyone, including faculty or other members of the bar, in preparing their brief. The brief must be the sole work product of team members.
2. Nothing shall prohibit faculty and members of the bar from critiquing a team's practice oral arguments *after* the team has submitted its brief and *before* commencement of the Competition.
3. During oral argument, no participating team member may receive assistance from any person other than from the other team member seated at counsel table.
4. No team member, coach, advisor or representative of any team participating in the Competition may attend any oral argument in which it is not competing, and may not receive information about such argument from any other person unless the coach's, advisor's, or representative's team has been eliminated from the Competition.

## **K. PENALTIES AND PROTESTS**

1. Penalties: The DSB, in its sole discretion, will determine penalties for violations of these rules. Where possible, the DSB will impose uniform penalties for like violations, e.g., all violations of the page limit for briefs shall be subject to identical point penalties per offending page.
2. Protests: The DSB shall review all formal written protests from any eligible team. As established in these rules, all rulings and decisions of the DSB are final and non-appealable.

- a. Protest Prior to Oral Argument: Any team may formally protest the eligibility or conduct of any other team prior to oral argument.
    - i. All protests shall be filed in writing and received no later than 30 days prior to the first day of the Competition.
    - ii. The protest shall be filed by the protesting team with the DSB via email, directed to the attention of the DSB at [cmartin@hnba.com](mailto:cmartin@hnba.com), and the protesting team shall note, at the bottom of the email, that the Director, and the allegedly offending team are to be copied. The appropriate dissemination of that email will then be effectuated by the staff person for the HNBA monitoring communications at the [cmartin@hnba.com](mailto:cmartin@hnba.com) site.
    - iii. The allegedly offending team shall provide a response to the protest within 5 days of service of the protest. The response shall be filed with the DSB, via email, directed to the attention of the DSB at [cmartin@hnba.com](mailto:cmartin@hnba.com), and the allegedly offending team shall also note, at the bottom of its email, that the Director and the protesting team are being copied. The appropriate dissemination of that email will then be effectuated by the staff person for the HNBA monitoring communications at the [cmartin@hnba.com](mailto:cmartin@hnba.com) site.
  - b. Protest During Oral Argument: Protests arising out of conduct during oral argument must be presented in writing to the DSB within 20 minutes after completion of the round in which the alleged violation occurred. The Director will designate an area outside the judges' room where teams may lodge a protest. All protests shall be handled at the sole discretion of the DSB, whose decision is final and non-appealable. The DSB will post its response to each protest at the same location as the protests are lodged. After a protest or the response is posted, no one other than the DSB is permitted to remove or handle it. Any attempts by a team (including their schools, coaches, friends, or family) to circumvent the formal DSB protest process outlined above, such as by attempting to lobby or in any way influence HNBA staff, members of the Board of Governors, Judicial Council members, sponsors, or any other HNBA participant before a ruling, or to seek to change, modify, or overrule a DSB ruling by approaching any of the above listed persons, are strictly prohibited and may result in immediate disqualification from the Competition.
3. Rulings: The DSB's resolution of penalties and protests are final. The DSB will keep a record of protests and penalties, as well as the rulings made thereon. Such will be posted by the DSB on the HNBA website at a date subsequent to the conclusion of the Competition.

4. Plagiarism and Dishonest Conduct: Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Such a violation shall constitute immediate disqualification of all team members on the violating team. Team members assume complete responsibility for the accuracy and content of their team's brief.

5. Reporting: The HNBA Board of Governors may immediately report any violation of these rules involving plagiarism or other dishonest conduct to the respective law school of the violating team. The Judicial Council, including the Director and the DSB, shall defer to the HNBA Board of Governors under such circumstances.

**6. KNOWLEDGE AND LIABILITIES: BY REGISTERING FOR THE COMPETITION, EACH MEMBER OF A TEAM ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY FOR HAVING FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THESE RULES. EACH TEAM MEMBER, WHETHER PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR A VIOLATION OF THESE RULES OR NOT, ASSUMES COMPLETE KNOWLEDGE OF ALL TEAM MEMBERS' ACTIVITY IN PREPARING FOR THIS COMPETITION. AT NO TIME MAY A TEAM OR TEAM MEMBER HOLD THE CHAIRS OF THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL, THE DIRECTOR, THE DSB, OR THE HNBA LIABLE FOR ENFORCING THESE RULES.**

#### **L. REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION OR INFORMATION**

1. All requests for clarification of these rules or of the moot court problem must be in writing. Requests for interpretation of these rules shall at all times be addressed to the Director. This may be done at [cmartin@hnba.com](mailto:cmartin@hnba.com).

2. Requests for clarification or information about the moot court problem while in the process of preparing the brief must be submitted no later than 24 hours before the deadline date for submission of briefs.

3. Requests to clarify these rules and procedures may be made at any time.

4. Modification of Rules: These rules are dynamic and fluid, and the Director may modify these rules as deemed pertinent or in the interest of justice. All modifications to the rules will be posted to the HNBA website, and eligible teams are charged with reviewing the website on a regular basis to ensure awareness of any such modifications.

5. The names of the Chairs of the Judicial Council, the Director and the DSB, and where they preside, will be posted on the HNBA website.