To: NAAC Brief Judges
From: NAAC Subcommittee
Re: Brief Grading Instructions
Date: December 27, 2016

Thank you for your willingness to participate as a brief judge for the ABA Law Student Division National Appellate Advocacy Competition (NAAC). Your cooperation contributes to an extremely valuable experience for law students.

The following documents will be included with your shipment of briefs:

- Briefs that were filed by teams of law students*
- The Bench Memorandum
- The Problem (aka the Record)
- Nine (9) ballots, with suggested guidelines to assist you with your grading*
- The Ballot Summary, which you will need to complete and return to the ABA Law Student Division by 12:00 noon CST Tuesday, January 31, 2017**
- Select Competition Rules for Brief Graders (to inform you of rules the student lawyers are to follow.

With the exception of the briefs, this is identical to what was previously e-mailed to you.

*Each brief judge will grade the briefs from six to eight teams. You may discard extra ballots.
**Please use the one that corresponds with the number of briefs you have received to evaluate.

Team Anonymity
To maintain anonymity, the briefs contain a numeric team designation in the lower right corner of the cover rather than the school name or the team members’ names. If you receive a brief that has a law school name or any law student names on the cover or within the brief, please notify Sara Stretch at 312-988-5621 or competitions@americanbar.org immediately.

Printing
The briefs might have some odd formatting problems, particularly in early sections such as the Table of Contents. If so, it is probably NOT the students' fault and rather it is probably due to uploading miscues. Please do not penalize or downgrade briefs for minor formatting problems that appear likely to be such errors. If you are in doubt, please contact us and we'll try to give you guidance.

Scoring/Mandatory Median
All grades must be between 50 and 100 points. Since grading is to some degree subjective, some people tend to be high graders, and some people tend to be low graders, the NAAC Subcommittee has decided to attack the disparity by imposing a mandatory median of 75 points. Under a mandatory median system, exactly half of the briefs must score above the median, and the other half must be below the median. Judges grading an odd number of briefs may score the middle one at, above, or below 75 points.
Memo to NAAC Brief Judges

There are no restrictions on the range of scores you can give between 50 and 100 as long as half of the scores are at or below 75 and half are at or above 75. You need not give any grade of exactly 75. You need not reach an average of 75.

For example, if you have eight very good briefs — briefs that you personally consider to be well above average — then you can give scores of 75, 75, 75, 75, 92, 95, 98, 99. This may seem unfair to the four 75s, however, that is the choice the NAAC Subcommittee has made in adopting the mandatory median.

The NAAC Subcommittee has opted for a system that ensures a degree of uniformity among different graders, even though that system force you to raise or lower your preferred score for some briefs to comply with the mandatory median. Hopefully, you will to have a mixed group of briefs, and the mandatory median should be relatively easy to apply.

Returning Your Scores
We must receive your brief scores on the ballot summary by noon CST Tuesday, January 31, 2017. This will ensure sufficient time to allow us to incorporate your score with those of the other brief judges to determine each team's final brief score. Pairings for the first two rounds are determined based on brief rankings.

Your ballot summary should be e-mailed to Sara Stretch at competitions@americanbar.org. You may include your scores in the body of an email instead of attaching the ballot summary, but please be careful to follow the guide to following the mandatory median provided on the ballot summary.

Once you are finished judging the briefs, please dispose of them. You need not return the briefs with your scores.

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Stretch at 312.988.5621 or competitions@americanbar.org. Once again, thank you for your time and assistance. We hope you will find this an enjoyable and worthwhile experience.